

## 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: Inspire daring faith in me, Holy God.*

*As you breathe in, pray, "Inspire daring faith in me."*

*As you breathe out, pray, "Holy God."*

\* Opening Praise (based on Psalm 130):

One: Call out to God.

**Many: My Lord, listen to our voices!**

One: We hope, Lord. We hope with our whole selves.

**Many: We hope, and we wait for God's promise.**

One: Wait on our God.

**Many: We wait, trusting. We wait, hoping.**

One: Wait on our God.

**Many: We wait, believing. We wait, daring.**

One: Faithful love is the Lord's.

**ALL: Great redemption is with our God!**

\* Invitation to Confession

\* Joining in Prayer:

**God, you call us to you. You call us to your side. You call us to your mission. You call us to your hope and your promise. You are a God of unimaginable possibilities and sacred stirrings. You have done great things through your beloved children throughout the centuries – big things and small things, powerful things and gentle things, joyful things and redemptive things. We acknowledge those things with our minds, but sometimes, our hearts still fear. Our spirits still shy away from your call in our own lives. We would rather cling to comfort and our well-worn routines than take that leap of faith, even when we feel you there encouraging, supporting, and loving us every inch of the way. Embolden us with your promises, God. Give us courage and a sense of adventure in this path we walk with you. Startle us out of our complacency with the audacity of your gospel one again, and let that audacity permeate our purpose in this world.** *(Please take a moment for silent reflection and confession.)*

Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.

**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 – Joshua 2:1-22 (from the *Common English Bible*)

<sup>1</sup> Joshua, Nun's son, secretly sent two men as spies from Shittim. He said, "Go. Look over the land, especially Jericho." They set out and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab. They bedded down there. <sup>2</sup> Someone told the king of Jericho, "Men from the Israelites have come here tonight to spy on the land." <sup>3</sup> So the king of Jericho sent word to Rahab: "Send out the men who came to you, the ones who came to your house, because they have come to spy on the entire land." <sup>4</sup> But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. Then she said, "Of course the men came to me. But I didn't know where they were from." <sup>5</sup> The men left when it was time to close the gate at dark, but I don't know where the men went. Hurry! Chase after them! You might catch up with them." <sup>6</sup> But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the flax stalks that she had laid out on the roof. <sup>7</sup> The men from Jericho chased after them in the direction of the Jordan up to the fords. As soon as those chasing them went out, the gate was shut behind them. <sup>8</sup> Before the spies bedded down, Rahab went up to them on the roof. <sup>9</sup> She said to the men, "I know that the LORD has given you the land. Terror over you has overwhelmed us. The entire population of the land has melted down in fear because of you." <sup>10</sup> We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Reed Sea in front of you when you left Egypt. We have also heard what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites on the other side of the Jordan. You utterly wiped them out. <sup>11</sup> We heard this and our hearts turned to water. Because of you, people can no longer work up their courage. This is because the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on earth below. <sup>12</sup> Now, I have been loyal to you. So pledge to me by the LORD that you in turn will deal loyally with my family. Give me a sign of good faith. <sup>13</sup> Spare the lives of my father, mother, brothers, and sisters, along with everything they own. Rescue us from death." <sup>14</sup> The men said to her, "We swear by our own lives to secure yours. If you don't reveal our mission, we will deal loyally and faithfully with you when the LORD gives us the land." <sup>15</sup> So she lowered the spies on a rope through the window. Her house was on the outer side of the city wall, and she lived inside the wall. <sup>16</sup> Then she said to them, "Go toward the highlands so that those chasing you don't run into you. Hide there for three days until those chasing you return. Then you may go on your way." <sup>17</sup> The men said to her, "We won't be responsible for this pledge you made us swear <sup>18</sup> unless, when we come into the land, you tie this red woven cord in the window through which you lowered us. Gather your father, your mother, your brothers, and your whole family into the house with you. <sup>19</sup> Those who go outside the doors of your house into the street will have only themselves to blame for their own deaths. We won't be responsible. If anyone lays a hand on those who are with you in the house, we will take the blame for their death. <sup>20</sup> But if you reveal our mission, we won't be responsible for this pledge you made us swear." <sup>21</sup> She said, "These things will happen just like you said." She sent them away and they went off. Then she tied the red cord in the window. <sup>22</sup> The spies went out and entered the highlands. They stayed there for three days until those chasing them came back. Those chasing them had searched all along the road but never found them.

Sermon: "Rahab: Woman of Daring Deception" – Rev. Lisa Johnson

Hymn #463 – How Firm a Foundation

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

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!  
What more can be said than to you God hath said,  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

“Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
Upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.

“When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
For I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,  
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

“The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I’ll never, no, never, no, never forsake.”

### 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 #39 – Great Is Thy Faithfulness

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

Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator;  
There is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.  
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness!  
Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springing and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Great is thy faithfulness!  
Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,

Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:  
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside!

Great is thy faithfulness!  
Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

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.*

### **BEING SENT OUT IN GOD'S WORD**

\* Charge & Blessing

Postlude

*\* indicates please rise in body or spirit as you feel led*