

GATHERING IN GOD'S WORD

Prelude

Rocky Nisbit, accompanist

Sharing Our Lives in Prayer

Prayer Requests

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Welcome

Letting God In

During this time, we invite you to prepare your heart and your mind for worship. We want you to be able to use this quiet time to settle your thoughts, set aside any distractions that may be troubling you, and focus your whole self on God. Open your heart, your mind, and your spirit, and let God into your life.

Centering Prayer: All honor is yours. My God, I am willing.

As you breathe in, pray, "All honor is yours."

As you breathe out, pray, "My God, I am willing."

Glimpses of God

With the authentic stories of our lives and our days, we call each other into this time of worship together by sharing the glimpses of God that have captured our attention throughout the last week or two. If you have a way that you've noticed God – God's work, God's love, God's leading, God's presence – we invite you to come up and share it. Your story doesn't have to be eloquent. It doesn't have to be long. Your experience of God is yours to share in whatever way is most comfortable for you. We hold space for your story, and we listen with our ears and our hearts.

Lenten Reading

from "Stars for the Righteous" by Ann Weems

Scripture – Isaiah 42:1-4

Time for Unburdening – On your way into worship, you were encouraged to pick up a rock. During this time, you're invited to spend a few moments contemplating – pressing whatever concerns and burdens you carry into that rock. When you're ready, you're invited to come forward and lay that rock down – that rock and all the burdens it carries.

Hymn #469 – Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

(from *Glory to God*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press)

Lord, listen to your children praying.

Lord, send your Spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying.

Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

* Invitation to Confession

* Joining in Prayer (based on *Spill the Beans*, iss. 15, © 2015 Spill the Beans Resources):

Come, Lord Jesus! We welcome you into our midst here on this Palm Sunday morning just as the people of Jerusalem did so long ago. You come to us as Savior, triumphant over division and hate! You come to us as Savior, victorious over pride and injustice! You come to us as Savior, humble on the back of a donkey. Teach us your ways, Lord Christ, that we too might conquer all that holds us back. In our songs of praise ... in our meditative thoughts ... in our reading Scripture, help us to walk in humility and service. Stir us to proclaim your glory. Embolden us to follow your example in our communities and in the interactions with have with each other. When we are too quick to let our shouts of "Hosanna!" become cries of "Crucify!" forgive us. Have mercy on us, and guide us back to you. In our prayers, renew us and transform us. Enter our hearts, our minds, our souls today, that you kingdom might come amongst us. (Please take a moment for silent reflection and confession.)

In the name of Jesus, the blessed Christ, we pray.
Amen.

* God's Promise of Grace

* Sharing the Peace of Christ

* Song of Peace – Hymn #824 – There Is a Place of Quiet Rest, verse 3
(from *Glory to God*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press)

There is a place of quiet rest,
Near to the heart of God,
A place where all is joy and peace,
Near to the heart of God.
O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
Sent from the heart of God,
Hold us, who wait before thee,
Near to the heart of God.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Prayer to Open Minds and Hearts

Scripture reading – Matthew 21:1-17 (from the *Common English Bible*, © 2011)

¹ When they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus gave two disciples a task. ² He said to them, "Go into the village over there. As soon as you enter, you will find a donkey tied up and a colt with it. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, say that their master needs them." He sent them off right away. ⁴ Now this happened to fulfill what the prophet said, ⁵ Say to Daughter Zion, "Look, your king is coming to you, humble and riding on a donkey, and on a colt the donkey's offspring." ⁶ The disciples went and did just as Jesus had ordered them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and laid their clothes on them. Then he sat on them. ⁸ Now a large crowd spread their clothes on the road. Others cut palm branches off the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds in front of him and behind him shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" ¹⁰ And when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up. "Who is this?" they asked. ¹¹ The crowds answered, "It's the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee." ¹² Then Jesus went into the temple and threw out all those who were selling and buying there. He pushed over the tables used for currency exchange and the chairs of those who sold doves. ¹³ He said to them, "It's written, My house will be called a house of prayer. But you've made it a hideout for crooks." ¹⁴ People who were blind and lame came to Jesus in the temple, and he healed them. ¹⁵ But when the chief priests and legal experts saw the amazing things he was doing and the children shouting in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were angry. ¹⁶ They said to Jesus, "Do you hear what these children are saying?" "Yes," he answered. "Haven't you ever read, From the mouths of babies and infants you've arranged praise for yourself?" ¹⁷ Then he left them and went out of the city to Bethany and spent the night there.

