

WHO IS THIS JESUS?

JULY 2021 SERMON SERIES



July 18, 2021

Who Is This Jesus?

God's Love—Join the Dance

Sermon: Pastor Tracey Perry

Scripture: 1 John 4:7-12,

Luke 10:25-37

Liturgists:

Amy Blanchard 9:00 a.m.

Deb McCollister 11:00 a.m.

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.

Order of Worship

Gathering

Meeting God in Music: *Simple Gifts*

Words of Welcome

Announcements

Examen

God Invites Us - Call to Worship

Musical Reflection: *Lord of the Dance*

Hearing God's Word

Children's Moment

God's Word in Scripture: 1 John 4:7-12,

Luke 10:25-37

God's Word for Today

Responding to God's Word

Musical Meditation: *You'll Never Walk Alone*

Communion

Lord's Prayer

Musical Reflection: *If I Can Help Somebody*

Charge and Benediction

Music That Sends Us on God's Way: *Jump*—Aaron
David Miller

Music Notes:

Lord of the Dance was one of the more popular hymns of the late twentieth century due to its catchy tune and imagery, and was widely adopted by the Catholic church, in particular, during the 1970s. This hymn has become very controversial among more conservative clergy. According to the author, Sidney Carter, the song contains "a hint of paganism, which, mixed with Christianity, makes it attractive to those of ambiguous religious beliefs or none at all." Based on the life of Christ, and written largely from Christ's perspective, the imagery was inspired by a statue of the Hindu God Shiva's dancing pose that sat on his desk. Carter used the Shaker hymn tune *Simple Gifts* to round out the dance theme – Shakers were notable for vigorous dancing during their rituals.

Carter doesn't attempt to resolve these theological contradictions that have vexed many a Catholic bishop attempting to ban the popular hymn. Carter sees Christ "as the incarnation of the piper who is calling us. He dances that shape and pattern which is at the heart of our reality. By Christ I mean not only Jesus; in other times and places, there may be other Lords of the Dance. But Jesus is the one I know first and best. I sing of the dancing pattern in the life and words of Jesus."

You'll Never Walk Alone appeared in the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *Carousel*, sung to cheer up a pregnant wife whose husband had just died. A staple of many major recording artists' repertoire, it has grown into a cultural phenomenon far beyond the stage—sung at every Liverpool soccer match, a popular choice for funerals and weddings, and used at the 9/11 memorial ceremony and Barack Obama's inauguration.

Please remain seated until worship and postlude
have concluded. Ushers will release one row
at a time from the back.

OUR WORSHIP HAS CONCLUDED.
NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

Joys and Concerns

One way to nurture our church community is to pray for the members of our church family with both joys and concerns. If you would like to be included on the list in the bulletin or be on Countryside's Prayer Chain, contact Jan Brown at 402-391-0350, ext. 234 or janb@countrysideucc.org

JOYS: Thank you to **Mary and Jerry Gray** as they helped **Janet Calvin** and her family have a good weekend celebrating Janet's 70th birthday. She had really wanted everyone to worship together, and it happened! ***We're grateful for the gift of Janet's life and strong spirit, Lord.***

CONCERNS: **Grace Otis** had plastic surgery on Saturday and is home recovering. **Marie and Jim** need our prayers as they help their daughter Grace, and also as Marie's mother has begun memory care. ***So many urgent and important needs in this one family, