

Order of Worship

Gathering

Prelude

Words of Welcome / † Mission Statement

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Announcements

Dan Loven-Crum

Examen

Dan Loven-Crum

Call to Worship

Diane Hill

Hearing God's Word

Children's Church

Rebecca Morello

Musical Reflection:

Softly and Tenderly

Scripture:

Matthew 16:21-28

Diane Hill

Reflection

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

† Hymn #419:

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

Responding to God's Word

Communion

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Musical Reflection:

Let Us Break Bread Together

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Sarah Rentzel Jones

The Basket

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

† Hymn:

Now Let Us From This Table Rise

Countryside Blessing

Mark Ware

Postlude:

High Wire - The Aerialist - Chick Corea

OUR WORSHIP HAS CONCLUDED.

NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

† Indicates those places where those who are able are invited to stand.



September 3, 2023
The Community of the
Called and the Crucified
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.

Tyler Gruttemeyer, vocals - Matt Wallace, sax

Rick Avard, piano - Alex Ritter, organ

Carlos Figueroa, drums - Steve Gomez, bass

Music notes:

Softly and Tenderly is an "altar call" hymn that was frequently used in the revivalist tradition and remains exceedingly popular today, often used at funerals. It's debatable whether the author of this hymn meant it as an exhortation to "profess faith in Christ.... OR ELSE!" Though he may have held that point of view, the words don't convey that. Indeed, if we look beyond the history of its use and instead consider it through the context of today's sermon and scripture, it takes on an entirely different character.

Rev. Carlton R. Young, notes that this hymn is a lullaby - with music and words "that characterize Jesus as a mother, gently rocking and comforting a child. This attribute contributes to the continuing popularity of this genre of religious song that presents Jesus as waiting, caring, and forgiving in intimate—and for many, compelling—metaphors."

Based on its scriptural references, mainly the story of the Prodigal Son, the message is clear - the text invites us to celebrate God's limitless love and abounding forgiveness and mercy and asks us not to "harden our hearts" to God's vision for love and peace.

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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 who would benefit from prayer, want to share a joy or be included on the bulletin list and /or on Countryside's Prayer Chain, contact Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones at 402-391-0350, ext. 225 or sarahrj@countrysideucc.org

JOYS:

Please lift these joys with prayers of celebration and praise!

BOLM (Board of Life Ministries) is so thankful for all of the participants and those who attended the **Second Annual Ice Cream Festival and Small Group Fair**. Folks were able to enjoy an ice cream bar, hot dogs and chips, Common Grounds Coffee House, a food truck, face painting, outdoor games and a balloon man. The music was joyfully provided by **Roger Waible and The Beehive Band**. In addition, 20+ groups were able to show what they work on at Countryside and answer questions about their particular ministry. There were many opportunities to sign up to get involved and Countryside members clearly took advantage of that! Again, thank you to everyone who participated in this event.

CONCERNS:

Please join in praying for the following new and ongoing concerns:

Autumn (Matt) Cox had stomach and diaphragm surgery on Monday, Aug. 28, the fourth attempt to make repairs in three years. Autumn had a difficult recovery immediately after surgery but returned home on Wednesday evening. Please continue to pray for a full healing. Autumn, Matt, and Violet appreciate everyone's prayers and support.

Mary (Ray) Meints's brother, Rod, had open heart surgery this past Wednesday to address a congenital heart disorder. By mid-morning on Wednesday, he was out of surgery and in the recovery room. Instead of having to spend 3-4 nights in the ICU, he was there for only a few hours and then moved to a regular hospital room. Please pray for a full recovery for him!

Don and Diane Scott ask for prayers for the Rivera family whose daughter Mena, age 5, passed on Wednesday. Mena was born with disabilities that eventually took her life but, still, it was shocking and unexpected. The Scott's grandson, Jack, was Mena's closest friend and they are asking you to think of him right now, too, as he processes this impossible information.

We continue to pray weekly for the Pastoral Search Committee, as they continue in their discernment towards calling Countryside's next Settled Pastor. We appreciate all the time and effort the PSC is putting into this process, and we continue to hold them in prayer.

(continued from the front)

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Kaan's worldview was shaped by his childhood in the Netherlands during the Nazi occupation, where his family was part of the resistance, and sheltered a Jewish woman and a political prisoner. He became a minister, focused on pacifism and justice. According to hymnologist Coleen Toole, Kaan "started paying closer attention to hymns after an incident in his first church where one of his parishioners said that he was leaving the church because the hymns did not 'send him any longer.'

Often frustrated as he looked through the hymnal without finding the right words to support the message of the day, he took advantage of the freedom this particular congregation had given him to experiment in worship and began to write his own hymns."