

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: I'm in awe of you, present and powerful God.

As you breathe in, pray, "I'm in awe of you."

As you breathe out, pray, "Present and powerful God."

* Opening Praise (based on *Spill the Beans*, iss. 13, © 2014):

One: When uncertainty reigns and fear abounds,

Many: When the future is unclear,

One: When the demand for proof is loud

Many: But our voices are too quiet to speak our truth,

One: When the denials of faith are prevalent

Many: But the truth is buried deep in our hearts,

One: We come to God in worship.

Many: We come to God in repentance.

One: We come to God in longing.

Many: We come to God in hope.

One: Even when we are long on doubt,

Many: Especially when we are short on answers,

ALL: We come to God. Always.

* Invitation to Confession

* Joining in Prayer (based on *Spill the Beans*, iss. 13, © 2014):

Creator God, maker of us all, each and every one of us is created in your image, loved and cared for by you. How fragile we are, how afraid of the unknown, how insecure in our faith, how intolerant of our differences. O God, you created us in love. You call us, through your Son, to love one another no matter the differences. You call us, through your Son, to love you no matter the obstacles and doubts. Forgive us, O God, for allowing our fears to make enemies of those who are different from us, those who disagree with us, and those who choose other ways. Forgive us, O God, for giving in to our fears, for listening to those who would have us abandon you, abandon our faith, simply because of questions. Gracious God, give us a desire to face our fears, to see our fellow humans as they are – your children – and to strive for a new way ahead, a way of peace and trust and faith. So be it. (Please take a moment for silent reflection and confession.)

In the spirit of your hope and love, we pray.

Amen.

* God's Promise of Grace

* 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 – Exodus 14:5-7, 10-14, 21-29 (from the *Common English Bible*, © 2011)

⁵ When Egypt's king was told that the people had run away, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about the people. They said, "What have we done, letting Israel go free from their slavery to us?" ⁶ So he sent for his chariot and took his army with him. ⁷ He took six hundred elite chariots and all of Egypt's other chariots with captains on all of them. ... ¹⁰ As Pharaoh drew closer, the Israelites looked back and saw the Egyptians marching toward them. The Israelites were terrified and cried out to the Lord. ¹¹ They said to Moses, "Weren't there enough graves in Egypt that you took us away to die in the desert? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt like this? ¹² Didn't we tell you the same thing in Egypt? 'Leave us alone! Let us work for the Egyptians!' It would have been better for us to work for the Egyptians than to die in the desert." ¹³ But Moses said to the people, "Don't be afraid. Stand your ground, and watch the Lord rescue you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never ever see again. ¹⁴ The Lord will fight for you. You just keep still." ... ²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord pushed the sea back by a strong east wind all night, turning the sea into dry land. The waters were split into two. ²² The Israelites walked into the sea on dry ground. The waters formed a wall for them on their right hand and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians chased them and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and cavalry. ²⁴ As morning approached, the Lord looked down on the Egyptian camp from the column of lightning and cloud and threw the Egyptian camp into a panic. ²⁵ The Lord jammed their chariot wheels so that they wouldn't turn easily. The Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites, because the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt!" ²⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the water comes back and covers the Egyptians, their chariots, and their cavalry." ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. At daybreak, the sea returned to its normal depth. The Egyptians were driving toward it, and the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the cavalry, Pharaoh's entire army that had followed them into the sea. Not one of them remained. ²⁹ The Israelites, however, walked on dry ground through the sea. The waters formed a wall for them on their right hand and on their left.

Sermon: "Sometimes a Promise Needs Proving" – 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.

How do we cry out for God's proof today?

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 #743 – O God, You Are My God (sing through 3 times)

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

O God, you are my God,

And I will ever praise you.

O God, you are my God,

And I will ever praise you.
I will seek you in the morning,
And I will learn to walk in your ways.
And step by step you'll lead me,
And I will follow you all of my days.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Coming Together in Prayer
Pastoral Prayer

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

Affirmation of Faith – *from the Belhar Confession*

**We believe that God has entrusted the church
with the message of reconciliation
in and through Jesus Christ.**

**We believe that the church is called
to be the salt of the earth
and the light of the world.**

**We believe that the church is called blessed
because it is a peacemaker.**

**We believe that the church is witness
both by word and by deed
to the new heaven and the new earth
in which righteousness dwell.**

Great Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to God.

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

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

Prayer for the Feast

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 #504 – We Come as Guests Invited

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

We come as guests invited

When Jesus bids us dine,

His friends on earth united

To share the bread and wine;

The bread of life is broken;

The wine is freely poured

For us, in solemn token

Of Christ our dying Lord.

We eat and drink, receiving
From Christ the grace we need,
And in our hearts believing
On him by faith we feed;
With wonder and thanksgiving
For love that knows no end,
We find in Jesus living
Our ever-present friend.

One bread is ours for sharing,
One single fruitful vine,
Our fellowship declaring
Renewed in bread and wine;
Renewed, sustained, and given
By token, sign, and word,
The pledge and seal of heaven,
The love of Christ our Lord.

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*