

## 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: The Lord is my shepherd. I lack nothing.**

*As you breathe in, pray, "The Lord is my shepherd."*

*As you breathe out, pray, "I lack nothing."*

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.*

One: And the Word became flesh and made his home among us,

**ALL: And still, we find God's glory everywhere, full of grace and truth.**

\* Invitation to Confession

\* Joining in Prayer (from the *Book of Common Worship*, © 2018 Westminster John Knox Press):

**Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Forgive those who confess their faults. Restore us according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for his sake, that we might live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your holy name.** *(Please take a moment for silent reflection and confession.)*

In the giving and forgiving name of Jesus, the Christ, we pray.

**Amen.**

\* God's Promise of Grace

\* Sharing the Peace of Christ

\* Song of Peace: "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

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**Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.**

**Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.**

**With God our Creator, we are family.**

**Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.**

**With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow.**

**To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.**

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

Prayer to Open Minds and Hearts

Scripture reading – Psalm 23 (from the *Common English Bible*, © 2011)

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd. I lack nothing. <sup>2</sup> He lets me rest in grassy meadows; he leads me to restful waters; <sup>3</sup> he keeps me alive. He guides me in proper paths for the sake of his good name. <sup>4</sup> Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no danger because you are with me. Your rod and your staff— they protect me. <sup>5</sup> You set a table for me right in front of my enemies. You bathe my head in oil; my cup is so full it spills over! <sup>6</sup> Yes, goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live<sup>[b]</sup> in the LORD's house as long as I live.

Sermon: "The Texts That Form Us" – 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 part of this text is speaking to you today?

Hymn #801 – The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want  
(from *Glory to God*, © 2016 Westminster John Knox Press)

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;  
He makes me down to lie  
In pastures green; he leadeth me  
The quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again,  
And me to walk doth make  
Within the paths of righteousness,  
E'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
Yet will I fear none ill,  
For thou art with me; and they rod  
And staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished  
In presence of my foes;  
My head thou dost with oil anoint,  
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life  
Shall surely follow me,  
And in God's house forevermore  
My dwelling place shall be.

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Coming Together in Prayer  
Pastoral Prayer

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.**

Hymn #803 – My Shepherd Will Supply My Need  
(from *Glory to God*, © 2016 Westminster John Knox Press)

My shepherd will supply my need;  
Jehovah is his name.  
In pastures fresh he makes me feed,  
Beside the living stream.  
He bring my wandering spirit back  
When I forsake his ways,  
And leads me, for his mercy's sake,  
In paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death  
Your presence is my stay;  
One word of your supporting breath  
Drives all my fears away.  
Your hand, in sight of all my foes,  
Does still my table spread;  
My cup with blessings overflows;  
Your oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God  
Attend me all my days;  
O may your house be my abode,  
And all my work be praise.  
There would I find a settled rest,  
While others go and come;  
No more a stranger, or a guest,  
But like a child at home.

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*