Sermon: "Willing to HONOR" – Rev. Lisa Johnson

Exploring the Word Together

This is a time for us to process our faith and our hearing of God's word together – a time to be the word of God for one another. It's also a time to build community with one another – a time to share elements of our faith and our understanding of that faith with each other. Feel free to participate in conversation with those around you or sit and ponder this question on your own.

What distracts us from honoring God?

Hymn #543 – God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me
(from *Glory to God*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press)

God, be the love to search and keep me;
God, be the prayer to move my voice;

God, be the strength to now uphold me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Bind to myself the Name of Holy,
Great cloud of witnesses enfold;
Prophets, apostles, angels witness:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight,
Flashing of lightning, strength of wind,
Depth of the sea to soil of planet:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Walking behind to hem my journey,
Going ahead to light my way,
And from beneath, above, and all ways:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Christ in the eyes of all who see me,
Christ in the ears that hear my voice,
Christ in the hearts of all who know me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Coming Together in Prayer
Pastoral Prayer

Celebrating the Lord's Supper

Our tradition in this congregation is to partake of the bread whenever you feel prepared to do so and to hold the wine/juice until all have been served so that we can all partake together. This gives us the chance to participate in this holy mystery as we participate in our faith – both as individuals and as a community.

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer for the Feast

Lord's Prayer: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn #503 – Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation
(from *Glory to God*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press)

Lord, we have come at your own invitation,
Chosen by you, to be counted your friends;
Yours is the strength that sustains dedication;
Ours, a commitment we know never ends.

Here, at your table, confirm our intention;
Give it your seal of forgiveness and grace;
Teach us to serve without pride or pretension,
Lord, in your kingdom, whatever our place.

When, at your table, each time of returning,
Vows are renewed and our courage restored,
May we increasingly glory in learning
All that it means to accept you as Lord.

Prayer of Gratitude and Blessing

Our offering plates are located at the entrance to the sanctuary. This offering allows us to continue our outreach and mission both here in the community of Oronoco and beyond – in the greater Rochester area, in Minnesota, and even around the world. We are grateful for your willingness to join us in this mission and thank you for your generosity.

Announcements

BEING SENT OUT IN GOD'S WORD

* Blessing

* Claiming Our Faith Identity

This is a chance for us to remind one another of both who we are and whose we are before we head back out in the world. The hope is that, as we grow more and more familiar with the words and the claim and call that they place on our hearts, we'll be able to recall them throughout the week in those moments when we need to tap into our faith. The words and phrases are also aimed at helping us connect with our congregation's own mission statement: "We are a community of believers whose mission is to share God's Word, show God's Love, serve God's World, and strive for God's Peace."

One: We are the Church –

ALL: God's beloved children today, tomorrow, and always.

One: Here, in this worship, through prayer, word, and fellowship,

ALL: God has embraced us yet again, and our spirits have been made new.

One: Suffused with God's grace,

ALL: We claim new strength, new purpose, and new hope in our call.

One: With spirits reaffirmed and renewed,

ALL: We are called to SHARE God's Word. We are called to SHOW God's Love. We are called to SERVE God's World. We are called to STRIVE for God's Peace.

One: We are the Church

ALL: Because God binds us together in sacred companionship and blessed connectedness.

One: And now, as the Church, God calls us out

ALL: To do and be God's extravagant love in the world.

One: This service has ended.

ALL: Now our service can begin.

Postlude

** indicates please rise in body or spirit as you feel led*