

# ENCOUNTER

A MID-WEEK SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PRESENCE

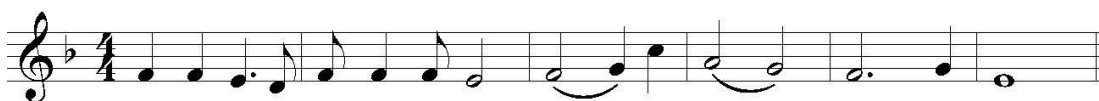
Gathering Music

Welcome

Gathering Music: Hymn: Stay with Me

Jacques Berthier

Voice



Stay with me, re-main here with me, watch and pray, watch and pray.

Opening Prayer

One: O God, with thankful hearts we pause this night.

All: **Remind us of our grandest hopes.**

One: Remind us that the demands and struggles of this world do not have the last word.

All: **Remind us that you are the one who was, and is, and is yet to come.**

One: Open our hearts to the comfort, the challenge, and the mystery of this good news.

All: **In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, we pray. Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

**God of Passion,**

**we remember those times we have sought our best interest  
over what is right and good.**

**God of Fidelity,**

**we remember those times when we chose the path of safety  
over loyalty to your way.**

**God of Constant Presence,**

**we remember the ways we have wandered from your presence,  
only to complain that we have been abandoned.**

**God of the Cross,**

**for all the ways we have missed the mark,  
for all of the ways we have come up short,  
forgive us.**

**Through your grace, bring us back into relationship.  
Help us find the path again.  
Amen.**

Silent Confession and Words of Assurance

Scripture: John 18:33-38; 19:9-11a, 13-16a

Encountering Jesus

Patrick McAnally

Reflection and Response

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Song of Sending Forth: Were You There

Spiritual

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

**Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?**

**Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

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 Hans Holznagel on the Ministry Matters website. The Prayer of Confession is adapted from a prayer by Rev. Gord in his blog, Worship Offerings.

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