

ENCOUNTER

A MID-WEEK SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PRESENCE

Gathering Music

Welcome

Gathering Music: My Faith Looks Up to Thee

**My Faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!**

**Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day be wholly thine!**

**May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire!**

**As thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!**

**While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray from thee aside!**

**When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream,
shall o'er me roll;
blest Savior, then in love, fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!**

Opening Prayer

One: Jesus, have come to worship this evening hoping to encounter you.

All: **We thank you for meeting us where we are.**

One: We have come with questions that only you can answer.

All: **Help us to open our hearts to you.**

One: We have come with burdens that are difficult to carry.

All: **May our lives be healed and strengthened for service. Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

**O God, we are such stubborn people.
We want to know all the answers, and we want to know them now.
We find it hard to place our trust in Jesus. When he proclaims that
we can have new life, we wonder how it is possible.
Forgive us and help us, gracious God.
Help us to place our trust in your healing care.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Silent Confession and Words of Assurance

Scripture: John 3:1-17

Encountering the Scripture

Reflection and Response

Kay Gray

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Song of Sending Forth: 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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The first staff is labeled 'Voice' and contains the lyrics: 'Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name. Bless the Lord, my'. The second staff starts with a '6' above the first measure and contains the lyrics: 'soul, who leads my in - to life.' The music consists of quarter and eighth notes with rests.

Benediction

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Erin Racine, Pastor for Spiritual Formation
Matthew Phelps, minister of music

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