

ENCOUNTER

A MID-WEEK SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PRESENCE

Gathering Music

Welcome

Gathering Hymn: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing Nettleton

**Come thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.**

**Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me as a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.**

**O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above. |**

Opening Prayer

One: O God, you have called us to this Holy Ground,

ALL: where we sing songs of praise and tell the stories of faith.

One: O God, you have called us in whispering winds and in burning
flames,

**ALL: and with your presence you have disarmed the barriers we
have placed around ourselves.**

One: O God, meet us in our vulnerability and in our humanity.

ALL: O God, receive our worship this night!

Prayer of Confession

**God of fire, out of the flames of your creation,
your voice calls, marking us as your own.
Yet there are times when we choose to ignore your voice,
and listen instead to our own needs and desires.
Redeeming God, forgive us for those times
when we have ignored the needs of others,
when we have failed to place our feet upon your path;
when we allow other voices to distract us from your call.**

**Offer again your invitation to know your love,
to be loved, and to respond to your call.**

Silent Confession and Words of Assurance

Scripture: Exodus 3:1-15

Encountering the Scripture

Reflection and Response

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: Great Is thy Faithfulness

Faithfulness

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of
turning to thee; thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as
thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain

**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 springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and
stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to
thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (refrain)**

**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! (refrain)**

Benediction

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The Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession are adapted from a resource by Rev.
MaryAnn R. Rennie on the Church of Scotland Starters for Sunday website.