

Order of Worship

**Gathering**

Prelude:

*Lush Life* - Billy Strayhorn

Words of Welcome/ Clip 1: *The Great Debaters*

Dan Loven-Crum

Announcements

Dinah Gomez

Examen

Clip 2: Jesus was a Radical

Dan Loven-Crum

Call to Worship

De Schmierer

**Hearing God's Word**

Children's Moment

Rebecca Morello

Scripture: Galatians 3:19-29

De Schmierer

*The Great Debaters*

Clip 3: The Tryouts

Clip 4: Who's the Judge

Clip 5: The Debate

Musical Reflection:

*We Gotta Pray* - Alicia Keys

Reflection:

Dan Loven-Crum

Hymn #393:

*One Bread One Body*

**Responding to God's Word**

Communion / Lord's Prayer

Rev. Don Sarton

Musical Reflection:

*Everybody* - Ingrid Michaelson

Prayers of the People

Rebecca Morello

Hymn #631:

*Lift Every Voice and Sing*

Countryside Blessing

Bobbie Escolas

Postlude:

*Song for My Father* - Horace Silver

OUR WORSHIP HAS CONCLUDED.  
NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

Julia Olynyk, vocalist - Matt Wallace, sax

Alex Ritter, organ - Carlos Figueroa, percussion

Steve Gomez, bass

Countryside Community Church

13130 Faith Plaza | Omaha, NE 68144 | 402-391-0350

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.

**Music notes:**

Juneteenth falling during Pride serves as an opportunity to reflect on an overlooked aspect of Black history and LGBT history - the robust queer community and social life in the Black community in New York City long before Stonewall. One hundred years ago, queer culture flourished, coinciding with demographic sea changes such as the Great Migration and the rise of Harlem as the most important and largest Black urban neighborhood, and artistic movements including the Harlem Renaissance, the rise of jazz, and prohibition-era speakeasy nightlife. As scholar Octavio González puts it, "sexuality became a form of freedom...

expressing sexuality became a form of emancipation." Many prominent figures from this period were LGBT - many of them openly.

Billy Strayhorn was one such figure - an incredibly influential musician who wrote standards such as "Take the A Train" and "Lush Life." He was hired by Duke Ellington at age 23, and became Ellington's arranger, composer, and collaborator until his early death from cancer in 1967.

Strayhorn was openly gay, a committed friend of MLK, and an activist in many civil rights and social justice causes. In Ellington's autobiography, he cites Strayhorn's four major moral freedoms he held as an activist: "freedom from hate, unconditionally; freedom from self-pity (even through all the pain and bad news); freedom from fear of possibly doing something that might possibly help another more than it might himself and freedom from the kind of pride that might make a man think that he was better than his brother or his neighbor."

Alicia Keys wrote *We Gotta Pray* as a reaction to injustice - specifically the grand jury's decision not to indict the police officer responsible for the death of Eric Garner. For Keys, "the most important thing is that we look at each other and see these magnificent beings that can create the changes and movements we dream of."

*Lift Every Voice and Sing* was written by author and civil rights activist James Weldon Johnson and set to music by his brother, John Rosamund Johnson, both important figures in the Harlem Renaissance. The text was commissioned to celebrate the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, but Johnson wanted to add 'something else' to the meaning. That 'something else' has made it timeless and relevant to this day, one hundred and twenty years later. Johnson recognized the profundity as he penned the text. The song has been used for graduations, church services, civic events, and historical celebrations, such as Nelson Mandela's release from prison. Johnson recognized the profundity as he penned the text. For him, writing the lyrics was an emotional experience. "I could not keep back the tears, and made no effort to do so."

