

## 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: You lift me up, God of mercy and wholeness.**

*As you breathe in, pray, "You lift me up."*

*As you breathe out, pray, "God of mercy and wholeness."*

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 (based on the *Book of Common Worship*, © 2018 Westminster John Knox Press):

**Eternal God, in every age you raised up people to live and die in faith. We confess that we are indifferent to your will. You call us to proclaim your name, but we are silent. You call us to do what is just, but we remain idle. You call us to live faithfully, but we are afraid. In your mercy, forgive us. Give us courage to follow in your way, that joined with those from ages past, who have served you with faith, hope, and love, way may inherit the kingdom you promised in Jesus Christ. (Please take a moment for silent reflection and confession.)**

In the everlasting 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"

(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 – Matthew 23:1-12 (from the *Common English Bible*, © 2011)

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and his disciples, <sup>2</sup> “The legal experts and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat. <sup>3</sup> Therefore, you must take care to do everything they say. But don’t do what they do. <sup>4</sup> For they tie together heavy packs that are impossible to carry. They put them on the shoulders of others, but are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. <sup>5</sup> Everything they do, they do to be noticed by others. They make extra-wide prayer bands for their arms and long tassels for their clothes. <sup>6</sup> They love to sit in places of honor at banquets and in the synagogues. <sup>7</sup> They love to be greeted with honor in the markets and to be addressed as ‘Rabbi.’ <sup>8</sup> “But you shouldn’t be called *Rabbi*, because you have one teacher, and all of you are brothers and sisters. <sup>9</sup> Don’t call anybody on earth your father, because you have one Father, who is heavenly. <sup>10</sup> Don’t be called *teacher*, because Christ is your one teacher. <sup>11</sup> But the one who is greatest among you will be your servant. <sup>12</sup> All who lift themselves up will be brought low. But all who make themselves low will be lifted up.

Sermon: “The Real Heavy Lifting” – 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 do you often see lifted up as “essential for faith”? Does it go along with Jesus’ words today?**

Hymn – Help Us Accept Each Other (insert)  
(from *The New Century Hymnal*, © 1995 The Pilgrim Press)

Help us accept each other  
As Christ accepted us;  
Teach us as sister, brother,  
Each person to embrace.  
Be present, God, among us,  
And bring us to believe  
We are ourselves accepted  
And meant to love and live.

Teach us, O God, your lessons,  
As in our daily life  
We struggle to be human  
And search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people,  
For all, not just for some,  
To love them as we find them,  
Or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us,  
So that we may be moved  
In living situations  
To do the truth in love;  
To practice your acceptance,  
Until we know by heart  
The table of forgiveness

And laughter's healing art.

God, for today's encounters  
With all who are in need,  
Who hunger for acceptance,  
For righteousness and bread,  
Bring us new eyes for seeing,  
New hands for holding on;  
Renew us with your Spirit;  
God! Free us, make us one!

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Honoring and Remembering the Ones We Love

Lighting the Center Candle

Moment of Silent Remembrance

Bearing the Light

Hymn #326 – For All the Saints

(from *Glory to God*, © 2016 Westminster John Knox Press)

For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
Who thee by faith before the world confessed,  
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;  
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;  
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle; they in glory shine;  
Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,  
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,  
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Proclaiming the Good News Together (insert)

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

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: The Lord be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**Many: We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Communion 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.**

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn #533 – In the Singing

(from *Glory to God*, © 2016 Westminster John Knox Press)

In the singing, in the silence,

In the hands expectant, open,

In the blessing, in the breaking,

In the Presence at this table

Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,

Be the wine of grace:

Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,

Be the bread of peace.

In the question, in the answer,

In the moment of acceptance,

In the heart's cry, in the healing,

In the circle of your people

Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ

Be the wine of grace:

Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ

Be the bread of peace.

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*