

Encounters with God

Congregational responses are in **bold**.

Collect: *Say- Please join me in an attitude of prayer*

We come to worship you O Lord our God, to declare our trust in you and rejoice in the light of your love. Quiet our hearts and make us still in our spirits that we might know the wonder of who you are. We wait upon you, O Source of all joy—we wait upon you and commit the moments of this holy hour into your hands. Amen.

Prelude: I Can Only Imagine (youth played on Saxophone)

Call to worship: Say- please join me in the Call to Worship:

Leader: Come to us O Lord of Life

People: **And fill us with your presence!**

Leader: We praise your name and rejoice in your love,

People: **We stand in utter amazement of who you are!**

Leader: Everyone who calls upon you will find fulfillment

People: **They will rejoice forever, because of their encounters with you!**

Leader: Rejoice and give thanks!

People: **Halleluiah! Amen!**

Hymn: Worthy of Worship

Call to Confession :

The proof of God's amazing love is this: that Christ died for us that we might live. Because we have faith in Christ, we dare to approach God with the truth of our lives.

Prayer of Confession: *Say: Let us pray together the Prayer of Confession:*

Creator God, we admit that we do not always see you in our day to day lives. We look for you but often times do not know exactly what we are looking for. Help us to hear you in the song of a bird, to experience your touch through another person, to smell you in the scent of a flower, to feel you in the warmth of the sun and to know you are there simply by opening our eyes to the beauty of your creation. Amen.

Prayer of assurance:

Even though we stumble, even when we fail, God is there to steady us. In the name of Jesus Christ, God's beloved Son, we are always forgiven.

Praise the Lord!

The Lord be praised!

Song Response:

Glory be to the Father; and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; world without end, Amen. Amen.

Reading: Butterfly Story (located below)

Anthem- Children of Light (sung by youth choir)

Scripture Reading: 1 King 19: 1-13 Selected versus from The Message

Ahab reported to Jezebel everything that Elijah had done, including the massacre of the prophets. Jezebel immediately sent a messenger to Elijah with her threat, saying: "The gods will get you for this and I'll get even with you! By this time tomorrow you'll be as dead as any one of those prophets." When Elijah saw how things were, he ran for dear life. He left his young servant and went on into the desert.

*He finally came to a lone broom bush and collapsed in its shade, wanting in the worst way to be done with it all – **he just wanted to die: "Enough of this, God!" he said, "Take my life - I'm ready to join my ancestors in the grave!"** Exhausted, he fell asleep under the lone broom bush.*

Suddenly an angel shook him awake and said, "Get up and eat!" He looked around and, to his surprise, right by his head were a loaf of baked bread and a jug of water. He ate the meal and went back to sleep. The angel of God came back, shook him awake again, and said, "Get up and eat some more - you've got a long journey ahead of you." He got up, ate and drank his fill, and then he set out.

Nourished by the meal, he walked forty days and nights, all the way to the mountain of God. When he got there, he crawled into a cave and went to sleep. Then the word of God came to him- saying: "Elijah, what are you doing here?" Elijah answered, "I've been working my heart out for the God-of-the-Angel-Armies, and the people of Israel have abandoned your covenant, destroyed the places of worship, and murdered your prophets. I'm the only one left, and now they're trying to kill me."

*Elijah was then told to go, stand on the mountain at attention before God so that he would be able to see God pass by. Elijah did as he was told. As he stood there he saw a hurricane like wind rip through the mountains and shatter the rocks, but God wasn't to be found in the wind; after the wind came an earthquake, but God wasn't in the earthquake; and after the earthquake came a blazing fire, but God wasn't in the fire **either...then after the fire** came a gentle and quiet whisper. When Elijah heard the quiet voice, he muffled his face with his great cloak, went to the mouth of the cave, and stood there, for he knew he had just heard the quiet voice of God.*

Message: Encounters with God

Pastoral prayer:

Reading: He Is Here (Located below)

Offertory:

Help us who have received so freely from you to give as freely in return. Allow us to have the pleasure of giving as well as the happiness of receiving. Let us now receive our offering.

Prayer of Dedication:

Along with these offerings, O Lord, we bring a willingness to be shaped by your Spirit. Give us grace to grow in all the ways you desire for our lives and courage to turn away from all that would separate us from you. As we give, may we know the transforming power of your love. Amen.

Hymn: Pass It On

Benediction:

He Is Here

He is here. He is right here. In this room, and in your heart.

He is near. Nearer than breath, than heartbeat. Nearer than you are to you. Closer than second chances, or next opportunity. Closer than tonight or yesterday.

He is real. More real than touch, see, hear, smell, or taste. More real than reality. He is our reality. More real than joy, pain, sorrow, or the love of being in love.

He is present. Like space, wind, time, silence, and night.

He is waiting. Like creation, like words on the tip of your tongue. Like songs that have yet to be sung.

He is beauty. In oranges and in blues, every hue and every shade. Sunset and sunrise whisper his name.

He is holy. Cannot be touched, or explained. Like sweet seconds of prayer; like grandmother on her knees, with her wood floor bare.

He is old hymns. The extending of limbs stretched across trees; stripes to heal disease.

He is son. Distinctly three, distinctly one. The only one, the only wise, the only resurrector of lives.

He is king. And no earthly throne can house him, no amount of elegant words can espouse him.

He is moment and voice, power of choice. In words and deed, in fruit and in seed. Nailed hands, and nailed feet; innocent wounds that bleed.

He is believing. Everything we can sacrifice- he is worth it and so much more. Our good deeds that are mere pennies, will never even the score.

He is behold and wow. He is the who, what, when, why, and how. He is the one who puts on the show. He is the one that we come to see. He is a soul's cry and a sinner's plea. He is the one that no one can light a candle to; or come within a million foot pole of.

He is above. He is a father's love. Maker of ways, of earth and wind, ancient of days. Have no fear....

Have no fear....

Have no fear.....

Our god is here.