

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: **Ignite improbably hope in me, Incomparable God.***

As you breathe in, pray, "Ignite improbably hope in me."

As you breathe out, pray, "Incomparable God."

* Opening Praise (from Psalm 130):

One: We come because we hope in the Lord.

Many: Our whole being hopes.

One: We worship because we hope in the Lord.

Many: Our whole spirit hopes.

One: We praise because we hope in the Lord.

Many: Our whole heart hopes.

One: We pray because we hope in the Lord.

Many: Our whole being hopes.

One: Our whole being hopes and waits for the Lord.

Many: Lord, hear our hope.

One: Lord, hear our worship.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

* Invitation to Confession

* Joining in Prayer:

Holy One, sometimes we forget the true power of hope. Sometimes we get caught up in the seriousness and severity of the world around us, and we come to believe that hope is a frivolous thing. But we are mistaken. Sometimes we get caught up in the desperation and despair of the world around us, and we come to believe that hope is an impotent thing. But we are mistaken. Sometimes we get caught up in the skeptical and mistrusting nature of the world around us, and we come to believe that hope is a false thing. But truly, God, we are mistaken. Even in the face of doubt and ridicule, light up our hearts and our souls with your life-altering hope. Even in the face of weariness and worry, light up our spirits and our lives with your mind-boggling hope. Renew us and reground us, save us and surprise us with your hope again, God who is never out of reach. *(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"

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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 – Mark 7:24-30 (from the *Common English Bible*)

²⁴ Jesus left that place and went into the region of Tyre. He didn't want anyone to know that he had entered a house, but he couldn't hide. ²⁵ In fact, a woman whose young daughter was possessed by an unclean spirit heard about him right away. She came and fell at his feet. ²⁶ The woman was Greek, Syrophenician by birth. She begged Jesus to throw the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ He responded, "The children have to be fed first. It isn't right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs." ²⁸ But she answered, "Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹ "Good answer!" he said. "Go on home. The demon has already left your daughter." ³⁰ When she returned to her house, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone.

Sermon: "The Syrophenician Woman: Woman of Frantic Hope" – Rev. Lisa Johnson

Hymn #353 – My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

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

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid rock I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness seems to hide his face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ, the solid rock I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, his covenant, his blood
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.
On Christ, the solid rock I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found,
Dressed in his righteousness alone,

Faultless to stand before the throne.
On Christ, the solid rock I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Hymn #683 – Lord of All Hopefulness

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

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy:
Be there at our waking and give us, we pray,
Your bless in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labors and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
Be there at our homing and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

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