

ENCOUNTER

A MID-WEEK SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PRESENCE

Gathering Music

Welcome

Gathering Music: What Wondrous Love is This

Wondrous Love

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.**

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of life
to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
to lay aside his crown for my soul.**

**To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme I will sing.**

**And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on.
and through eternity, I'll sing on.**

Opening Prayer

One: Jesus, we seek an encounter with you this night.

All: **We are open and our spirits are willing to receive your grace.**

One: Help us to clear away the clutter and the chaos.

All: **May we let go of all that holds us down and holds us back from your living water.**

One: O Jesus, come and fill us up so that we may never thirst again.

All: **We ask all things in the name of the one who calls us beloved. Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

**God of living waters,
we confess that we have often turned from you
and wandered into the wilderness of fear and doubt.
Our mounting thirst can only be quenched by your redeeming love.
Yet when love is offered to us, we often turn away,
unable to believe that you would heal and love us.
Forgive us when we act in unloving ways. |
Forgive us when we choose to ignore those in need.
Forgive us, and heal us, merciful God.
Wash us again in living water, and help us to be faithful servants.
Amen.**

Silent Confession and Words of Assurance

Scripture: John 4:5-19, 25-30, 39

Encountering Jesus

Corbin Smith

Reflection and Response

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Song of Sending Forth: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross Rockingham Old
**When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.**

**See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small,
Love so amazing so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Benediction

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

The Opening Prayer is adapted from a prayer by Rev. Heather Williams on the UMC Discipleship website.
The Prayer of Confession is adapted from a prayer by Nancy C. Townley on the Ministry Matters website.