

# October 8, 2023

## *The Bits and Pieces of a Life*

### Reverend Dr. Keith Herron

Countryside Community Church  
13130 Faith Plaza | Omaha, NE 68144 | 402-391-0350  
[countrysideucc.org](http://countrysideucc.org)

Access Sunday is an annual celebration of the gifts persons with disabilities bring to the church community, and the joys of being in an accessible community. It is also a time to remember and repent of the harm done to disabled people in religious spaces, and to call upon the whole church to recommit itself to access as a justice issue. In the UCC calendar, the second Sunday in October is designated as Access Sunday, but any day of the year is a good time to consider disability and accessibility. Approximately 1 in 4 people in the United States live with some form of disability, and almost everyone else will develop one at some point in their life. As such, disability and accessibility are vitally important topics for us all, and for the church.



Because of **YOU** our church changes lives.

# Order of Worship 10:00 a.m.

## Gathering

Prelude: *Prelude on a Welsh Tune "Rhosmydre"* - Ralph Vaughan Williams

Words of Welcome / † Mission Statement

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Announcements

Dan Loven-Crum

Examen

Dan Loven-Crum

Call to Worship

## Hearing God's Word

Children's Moment

Rebecca Morello

† Hymn #606: *God, Whose Giving Knows no Ending*

Scripture:

Philippians 3:4b-14

Reflection:

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Musical Meditation: *Love Bade Me Welcome* - Ralph Vaughan Williams

## Responding to God's Word

Communion

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Choral Reflection: *Look at the World* - John Rutter

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

The Basket

† Hymn: *Doxology with Alleluias*

Countryside Blessing

Nancy Deetz

Postlude: *All Creatures of Our God and King* - Brenda Portman

OUR WORSHIP HAS CONCLUDED.

NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

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

## Music notes:

Jesse, a member of our Day One ensemble from 2018-2020, appears this morning courtesy of Resonance. They perform Beethoven's Mass with the Omaha Conservatory of Music at Countryside on Friday, October 13th at 7:30 p.m. Jesse will be the Bass soloist. Tickets are available on Resonance's website with a discount code "CCC25" for Countryside members.

"Love Bade Me Welcome" is based on a poem by the 17th-century English metaphysical poet George Herbert. The poem itself is a profound exploration of divine love, human unworthiness, and the invitation to partake in a

## Music Notes continued:

spiritual banquet. Towards the end of the song, the tune "O Sacrum Convivium," a Gregorian chant honoring the blessed sacrament, is prominent. The implied text of the prayer reinforces the mystical meaning of Herbert's poetry: "O Sacred Banquet, in which Christ is received, the memory of His Passion is renewed, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory given to us."

According to Musicologist Hubert Foss: "Love bade me Welcome," . . . is a talkative piece, in style expository . . . We can find the mystical humility and faith of the poet. Our troubles are solved in the major tonality of "O Sacrum Convivium," and though the words "go slack," when this other love "took my hand," we bridge the years in hopefulness.

Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back, guilty of dust and sin.

But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack

From my first entrance in, drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning, If I lacked anything.

A guest, I answered, worthy to be here: Love said, You shall be he. I the unkind, ungrateful?

Ah my dear, I cannot look on thee. Love took my hand, and smiling did reply, who made the eyes but I?

Truth Lord, but I have marred them: let my shame go where it doth deserve. And know you not, says Love, Who bore the blame? My dear, then I will serve. You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat: So I did sit and eat.

### *Look at the World* - John Rutter

Look at the world, everything all around us

Look at the world and marvel every day

Look at the world, so many joys and wonders

So many miracles along our way

Praise to thee O Lord for all creation

Give us thankful hearts that we may see

All the gifts we share and every blessing

All things come of thee

Look at the earth, bringing forth fruit and flowers

Look at the sky, the sunshine and the rain

Look at the hills, look at the trees and mountains

Valley and flowing river, field and plain

Think of the spring, think of the warmth of summer

Bringing the harvest, before the winter's cold

Everything grows, everything has a season

'Til it is gathered to the Maker's fold

Every good gift, all that we need and cherish

Comes from the Lord, in token of God's love

We are God's hands, stewards of all creation,

Of the earth and of the heavens above

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C4 Choir - Adam Witte, director

Jesse Wohlman, baritone

Alex Ritter, organ and piano

# 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](mailto:sarahrj@countrysideucc.org)

## JOYS:

*Please lift these joys with prayers of celebration and praise!*

Congratulations to **Rachel Cohen**, a Child and Family Services Specialist, for receiving the MVP Award for "Outstanding Work and Making a Difference" from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services! Rachel is dedicated to serving children, youth, and families.

**Autumn, Matt, and Violet Cox** are overwhelmed with gratitude for each and every family that helped with meals, cards, and prayers during Autumn's recovery from surgery. The friendship and love of our amazing community have been such a blessing during such a challenging time. A few more weeks and she will be back to her old self again. Thank you!!!

We are so thrilled that last week, Countryside called the **Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas** to be our next Senior Minister! We pray for her and her family as they prepare to make their move to Omaha, and we pray with gratitude as we spend our final months with Rev. Keith Herron as our Interim Minister.

## CONCERNS:

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

**Kathy deBoer's** brother-in-law., Marty has been in the hospital for an infection that resulted from a splinter in his foot. The infection caused tissue damage that resulted in the amputation of his foot and leg to mid-calf. Prayers for him and his family as they navigate the difficult recovery process.

**Margie (Glenn) Phillips** asks for prayers for her brother, Dan McKee. He was airlifted Sunday from their hometown to a bigger hospital in Great Falls, Montana, where he was found to have fluid in his lung as well as a mass, which was removed in a surgical procedure on Thursday. More testing is being done to determine the next steps. Please pray for Dan as well as for Margie.

**Bruce (France) Blanchard** is having knee surgery on Tuesday, October 10. Prayers for a smooth and speedy recovery!

## Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by Trish Hoffman-Ahrens.



## Deciding What to Give

While there are many ways to support the congregation, our annual campaign provides a chance to think in a particular and prayerful way about the choices we make with our money in support of the church.

Without your gifts, we would not be able to engage in the programs, projects, ministry, and worship experiences that define our community life.

Deciding how much of our income to donate to charitable organizations can be difficult. We encourage our community to think of giving as a percentage of annual income.

The average gift to charitable causes in our country is 2% of annual income (per household). It is hard to imagine what our world would look like without these generous gifts that do so much good. Fortunately, we are not being asked to consider what the world would be without these gifts! Instead, we are being asked to imagine what just 1% or more might make happen! How many more lives can be changed because you and

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I have decided to grow in our own giving? Imagine more people being able to say, **“Because of you, our church changes lives.”**

We are each on a journey toward abundant generosity. What next step can you take in your generosity journey?

Every gift to our congregation helps strengthen who we are and what we can do together. Because of you, our church changes lives.

**CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT  
OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.**

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.

