

July 24, 2022  
**We are all Ministers**

### 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:**

Though Marty Haugen's *Gather Us In* is one of the most famous hymns in the Catholic Church in America, his actual affiliation is UCC. Haugen's poetry describes a community of hope, a community of honesty, a community of inclusiveness, and a community of caring. It invites us to recognize that the Kingdom of God is at hand here and now, not off in some distant future, and not "in some heaven, light years away." The work of the kingdom takes place now in the midst of the gathered, inclusive community.

It's not often that a hymn written over 100 years ago is more relevant to our world today than it was at its conception. *This is My Creator's World* was inspired by hymnist Maltbie Babcock's morning walks which he described as "going to see my Father's world." A lot of hymnody, especially American hymnody, contains themes of escapism - the notion that we should look forward to leaving this mess on earth to go home to heaven - which encourages "passive acceptance of the unacceptable present."

This hymn strikes a substantially different tone, emphasizing that the earth is our home and will always be and that we will not leave earth for heaven, but heaven and earth will be one. This creation theology - God's unwillingness to give up on creation - is particularly relevant to our time. The text also mentions "the music of the spheres," an ancient Greek philosophy that movements of the planets and the stars are a perfect form of music, inaudible to human ears (scientists did eventually confirm that there was some truth to this - for example, a distinct sound associated with the Big Bang). This dovetails with another theory of the physics of sound (one on display in the organ facade) - that every soundwave reverberates forever - another conception of creation's harmony.

*Desafinado* translates to "out of tune" or "off key." The music was written by Antônio Carlos Jobim in response to music critics who claimed that bossa nova was "a whole new genre for singers who couldn't sing." The lyrics, written later, draw a parallel between a perceived lack of harmony in music and discord in human relationships, but the genesis of the song itself serves as a reminder that the realities of human nature and perfectionist attitudes shouldn't deter us from living into our authentic selves - something particularly relevant to recognizing each of our unique contributions in ministering to one another.

### Order of Worship

#### **Gathering**

Prelude

Words of Welcome / Announcements

Dan Loven-Crum

Hymn #284:

*Gather Us In*

Examen

Steve Gomez

Call to Worship

Holly Kelley

Musical Reflection:

*This is My Creator's World*

#### **Hearing God's Word**

Scripture:

I Peter 2:4-5,9-10

Holly Kelley

Reflection

Musical Meditation:

*What a Wonderful World* - arr. John Miller

#### **Responding to God's Word**

Communion / Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Norman Pavey

Musical Reflection:

*Desafinado* - Antônio Carlos Jobim

Pastoral Prayer

Rebecca Morello

Hymn #295:

*In This Very Room*

First, the choir will sing, followed by a sax solo, then the congregation is invited to join.

Countryside Blessing

David Hubbard

Postlude

OUR WORSHIP HAS CONCLUDED.  
NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

Summer Choir - Bruce Blanchard, director

Matt Wallace, Tenor Sax

Alex Ritter, Keyboards - Steve Gomez, Bass

Carlos Figueroa, Percussion

## 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 who walked in the parade and worked at our Countryside booth for PRIDE. We could not do it without you!**

### CONCERNS:

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

**Marion Norman's** daughter, Beth Stenger had surgery last week. Prayers are needed for a successful recovery.

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

**Molly Anderson** asks for prayers for her brother-in-law, Tim and his wife, Jody Anderson, who just lost her nephew, Jason Anderson, 43, from a 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 for his team of doctors as they 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.

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

### MEMORIALS:

**Phyllis Miller** passed away on July 20. A visitation will be held Wednesday, July 27, 5-7 p.m., and her funeral on July 28 at 11 a.m. Please pray for the peace and comfort of her family as they walk this journey. Please lift them in your prayers and love.

**Shelly (Dave) Boyd's** mother, Ellen Shaw, passed away on July 8. She is also grandmother to **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.

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!