

Order of Worship

Gathering

Prelude:

Benedictus - Alec Rowley

I bring refreshment...

I bring ease and calm.

Christina Rossetti

Words of Welcome

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Announcements

Emma Boyd / Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Examen

Emma Boyd

Call to Worship

Kathleen Samland

Hearing God's Word

Children's Moment

Rebecca Morello

Musical Reflection:

The Heart of Life - John Mayer

Scripture:

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Kathleen Samland

Reflection

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Musical Reflection:

Bridge over Troubled Water - Paul Simon

Responding to God's Word

Communion

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Musical Reflection:

Peace - Horace Silver

Pastoral Prayer / Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Musical Reflection:

Kind and Generous - Natalie Merchant

Countryside Blessing

Geoff Kregg

Postlude

OUR WORSHIP HAS CONCLUDED.

NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

Julia Olynyk, vocals - Rick Avard, piano

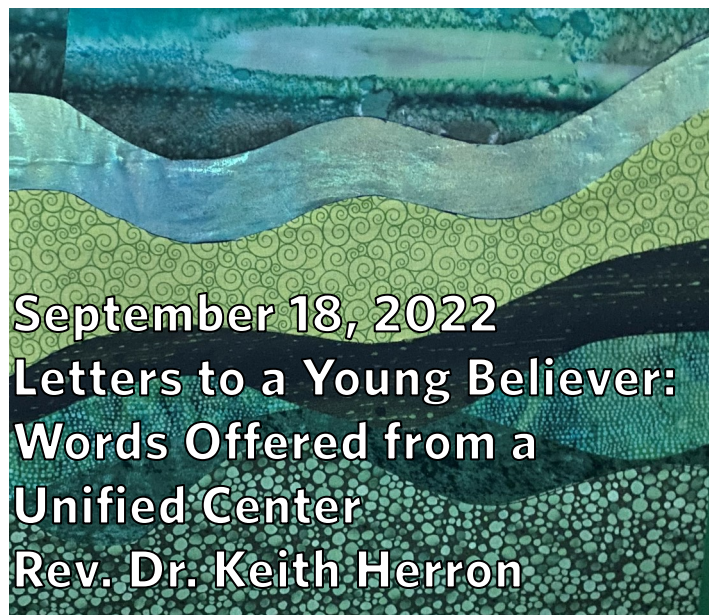
Alex Ritter, organ - Carlos Figueroa, drums

Steve Gomez, bass

Countryside Community Church

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

countrysideucc.org



September 18, 2022
**Letters to a Young Believer:
Words Offered from a
Unified Center
Rev. Dr. Keith Herron**

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:

Our music this morning contemplates leadership, mentorship, and the question of who has shaped our faith, with both gratitude for their example and a call to action to follow in their lead as we have opportunities to do so. Natalie Merchant's *Kind and Generous* has exactly this message. Her 1998 hit is, as one music critic puts it, "an uncluttered song of joy." For Merchant, the message is as much about being kind and generous to others as it is about being grateful for those who have been kind and generous to us.

"Pain throws your heart to the ground. Love turns the whole thing around. No, it won't all go the way it should, but I know the heart of life is good."

This sentiment expressed in the chorus of John Mayer's *The Heart of Life* is one that is instructive. The moments and people in our lives that shape our faith can show up in difficult times - in support and guidance during hopelessness, in pastoral care, and in processing grief.

As Paul Simon wrote *Bridge Over Troubled Water*, his original conception of it as a simple gospel-inspired hymn with two verses grew into something more dramatic - a challenge to the listener to provide comfort to those in need. As he puts it "I have no idea where it came from. It was one of the most shocking moments in my songwriting career. I remember thinking, 'this is considerably better than what I usually write.'"

It is worth noting that Simon was listening to a lot of music from the gospel group The Swan Silvertones at the time. Their song "Oh Mary, Don't You Weep" contained the line "bridge over deep water," which influenced Simon's writing. The phrase "troubled water" in this case can be interpreted as a difficult situation, but in most gospel music, troubled water refers to God stirring up the water at the pool at Bethesda, giving it healing power, hence the line "God's gonna trouble the water" from *Wade in the Water*.

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 or 402-391-0350 or 402.578.2900 (you may text her at this number as well).

JOYS:

Ann Naylor has been a champion for the environment over the years and a faithful member of Faith and the Environment (FATE). Thank you, Ann, for your dedication and for always bringing such great programs to Countryside, including the last one, a book discussion on Doug Tallamy's Nature's Best Hope.

CONCERNS:

Leslie Summers-Day would like to thank everyone for all the expressions of sympathy at the passing of her mom, Suzanne. She asks for continued prayers for her brother, who is battling cancer.

Please pray for **Mark Draper**. He is now home and recovering...hooray! Please pray for his continued recovery.

Please pray for **Mike (Jan) Brown** as his blood counts are being assessed to allow him to be dismissed from the transplant team. Please pray for a successful outcome from the stem cell transplant for Mike and that he stays healthy through the next phase of treatment.

Please lift **Sally Classen** in prayers of love and healing. Please pray for her medical team as well to guide them to help Sally recover to full health.

Johnna Roberts asks for prayers for her husband, Greg, and for his health. He's very weak, falls often and has been diagnosed with early dementia. Please pray for comfort and strength for Greg and for Johnna as they work through this new diagnosis together.

God of Many Names,

Give our government leaders wisdom on how to best represent everyone. We also ask that You give our leaders courage so that even when it's hard, they would continue to boldly represent their constituents' needs and those of the most vulnerable.

Give our spiritual leaders Your discernment on how to meet people's needs as they continue to glorify Your name and encourage the Church.

Give our civic leaders inspiration, courage, joy, and strength to meet the needs of their communities.

And help us, as leaders in our communities, to display courage, hope, generosity, and kindness.

Would the way we honor others inspire those around us.

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 Mary and Ray Meints in honor of their thirty-ninth wedding anniversary.