

# ENCOUNTER

A MID-WEEK SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PRESENCE

## “Healing” is Our Theme for October 19-November 16

Gathering Music

Welcome

Gathering Hymn: How Can I Keep from Singing

Robert Lowry

**My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.  
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.**

**(Refrain)**

**No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?**

**Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?**

**(Refrain)**

**The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?**

**(Refrain)**

Gathering Prayer

L: Today is a day to sing praise to God!

**P: God continually blesses us, each and every day.**

L: Even in the midst of cold and darkness, the warmth of God's love is real.

**P: We can count on God to be here for us.**

L: Let your hearts rejoice and your voices shout praise to God.

**P: For God is great and worthy to be praised. AMEN.**

Psalm 27

Scripture: Acts 9:36-43

Meditation

## Reflection and Response

During our time of Reflection and Response, you are invited to engage in a variety of prayer stations. This week you are also invited to write a 5 stanza poem. If you'd like, you can share your poem as part of our prayers of the people this evening.

## Prayers of the People

### The Lord's Prayer

### Concluding Prayer and Benediction

Hymn: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Hyfrodol

**Come, Thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.**

**Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit,  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

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Emily Robbins, Minister of Youth  
Matthew Phelps, Minister of Music

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Responsive Reading of Psalm 27:

Hear my voice when I call, O Lord;  
be merciful to me and answer me.

**My heart says of you, "seek his face!"  
Your face, Lord, I will seek.**

Do not hide your face from me,  
do not turn your servant away in anger;  
you have been my helper.

**Do not reject me or forsake me, O God my Savior.  
Though my father and mother forsake me,  
the Lord will receive me.**

Teach me your way, O Lord;  
lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors.

**Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes,  
for false witnesses rise up against me,  
breathing out violence.**

I am still confident of this:  
I will see the goodness of the Lord  
in the land of the living.

**Wait for the Lord;  
be strong and take heart  
and wait for the Lord.**

The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
**the Lord is the stronghold of my life!**