

Order of Worship

Gathering

Meeting God in Music:

How Can I Keep From Singing

Words of Welcome

Rev. Katie Miller

Announcements / Mission Statement

Dan Loven-Crum

Examen

Call to Worship

Aly Amstutz

Musical Reflection

Hearing God's Word

Children's Moment

Rebecca Morello

Scripture:

2 Corinthians 1:3-11, Luke 8: 40-56

John Kampfe

Reflection:

Rev. Katie Miller

Musical Meditation:

How Can I Keep From Singing -
arr. Brad Ellingboe

Responding to God's Word

Communion / Lord's Prayer

Rev. Katie Miller

Musical Reflection

Hymn:

There Will I Be - John Miller

Countryside Blessing

Becky Knightly

OUR WORSHIP HAS CONCLUDED.
NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

C4 - Adam Witte, director

Dr. Christine Beard, flute - Alex Ritter, organ

Carlos Figueroa, drums - Steve Gomez, bass

Who We Are:

We are an inclusive, open and affirming family of faith, welcoming all to God's table of love and acceptance.

We are diverse, yet united by Christ's example.

We care for one another, support one another and challenge one another to become all that God creates us to be.

We work together to nurture our community and to promote peace, equality and justice in our conflicted world.



Rev. Katie Miller

Minister of Student and Family Life

Rev. Katie has been the Associate Minister at First Central Congregational since June, 2016. A native Nebraskan, she received her Masters of Divinity from Chicago Theological Seminary. Katie also holds a Bachelors of Music in Musical Theater from the University of Nebraska at Kearney and spent several years prior to seminary working as an actor/musician/vocalist/nanny in and around Chicago and New York. She still enjoys being

onstage every once in a while, and continues to participate in theater productions around Omaha. Rev. Katie currently serves as the Chair of the Nebraska Youth and Outdoor Ministry Committee for the UCC and DOC and is on the Committee on Ministry for the Living Waters Association. She is passionate about people and ministry and the great outdoors, and can be found most non-work days hiking wherever there's a trail and a hint of sunshine.

Music notes:

Storytelling is essential to music. We wouldn't have music without it. Songs with and without words have been used for millions of years to pass down stories, culture, and purpose. Music and art more broadly are an important way that we as a faith community tell our story.

The origin of *How Can I Keep From Singing* isn't clear, but a compelling theory is that it was a Quaker hymn passed down over generations that Robert Lowry (the credited writer) discovered. It wasn't uncommon for a compiler to assume credit for a hymn. The likelihood of Quaker origin is evidenced in the narratives of overcoming persecution - and the Quakers faced a lot of it for their theology and pacifism. This hymn tells their story. One verse that is omitted from modern hymnals paints the picture:

*In prison cell and dungeon vile
Our thoughts to them are winging,
When friends by shame are undefiled
How can I keep from singing?*

Continued on the back

Continued from the front

Storytelling through music is also part of our institution history and identity. A former music director at Countryside, John Miller, wrote *There Will I Be* based off Matthew 18:20: "for where two or three gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Interestingly, the context of the scripture isn't necessarily about prayer or worship, but about resolving conflict. In Matthew 18:15-35, Christ discusses reconciliation and forgiveness, ending with the parable of the unforgiving servant. This is an important message – that in the midst of turmoil the spirit is with us, even in the midst of conflict, even church conflict: Christ is there in times of tension, times of pain, times of doubt.

Joys and Concerns

Join us as we pray for our congregation members and their loved ones who are on our Joys and Concerns list every week on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. If you have someone you would like us to pray for, or a joy you would like to share, or if you would like to be included on the list in the bulletin or be on Countryside's Prayer Chain, contact Debbie Vihstadt at debbiev@countrysideucc.org or 402-391-0350 or 402.578.2900 (you may text her at this number as well).

JOYS:

Joel and Katie Martin welcomed son, Luke Gregory Martin, born on Tuesday, May 10. He joins big sister, Lauren and big brother, Cameron. The whole family is feeling extra blessed and so in love.

CONCERNS:

Curtis Bryant and his partner, **Sonja Tvtisch**, ask for prayers for healing and for her complete recovery from inflammatory breast cancer. Prayers of comfort and peace for Curtis, too, as he continues to care for Sonja during this time.

Martha Hoig's 19-year old grandson, Braden Pearson, has been diagnosed with lymphoma and is receiving treatment at MD Anderson. Please pray for the strength, courage and healing Braden needs as he deals with his diagnosis and treatment.

Deb Hickman had a total knee replacement on April 21 and is having a difficult recovery. Please pray for her pain relief, comfort and full recovery from surgery.

Sharon and Rick Royers's nephew, Michael Clouthier, continues to recover from brain surgery on April 7. He is making good progress but has many hard weeks of physical therapy ahead. Prayers for strength and for continued progress on his road to recovery.

Ardy Stultz has less than two weeks of radiation treatment for breast cancer. The chemo she went through has done some damage to her heart. Please pray that her treatments are successful and that she recovers not only from breast cancer but from the health effects the treatments have added.

Larry (Mary Jo) Weiss, Larry's evaluation by the transplant team to be accepted for transplant happened this past week. Please pray that he is approved for a lung transplant.

We have heard of a few members of Countryside recovering from COVID-19 this week. Please pray for quick recoveries with no lasting effects from the virus. Just a note that you might want to consider wearing your masks while at church since the virus seems to be spreading in our congregation.

MEMORIALS:

John (Amy) Kampfe's, mother, Sally Kampfe, passed away on Sunday, May 8.

Ann Burdette passed away on Sunday, May 15. Her funeral will be held at Countryside on Thursday, June 9 at 1 PM.

Ed Huddell, long-time, devoted Countryside member passed away on Tuesday. His funeral will be held on the afternoon of May 26, more information will be coming.

This week we pray for the people who lost their loved ones in the grocery store shooting in Buffalo this past week. Another crime driven by irrational hatred.

God of unconditional love, who created and love all people, we come before you today confessing the sin of racism in our country, our church and in ourselves. Forgive us for our part in it, for the ways we have contributed to the oppression of others whether knowingly or unknowingly. We want to be different and for our nation to be different, but it is hard when we face the injustice of institutions as well as the prejudice in ourselves. Help us to see the reality of racism and bigotry wherever it exists and to have the courage to challenge it. Through your Holy Spirit, may we be given the grace and power to change within ourselves and also, to join with others to do the work of love and justice in the world; to move toward the goal of bringing an end to racism. We place our hopes for racial harmony in our committed action and in Your presence in our neighbor.

Amen.

Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by De Schmierer.

In memory of her parents.