

## 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: Come and dwell among us, Lord Jesus.**

*As you breathe in, pray, "Come and dwell among us."*

*As you breathe out, pray, "Lord Jesus."*

\* Opening Praise (from Psalm 80 and John 1):

One: In the beginning was the Word –

**Many: A Word that revives and restores,**

One: A Word that shines and saves,

**Many: A Word that comes to dwell among us.**

One: We come to open our whole selves to the Word –

**Many: Our hearts and our minds,**

One: Our spirits and our lives,

**Many: Our brokenness and our blessings.**

One: Through the Living Word, we are saved.

**ALL: Through the Living Word, we are made whole.**

Lighting the First Advent Candle – PEACE

Advent Hymn #92 – While We Are Waiting, Come (verse 1)

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

While we are waiting, come;

While we are waiting, come.

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,

While we are waiting, come.

\* Invitation to Confession

\* Joining in Prayer (based on Spill the Beans resource, iss. 25, © 2017):

**Lord, we are your humble creations, your beloved children gathered in this place to offer you our worship and praise, but more than that, we come to offer our very selves – all that we are, and all that you have made us to be. As we seek to be more and more like Jesus, we want to be more open to you. We want to be filled with your Holy Spirit, that we might follow in your way. Lord, we are sorry that we have not always acted like your children. We have been selfish and strayed from your path. We have not always been beacons of light in a world of shame and fear. Forgive us, Lord. Restore us to full relationship with you. Teach us again to know and accept your forgiveness and help us to live into the fullness of who we are in your eyes. (Please take a moment for silent reflection and confession.)**

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we pray.

**Amen.**

\* God's Promise of Grace

\* The Peace of Christ

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

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

(reprinted with permission, © Jan-Lee Music, copyright-protected alternate lyrics)

**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 1:1-18 (from the *Common English Bible*, © 2011)

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> The Word was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being. What came into being <sup>4</sup> through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light. <sup>6</sup> A man named John was sent from God. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. <sup>8</sup> He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> The light was in the world, and the world came into being through the light, but the world didn't recognize the light. <sup>11</sup> The light came to his own people, and his own people didn't welcome him. <sup>12</sup> But those who did welcome him, those who believed in his name, he authorized to become God's children, <sup>13</sup> born not from blood nor from human desire or passion, but born from God. <sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> John testified about him, crying out, "This is the one of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is greater than me because he existed before me.'" <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace; <sup>17</sup> as the Law was given through Moses, so grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made God known.

Sermon: "Salvation Comes in the Word" – Rev. Lisa Johnson

Hymn #102 – Savior of the Nations, Come

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

Savior of the nations, come;

Virgin's son, make here your home.

Marvel now, O heaven and earth,

That the Lord chose such a birth.

From God's heart the Savior speeds;

Back to God his pathway leads;

Out to vanquish death's command,

Back to reign at God's right hand.

Now your manger, shining bright,

Hallows night with newborn light.

Night cannot this light subdue;

Let our faith shine ever new.

Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,  
Virgin's son, incarnate Word!  
To the holy Trinity  
Praise we sing eternally.

### 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 #84 – Creator of the Stars of Night

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

Creator of the stars of night,  
Your people's everlasting light,  
O Christ, redeemer of us all,  
We pray you hear us when we call.

When this old world drew on toward night,  
You came; but not in splendor bright,  
Not as a monarch, but the child  
Of Mary, blameless mother mild.

At your great name, O Jesus, now  
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow:  
All things on earth with one accord,  
Like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.

To God the Father, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit, Three in One,  
Praise, honor, might, and glory be  
From age to age eternally. Amen.

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*