

GATHERING IN GOD'S WORD

Prelude

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: **Bless all our questions, God who is bigger.***

As you breathe in, pray, "Bless all our questions."

As you breathe out, pray, "God who is bigger."

* Opening Praise (based on Psalm 138):

One: We give thanks to God

Many: With all our hearts.

One: We sing praise to God

Many: With a strong, sure voice.

One: We lift our prayers to God

Many: With open hearts.

One: We worship God

Many: With all that we are.

ALL: God's faithful love last forever!

* Invitation to Confession

* Joining in Prayer (by Rev. Teri Peterson, from RevGalBlogPals)

O God, you who are always doing a new thing, we confess that we sometimes close windows against the fresh air of new ideas, against the noise of other people's worries, against the winds of change. God of every place and time, we confess that we often draw the curtains against people who are different, against world news or community concerns. Forgive us our insulation in our locked homes, our shuttered churches, the security systems on our hearts. Open up our lives, and let your Spirit blow through us - through our hearts, through our lives, through our congregation, through your world. (Please take a moment for silent reflection and confession.)

In the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior, 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 – John 7:37-52 (from the *Common English Bible*, © 2011)

³⁷ On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and shouted, "All who are thirsty should come to me! ³⁸ All who believe in me should drink! As the scriptures said concerning me, Rivers of living water will flow out from within him." ³⁹ Jesus said this concerning the Spirit. Those who believed in him would soon receive the Spirit, but they hadn't experienced the Spirit yet since Jesus hadn't yet been glorified. ⁴⁰ When some in the crowd heard these words, they said, "This man is truly the prophet." ⁴¹ Others said, "He's the Christ." But others said, "The Christ can't come from Galilee, can he? ⁴² Didn't the scripture say that the Christ comes from David's family and from Bethlehem, David's village?" ⁴³ So the crowd was divided over Jesus. ⁴⁴ Some wanted to arrest him, but no one grabbed him. ⁴⁵ The guards returned to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked, "Why didn't you bring him?" ⁴⁶ The guards answered, "No one has ever spoken the way he does." ⁴⁷ The Pharisees replied, "Have you too been deceived? ⁴⁸ Have any of the leaders believed in him? Has any Pharisee? ⁴⁹ No, only this crowd, which doesn't know the Law. And they are under God's curse!" ⁵⁰ Nicodemus, who was one of them and had come to Jesus earlier, said, ⁵¹ "Our Law doesn't judge someone without first hearing him and learning what he is doing, does it?" ⁵² They answered him, "You are not from Galilee too, are you? Look it up and you will see that the prophet doesn't come from Galilee."

Sermon: "A Multitude of Questions" – Rev. Lisa Johnson

Hymn #459 – O Word of God Incarnate

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

O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
We praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page
A lantern to our footsteps, shine on from age to age.

The church from you, dear Savior, received this gift divine;
And still that light is lifted on all the earth to shine.
It is the chart and compass that, all life's voyage through,
Amid the rocks and quicksands still guides, O Christ, to you.

O make your church, dear Savior, a lamp of purest gold
To bear before the nations your true light, as of old;
O teach your wandering pilgrims by this our path to trace,
Till, clouds and storms thus ended, we see you face to face.

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 #159 – O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

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

O sing a song of Bethlehem, of shepherds watching there,
And of the news that came to them from angels in the air.

The light that shone on Bethlehem fills all the world today.
Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth the angels sing always.

O sing a song of Nazareth, of sunny days of joy;
O sing of fragrant flowers' breath, and of the sinless boy.
For now the flowers of Nazareth in every heart may grow.
Now spreads the fame of his dear name on all the winds that blow.

O sing a song of Galilee, of lake and woods and hill,
Of him who walked upon the sea and bade its waves be still.
For though, like waves on Galilee, dark seas of trouble roll,
When faith has heard the Master's word, falls peace upon the soul.

O sing a song of Calvary, its glory and dismay,
Of him who hung upon the tree, and took our sins away.
For he who died on Calvary is risen from the grave,
And Christ, our Lord, by heaven adored, is mighty now to save.

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

* Charge & Blessing

Postlude

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