

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: **Break my bonds that entangle, God of hope.***

As you breathe in, pray, "Break my bonds that entangle me."

As you breathe out, pray, "God of hope."

* Opening Praise (based on Psalm 123):

One: We raise our eyes to you,

Many: God who ordered the heavens.

One: We raise our praise to you,

Many: God who guides our steps.

One: We raise our hearts to you,

Many: God who keeps our lives.

One: We raise our prayers to you,

Many: God who hears our every plea.

One: We raise our very selves to you,

Many: God who loves us without fail.

One: We raise our very selves,

ALL: We raise ourselves in worship and faith.

* Invitation to Confession

* Joining in Prayer (from the *Book of Common Worship*, © 2018):

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the value of a broken world. The profit and pleasure we pursue lay waste to the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. *(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"

(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 – 2 Samuel 11 (from the *Common English Bible*)

¹ In the spring, when kings go off to war, David sent Joab, along with his servants and all the Israelites, and they destroyed the Ammonites, attacking the city of Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem. ² One evening, David got up from his couch and was pacing back and forth on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. ³ David sent someone and inquired about the woman. The report came back: "Isn't this Eliam's daughter Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" ⁴ So David sent messengers to get her. When she came to him, he had sex with her. (Now she had been purifying herself after her monthly period.) Then she returned home. ⁵ The woman conceived and sent word to David. "I'm pregnant," she said. ⁶ Then David sent a message to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." So Joab sent Uriah to David. ⁷ When Uriah came to him, David asked about the welfare of Joab and the army and how the battle was going. ⁸ Then David told Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him. ⁹ However, Uriah slept at the palace entrance with all his master's servants. He didn't go down to his own house. ¹⁰ David was told, "Uriah didn't go down to his own house," so David asked Uriah, "Haven't you just returned from a journey? Why didn't you go home?" ¹¹ "The chest and Israel and Judah are all living in tents," Uriah told David. "And my master Joab and my master's troops are camping in the open field. How could I go home and eat, drink, and have sex with my wife? I swear on your very life, I will not do that!" ¹² Then David told Uriah, "Stay here one more day. Tomorrow I'll send you back." So Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day. The next day ¹³ David called for him, and he ate and drank, and David got him drunk. In the evening Uriah went out to sleep in the same place, alongside his master's servants, but he did not go down to his own home. ¹⁴ The next morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. ¹⁵ He wrote in the letter, "Place Uriah at the front of the fiercest battle, and then pull back from him so that he will be struck down and die." ¹⁶ So as Joab was attacking the city, he put Uriah in the place where he knew there were strong warriors. ¹⁷ When the city's soldiers came out and attacked Joab, some of the people from David's army fell. Uriah the Hittite was also killed. ¹⁸ Joab sent a complete report of the battle to David. ¹⁹ "When you have finished reporting all the news of the battle to the king," Joab instructed the messenger, ²⁰ "if the king gets angry and asks you, 'Why did you go so close to the city to fight? didn't you know they would shoot from the wall?' ²¹ Who killed Jerubbaal's son Abimelech? didn't a woman throw an upper millstone on top of him from the wall so that he died in Thebez? Why did you go so close to the wall?' then say: 'Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead too.'" ²² So the messenger set off, and when he arrived he reported to David everything Joab sent him to say. ²³ "The men overpowered us," the messenger told David. "They came out against us in the open field, but we fought against them up to the entrance of the city gate. ²⁴ Archers shot down on your servants from the wall. Some of the king's servants died. And your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead too." ²⁵ David said to the messenger, "Say this to Joab: 'Don't be upset about this because the sword is that way: taking the life of this person or that person. Continue attacking the city and destroy it!' Encourage Joab!" ²⁶ When Uriah's wife heard that her husband Uriah was dead, she mourned for her husband. ²⁷ After the time of mourning was over, David sent for her and brought her back to his house. She became his wife and bore him a son. But what David had done was evil in the LORD's eyes.

Sermon: "Bathsheba: Woman of Shameful Subjugation" – Rev. Lisa Johnson

Hymn #772 – Live Into Hope

Live into hope of captives freed,
Of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see

The year of God's own jubilee!

Live into hope! The blind shall see
With insight and with clarity,
Removing shades of pride and fear,
A vision of our God brought near.

Live into hope of liberty,
The right to speak, the right to be,
The right to have one's daily bread,
To hear God's word and thus be fed.

Live into hope of captive freed
From chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
To faith and hope and joy and peace.

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

Great Thanksgiving

One: God 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 God Most High.

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 #22 – God of the Sparrow

God of the sparrow, God of the whale,
God of the swirling stars,
How does the creature say Awe?
How does the creature say Praise?

God of the earthquake, God of the storm,
God of the trumpet blast,
How does the creature say Woe?
How does the creature say Save?

God of the rainbow, God of the cross,
God of the empty grave,

How does the creature say Grace?
How does the creature say Thanks?

God of the hungry, God of the sick,
God of the prodigal,
How does the creature say Care?
How does the creature say Life?

God of the neighbor, God of the foe,
God of the pruning hook,
How does the creature say Love?
How does the creature say Peace?

God of the ages, God near at hand,
God of the loving heart,
How do your children say Joy?
How do your children say Home?

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*