

**Order of Worship**

**Gathering**

Prelude:

*Simple Gifts* - arr. Virgil Fox

Words of Welcome/ Announcements

Dan Loven-Crum

Examen

Carlos Figueroa

Call to Worship

Mary Johnston

Musical Reflection:

*Over the Rainbow* - E. Y. Harberg / Harold Arlen

**Hearing God's Word**

Children's Moment

Rebecca Morello

Scripture:

Galatians 5:14, Luke 10:27, Matthew 22: 37-39

Mary Johnston

Reflection:

Diane Scott

Musical Meditation:

*I Am Her* - Shea Diamond

**Responding to God's Word**

Communion\* / Lord's Prayer

Rev. Judy Waible

Musical Reflection:

*Lotus Blossom* - Billy Strayhorn

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Judy Waible

Hymn:

*Help Us Accept Each Other*

Countryside Blessing

Daron Kruse

Postlude:

*Born This Way* -

Germanotta / Laursen / Blair / Garibay

OUR WORSHIP HAS CONCLUDED.

NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

Julia Olynyk, vocalist - Matt Wallace, sax  
Rick Avard, piano - Alex Ritter, organ  
Carlos Figueroa, drums - Steve Gomez, bass

\* Communion liturgy credit: *Different and One*  
@ enfleshed.com adapted by Rev. Judy Waible

**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:**

It would be remiss on Pride Sunday not to discuss the significant contributions that queer church musicians, have made on sacred music for centuries. A considerable number of organists are LGBT, and many serve in churches that are homophobic or where they can't live into who they are - an unfortunate reality that still exists to this day, though progress has been made. Virgil Fox (1912-1980) was organist for two decades at Riverside Church in NYC where his partner was the choir director, before becoming a concert organist. In addition to his virtuosity, his flamboyant style, glittering shoes, and colorful jackets drew large audiences. He was one of the most famous gay musicians in the world at the height of his career, alongside Liberace and Bernstein. Cameron Carpenter today carries on this legacy of performing camp and queerness through organ music on stage.

Billy Strayhorn was an incredibly influential jazz musician, composing standard for Duke Ellington's band such as "Take the A Train" and "Lush Life," which we heard last month. Strayhorn was openly gay during the Harlem Renaissance where queer culture flourished. *Lotus Blossom* was inspired by his grandmother's garden - he would visit during difficult times in his childhood, or when avoiding his alcoholic father. The song invokes introspective sophistication alongside youthful hopefulness - reflecting the garden as a safe space, perhaps a space in which to exist as his authentic self.

At a young age, Shea Diamond knew she was different. "As early as I can remember, I always identified as being a girl. It was hard work to pretend to be a gender that you're not. I should have gotten an Oscar, really. I had so much pressure on me as a child to be masculine. Even when I was the choir director for our church, my mother would still whisper in my ear that I was singing too high. Growing up trans takes a lot of guts." She ran away from home at 14, knowing she wouldn't be accepted. After three years in foster care, she became homeless. Struggling to survive and fund her transition, she robbed a store and was sentenced to ten years in a men's prison - an inhumane practice that puts trans women in significant danger. She did meet other trans women in prison and built a community through which she was able to better live into her identity - as she puts it "I was locked up, but my mind was free!" While in prison, she wrote *I Am Her* as a statement to the world - an anthem on behalf of anyone who has felt shunned for being who they are.

## 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:

**Thank you to all the volunteers walking in the parade and working at our Countryside booth for PRIDE. We could not do it without you!**

### CONCERNS:

**Mary Sutton's** niece, Liz, is having a stem cell transplant on July 18. Please lift her in prayer for a successful transplant and a positive outcome for her. Prayers for her family as well, to give them the strength to support her through this journey.

**Beth Stenger**, daughter of Marion Norman, is having surgery this week and prayers are needed for a good outcome and good health.

**Phyllis Miller** is in the hospital and receiving hospice. Please pray for her peace and comfort as she transitions and for her family as they walk this journey with her. Please lift them in your prayers and love this week.

**Mike Brown** is starting more chemo and receiving his stem cells this week. He is facing some of the most intense effects of the chemo and transplant process in the coming week. Please pray for his comfort, that he stays healthy during this process and at the end, he is in remission.

**Molly Anderson** is asking for prayers for her brother-in-law, Tim, and his wife, Jody Anderson; they just lost her nephew, Jason Anderson, 43, from a sudden heart attack. Please lift this family in prayers of love and comfort as they grieve the sudden loss of Jason.

Please pray for **Leslie Summers-Day's family** as they progress through cancer diagnosis and treatments for her mom, Suzanne, and her brother, Dave. Please pray for their peace and comfort throughout this difficult time.

**Sharon and Rick Royers's** nephew, Michael Clouthier, continues to make progress from his brain surgery on April 7. His first round of radiation did not go well. He had a seizure two hours after his first treatment. Prayers for guidance as his team of doctors regroup and plan a new course of action for him. Pray he tolerates his next treatments and that his tumor continues to shrink. Thank you for the continued prayers for Michael.

**Shelly (Dave) Boyd's** mother, Ellen Shaw, passed away on July 8. She is also the grandmother of Emma Boyd. Her service was held Wednesday, July 13, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Please pray for the Boyd family for the strength and comfort they need as they grieve the loss of their dear mother and grandmother, Ellen.

**Prayers for everyone dealing with Covid. We pray for everyone's comfort and for all those who have Covid to recover completely.**

### MEMORIALS:

**Janelle Nash** passed away the morning of July 4. Her dear friend and attorney, Bob Lannin, wants Countryside to know it was Janelle's personal Independence Day and that God has welcomed home this amazing firecracker. There will be no service per Bob and her sons.

**Marcia (Tim) Kerrigan's** mother, Brenda Kapustin, passed away in Philadelphia on June 28 and was buried on June 30. Please lift the Kerrigan family, extended family and the many friends Brenda has touched in her 82 years in prayers for love and comfort. Also, pray for Marcia's father who is in memory care (and can't track any of this). Please pray for his peace and strength for the family as they deal with his unique situation.

**Bill Besack** passed away on July 6. Please pray for Nancy and their sons, pray that they feel God's love and comfort while they grieve the loss of Bill. A service will be held July 19 at 11 a.m. at Countryside.

Our prayer today asks for God's help to remind us to be kind and to grow in God's love.

***God of Many Names, help me to demonstrate kindness everywhere I go. Remind me to share smiles, share friendship, and spread kindness today and always. Amen***

The Nursery and Coffee House are available if your small human needs to burn off some energy during the Worship. For other small humans, there are Worship bags and books available. If you have a book suggestion, just let us know!

### Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by Kim and Ed Schwartz.