

# ENCOUNTER

A MID-WEEK SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PRESENCE

Gathering Music

Welcome

Gathering Hymn: Bless the Lord My Soul

Jacques Berthier

Voice

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name. Bless the Lord, my

soul, who leads my in - to life.

Opening Prayer

One: Loving God, as we gather to worship you,

**ALL: move among us and awaken us to your presence.**

One: As we unite our voices to praise you,

**ALL: show us your glory, O God.**

One: Though we cannot see you face-to-face,

**ALL: may we see your goodness this night.**

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,  
we like to place our trust in tangible things—  
things we can see and touch—  
and we question whether you are really there.  
Forgive us, Holy One,  
when we fail to recognize  
that you are always nearby,  
patiently waiting for us to recognize  
your presence and your glory.  
Help us when we lose our way,  
and forgive us when we forget  
to whom we truly belong.  
Amen.**

Silent Confession and Words of Assurance

Scripture: Exodus 33:11-23

Encountering the Scripture

Reflection and Response

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: Rock of Ages

Toplady

**Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;  
let the water and the blood, from thy wounded side which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure; save from wrath and make me pure.**

**Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands;  
could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,  
all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.**

**Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling;  
naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;  
foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior or I die.**

**While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyes shall close in death,  
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgement throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.**

Benediction

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Erin Racine, Pastor for Spiritual Formation  
Matthew Phelps, Minister of Music

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The Opening Prayer and Prayer of Confession are adapted from resources by Roberta J. Egli on the Ministry Matters website.