

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: **Light your hope in my heart, God-With-Us.***

As you breathe in, pray, "Light your hope in my heart."

As you breathe out, pray, "God-With-Us."

* Opening Praise (from *Spill the Beans*, iss. 14 © 2014 Spill the Beans Resource Team):

One: In space and in time,

Many: God's vision is seen.

One: In our space and in our time,

Many: God's vision needs to be realized.

One: In this space and at this time,

Many: God's spirit is with us.

ALL: Let us worship God!

Lighting the Advent Candles

Reading from *The Redemption of Scrooge* by Matt Rawle

Lighting the 1st candle – the candle of HOPE

Hymn #91 – Come, Come Emmanuel (sing through three times, last time as a round)

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

Come, come Emmanuel.

Come, Emmanuel.

* Invitation to Confession

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

God of grace, ever faithful in your promises, the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes, for he is Lord forever and ever. God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. *(Please take a moment for silent reflection and confession.)*

In the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God-With-Us, 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 – Habakkuk 1:1-5; 2:1-4; 3:17-19 (from the *Common English Bible*, © 2011)

¹ The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw. The prophet complains ² Lord, how long will I call for help and you not listen? I cry out to you, "Violence!" but you don't deliver us. ³ Why do you show me injustice and look at anguish so that devastation and violence are before me? There is strife, and conflict abounds. ⁴ The Instruction is ineffective. Justice does not endure because the wicked surround the righteous. Justice becomes warped. ⁵ Look among the nations and watch! Be astonished and stare because something is happening in your days that you wouldn't believe even if told. ... ^{2:1} I will take my post; I will position myself on the fortress. I will keep watch to see what the Lord says to me and how he will respond to my complaint. ² Then the Lord answered me and said, Write a vision, and make it plain upon a tablet so that a runner can read it. ³ There is still a vision for the appointed time; it testifies to the end; it does not deceive. If it delays, wait for it; for it is surely coming; it will not be late. ⁴ Some people's desires are truly audacious; they don't do the right thing. But the righteous person will live honestly. ... ^{3:17} Though the fig tree doesn't bloom, and there's no produce on the vine; though the olive crop withers, and the fields don't provide food; though the sheep are cut off from the pen, and there are no cattle in the stalls; ¹⁸ I will rejoice in the Lord. I will rejoice in the God of my deliverance. ¹⁹ The Lord God is my strength. He will set my feet like the deer. He will let me walk upon the heights.

Sermon: "Bah! Humbug!" – 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 is the relationship between hope and despair?

One: May the words of my mouth,

Many: And the meditations of all of our hearts

ALL: Be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

Hymn #83 – Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,

Joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

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 #97 – Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

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

Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.
Traveler, what a wondrous sight: see the glory-beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray news of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.

Watchman, tells us of the night; higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.

Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, shadows take their flight; doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet home.
Traveler, we rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!

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