Continued on back

Continued from front

It was adopted as the official song of the NAACP in 1919, and dubbed the “Black National Anthem.” During the 1960s, it fell out of favor among a small contingent of civil rights leaders who felt that the idea of a black national anthem conflicted with their goals of unity and equality and that all Americans should unite under one anthem. The Star-Spangled Banner, which theoretically is the anthem that links all Americans together, falls short of that goal, where *Lift Every Voice and Sing* speaks for ALL Americans. According to Dr. Shana Redmond, a scholar on race and music history, “The Star-Spangled Banner is missing something — radical history of inclusion, an investment in radical visions of the future of equality, of parity. *Lift Every Voice and Sing* has become a counterpoint to those types of absences and elisions.”

As Redmond puts it, “‘Lift Every Voice and Sing’ is a song about transcending difficulties — and those difficulties have never fully receded. “Black communities across the globe continue to be vulnerable in very unique and unsettling ways. To sing this song is to revive that past — but also to recognize, as the lyrics of the song reveal, that there is a hopeful future that might come of it.” While the song speaks to the unique struggles of the black community, the continued relevance and staying power of *Lift Every Voice and Sing* is a testament to its unique and profound portrayal of the struggle for justice in America – past, present, and future – one that speaks to the true fabric of American identity.

## 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 9:00 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](mailto:debbiev@countrysideucc.org) or 402-391-0350 or 402.578.2900 (you may text her at this number as well).*

### JOYS:

**Jon and Ashley Bender** have a new addition to their family. Theodore (Theo) Jacob was born on May 31. He joins his big sister, Maggie.

**Don Sarton is celebrating 50 years of Ordination into the ministry of the Christian Faith.** His colleagues and mentors gathered at his home congregation, First Christian Church, in La Junta, Colorado for his ordination on June 18, 1972. Don has been honored to serve congregations in many states, including the youth at Father Flanagan's Boys Town and prior to retirement, the Christian Church Foundation. Congratulations to Don and his wife, **Bev**, whom he says has stood by him and cried, laughed and prayed with him all these years.

### CONCERNS:

Please pray for **Leslie Summers-Day's** family as they progress through cancer diagnosis and treatments for her mom, Suzanne, and her brother, Dave. May there be peace and comfort.

**Sharon and Rick Royers** nephew, Michael Clouthier, continues to make progress from his brain surgery on April 7. He has begun working from home and will begin radiation therapy, most likely, in July. Continued prayers for strength, healing and for progress on his road to recovery.

**Larry (Mary Jo) Weiss:** Larry has not passed the evaluation for a double lung transplant yet, but he's still being considered. He had an ambiguous scan that they want to re-run in 3 months, and he has a to-do list that includes losing some more weight and continuing the exercises they taught him in respiratory therapy to maintain his muscle mass while he loses weight. He has already lost over 30 pounds. Please continue to pray for his acceptance of the double lung transplant.

**Mike Brown** has finished his testing and according to Jan, he is the GOAT (Greatest of All Time!). The Browns thank Countryside for all the prayers, kindness and love. Mike has a break until June 23 when everything starts for the bone marrow transplant. Please continue to pray to keep Mike healthy for his upcoming transplant.

**Martha Hoig** requests prayers for her grandson, Braden, who is awaiting treatment for his lymphoma at MD Anderson. It was scheduled to start Tuesday but they found he tested positive for Covid although he has no symptoms. Please pray that he quickly recovers from Covid and prayers to give him the strength and resilience for the days ahead and that his treatments for lymphoma are beyond successful.

### MEMORIALS:

**Sara Sellgren** passed away on June 5. Her memorial was held June 16, in Omaha at Forest Lawn Funeral Home. This month let's celebrate Pride with our LGBTQ+ family and keep them in our prayers.

*Creator God, we marvel in awe of the expansiveness of your creation. Your margins of diversity are boundless, and for that, we thank you. Each of our beloved LGBTQIA+, brown, and black siblings is beautifully and wonderfully made, all in Your image. Teach us to love people, just as they are, and embrace their identity fully, as you have embraced us.*

Amen.

## Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by Deb McCollister.

“Happy Birthday Lou Way in the month that would have been your seventy-fifth wedding anniversary.”