

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: Teach me blessedness, Holy One.

As you breathe in, pray, "Teach me blessedness."

As you breathe out, pray, "Holy One."

* Opening Praise (based on *Spill the Beans*, iss. 14, © 2014 Spill the Beans Resources):

One: Come, worship the Christ

Many: Who tends to the poor and wipes away our tears.

One: Come, worship the Christ

Many: Who gives legacy to the meek and nourishes the hungry.

One: Come, worship the Christ

Many: Who gives mercy to the merciful and vision to the seekers.

One: Come, worship the Christ

Many: Who blesses the peacemakers and remembers the persecuted.

One: Come, worship the Christ

Many: Who finds the lost,

ALL: Who is with us now and always.

* Invitation to Confession

* Joining in Prayer (based on *Spill the Beans*, iss. 14, © 2014 Spill the Beans Resources):

Holy God, to you we give honor and praise. You are the vision that allows us to see the glory of your creation and the glory of each living person. You are the salt that brings out the unique and special flavor of all the exists and of all that can be experienced. In Jesus, we have a teacher who reveals to us what it feels like to be blessed, and what it takes to be a blessing to others. Today, grant us a spirit of discernment that we may never remain blissfully unaware of what it means to be truly blessed in your love for us, nor ignorant of the many opportunities in our lives to extend this blessing to all. Merciful God, let us recognize that blessings are gifts from you. And let us acknowledge that as your people, you call us to be a blessing to others. *(Please take a moment for silent reflection and confession.)*

In the name of Jesus, our salt and light, 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 5:1-20 (from the *Common English Bible*, © 2011)

¹ Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up a mountain. He sat down and his disciples came to him. ² He taught them, saying: ³ “Happy are people who are hopeless, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs. ⁴ “Happy are people who grieve, because they will be made glad. ⁵ “Happy are people who are humble, because they will inherit the earth. ⁶ “Happy are people who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, because they will be fed until they are full. ⁷ “Happy are people who show mercy, because they will receive mercy. ⁸ “Happy are people who have pure hearts, because they will see God. ⁹ “Happy are people who make peace, because they will be called God’s children. ¹⁰ “Happy are people whose lives are harassed because they are righteous, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs. ¹¹ “Happy are you when people insult you and harass you and speak all kinds of bad and false things about you, all because of me. ¹² Be full of joy and be glad, because you have a great reward in heaven. In the same way, people harassed the prophets who came before you. ¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its saltiness, how will it become salty again? It’s good for nothing except to be thrown away and trampled under people’s feet. ¹⁴ You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can’t be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand, and it shines on all who are in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven. ¹⁷ “Don’t even begin to think that I have come to do away with the Law and the Prophets. I haven’t come to do away with them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ I say to you very seriously that as long as heaven and earth exist, neither the smallest letter nor even the smallest stroke of a pen will be erased from the Law until everything there becomes a reality. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever ignores one of the least of these commands and teaches others to do the same will be called the lowest in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever keeps these commands and teaches people to keep them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ I say to you that unless your righteousness is greater than the righteousness of the legal experts and the Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Sermon: “Happy Light, Blessed Salt” – 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 part of your life/the world needs some saltiness?

Hymn #401 – Here in This Place

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

Here in this place the new light is streaming;
Now is the darkness vanished away;
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
Gather us in, the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken;
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery.
We are the old, who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
Called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
Gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;
Give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water;
Here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;
Give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
Not in some heaven light years away:
Here in this place the new light is shining;
Now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
Gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together,
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

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.**

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.

Hymn #852 – When the Lord Redeems the Very Least
(from *Glory to God*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press)

When the Lord redeems the very least,
We will rejoice.
When the hungry gather for the feast,
We will rejoice.
 We will rejoice with gladness.
 We will rejoice.
 All our days we'll sing to God in praise.
 We will rejoice!

When the Lord restores the sick and weak,
We will rejoice.
When the earth is given to the meek,

We will rejoice.
We will rejoice with gladness.
We will rejoice.
All our days we'll sing to God in praise.
We will rejoice!

When the Lord revives the world from death,
We will rejoice.
When the word of God fills every breath,
We will rejoice.
We will rejoice with gladness.
We will rejoice.
All our days we'll sing to God in praise.
We will rejoice!

When the Lord returns in victory,
We will rejoice.
When we live in glorious liberty,
We will rejoice.
We will rejoice with gladness.
We will rejoice.
All our days we'll sing to God in praise.
We will rejoice!

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*