



May 29, 2022

My Most Personal Story to Date: Take 1  
Dave Wingert

## Order of Worship

### Gathering

Meeting God in Music:  
*Toccata* - Joseph Jongen

Words of Welcome  
Dan Loven-Crum

Examen

Call to Worship  
Tim Kerrigan

Musical Reflection:  
*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

### Hearing God's Word

Scripture:  
Psalms 55:1-8  
Diane Hill

Reflection:  
Dave Wingert

Musical Meditation:  
*"For Good"*, from *Wicked* -  
Stephen Schwartz

Reflection:  
Dave Wingert

Musical Meditation:  
*Someday We'll All Be Free* -  
Donny Hathaway / Edward Howard

### Responding to God's Word

Communion / Lord's Prayer  
Rev. Don Sarton

Prayers of the People  
Rebecca Morello

Hymn:  
*A Hymn of Self-Acceptance*  
Sunday School Teacher Appreciation  
Countryside Blessing  
Shelley Boyd  
Postlude

OUR WORSHIP HAS CONCLUDED.  
NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

## 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:

Tragedy has inspired countless musical compositions through the ages, and religious music is no different. *Precious Lord* was written following the death of Thomas Dorsey's wife Nettie during childbirth and their infant son shortly thereafter. It was Martin Luther King Jr.'s favorite song, and his last words before his assassination were a request to play it at a service he was going to attend that night. Dorsey (1899-1993) is known as the "Father of Black Gospel Music," and pioneered the combination of African American church hymns with blues and jazz, and was one of the first to use the term "gospel music."

*Someday We'll All Be Free* is often thought of as a civil rights anthem, but was actually written about the pain that Donny Hathaway was experiencing as a paranoid schizophrenic. For the lyricist Edward Howard, "what was going through my mind at the time was Donny... I hoped that at some point he would be released from all that he was going through. There was nothing I could do but write something that might be encouraging for him." Author and social critic Kalamu ya Salaam explains that Hathaway loved performing the song - it was an anthem for him in tune with the aspirational mood of the 70s in the black community, and that while Hathaway ultimately committed suicide, "at that moment, he believed. We believed. All of us believed in the future. And ultimately, the enduring strength of this song is that it appeals to the perennial emotion purported to spring eternal from each human breast."

We are pleased to be joined by Dr. Charles Boyd Tompkins this morning. He is the University Organist and Professor of Music at Furman University in South Carolina, and an active recitalist nationally and internationally. He has been practicing on our instrument while visiting family in Omaha, and offered to play a couple pieces for our service today.

Camille Metoyer Moten - Justin Payne - Dave Wingert, vocalists  
Dr. Charles Boyd Tompkins, guest organist - Alex Ritter, keyboards  
Carlos Figueroa, percussion - Steve Gomez, bass

# 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:

**Ardy Stultz** finished her final radiation treatment for breast cancer on May 25. Thank you Countryside, for your continued prayers through her treatment.

## CONCERNS:

**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.

**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.

**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 for the double lung transplant.

**Mike (Jan) Brown:** Mike's overall health via the blood counts is excellent except for multiple myeloma. This current "induction" phase of chemo and other meds lasts through June 3. The stem cell transplant will begin July 13 and take 10-14 days. Mike and Jan appreciate your continued prayers for Mike's health and ask for continued prayers for the treatments to work to put Mike into remission.

## MEMORIALS:

**Ann Burdette** passed away on Sunday, May 15. Her funeral will be held at Countryside on Thursday, June 9 at 1:00 p.m.

## UCC Prayer After Deaths in Texas School Shooting

This week we pray for the people who lost their loved ones at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.

In utter and irrepressible grief we offer these words, giving collective voice to the anguish we all feel.

God, hear our prayer:

For the nineteen children now dead; For the two teachers now dead;

For the parents, family, and friends who will spend the rest of their lives aching every night from the weight of this;

For a schoolhouse rendered trauma-laden and grief-stricken in a matter of minutes,  
whose students will suffer PTSD in the wake of this tragedy;

For the caregivers in Uvalde now burdened with the task of managing the shared and collective grief  
of a traumatized community who love their children;

For those who feel the new burden of useless guilt in the aftermath of this, wondering what else they could have done to prevent this;

For the nation, so in love with our weapons that we continue to tolerate these mass shootings and the grief they inflict  
without ever building the collective will needed to address it fully;

For the world, suffering a massive and collective grief of its own and witnessing acts of cruelty daily too numerous to fully process.  
Heal our gaping wounds. Restore our sense of compassion.

Quiet the restlessness within us. Settle the building righteous anger. Quicken the desire for peace.

Remove the chasm that sees race and religion and political persuasion as the marks of a person's worth and value.

End the cycle of violence that begets more violence.

Silence the voices that broker in fear and division and create the hatred we see mounting everywhere between us.

Quiet the troubled soul thinking of grabbing the next gun and ending innocent lives.

Empower us all to act now, refusing to wait for the next horror show before we change the laws  
that make guns and their discharge so accessible.

Turn anguish to action; our rage to restoration; our hatred to love; our grief to hope.

Let it never happen again. Ever. How much more can we bear, O Lord? How much more can we endure.

Be our rock of refuge. Be our light of inspiration.

Be our beacon of hope. Be the arms of love that hold us until the pain recedes.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

Amen.

- The National Officers of the United Church of Christ:

Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer, Rev. Traci Blackmon, Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson