



Living in the Spirit  
◆ **Nativity of St John the Baptist**

**Call to Prayer and Sharing**

❖ *Invitation to Prayer - Leader*

Let us begin,  
Now, here in this place  
With a moment of silence, to reflect,  
to focus, to be attentive to ourselves,  
to one another, and to the presence of Christ.

May the Lord come and increase our faith. (*reflective pause*)

❖ *Opening Song - If time allows, sing a familiar hymn or song.*

❖ *Then: "In the name of the Father and of the Son . . . ."*

**The Word of God**

❖ *Leader:* Let us welcome God's Word into our hearts.

All: Fill our minds that we may hear your wisdom.  
Touch our lips that we may speak your truth.  
Hold in our hearts that we may always follow you.  
Come now, O Word of God.

**From Luke 1: 57 – 66, 80**

When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child she gave birth to a son.  
Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy toward her,  
and they rejoiced with her. When they came on the eighth day to circumcise the child,  
they were going to call him Zechariah after his father,  
but his mother said in reply, "No. He will be called John."  
But they answered her,  
"There is no one among your relatives who has this name."  
So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called.  
He asked for a tablet and wrote, "John is his name," and all were amazed.  
Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed, and he spoke blessing God.  
Then fear came upon all their neighbors, and all these matters were discussed  
throughout the hill country of Judea.  
All who heard these things took them to heart, saying, "What, then, will this child be?"  
For surely the hand of the Lord was with him.  
The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the desert until the day  
of his manifestation to Israel.

The Word of the Lord...

❖ *At the conclusion of the reading, briefly pause for quiet reflection.*

**Faith Sharing/Question of the Week** (*consider sharing on either question*)

- ❖ **Adult:** You are anointed and called; where is the Spirit of God leading you this week?
- ❖ **Mixed Ages:** When you were baptised, you were called by name. How can you figure out what God wants you to do?

### ***For further reflection and discussion***

- ❖ How does this influence and affect what we are doing here at this gathering?

*Time is provided for sharing responses to the question. Silence between responses is to be expected. Allow a few minutes for faith sharing. For larger groups, leader invites members to divide into groups of 3 or 4 for faith sharing.*

- ❖ *When the sharing comes to an end, the leader invites everyone to take a moment to silently and reverently hold what has been shared together.*

### ***Litany of Faith***

**Leader:** Christ Jesus, you call us each by name to follow you,  
help us to know your plans for us.

**All:** We are called, we are chosen, we are Christ for one another.

**Leader:** Christ Jesus, you call us each by name to follow you,  
help us learn how to serve your people.

**All:** We are called, we are chosen, we are Christ for one another.

**Leader:** Christ Jesus, you call us each by name to follow you,  
help us be open to the Spirit that dwells within us.

**All:** We are called, we are chosen, we are Christ for one another.

### ***The Lord's Prayer***

**Leader:** Let us pray together:

**All:** Gracious God,  
we know that you are with us here,  
and we have taken your Word into our hearts.  
You call us all to conversion,  
we who are here in this place,  
and we who are now ready to welcome you into our lives.  
We are ready,  
we are willing,  
and we are yours.  
So we surrender to you  
our aches and longings into one as we pray:  
Our Father...

### ***Continue with the Meeting***

#### ***Final Blessing***

**Leader:** Now let us bless one another:

**All:** May God bless and keep us, may God smile upon us.  
May God show us kindness, fill us with peace.  
And may God bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit;  
may we always love and serve,  
filled with God's Peace. Amen.

**Leader:** *Conclude the meeting or sing a closing song.*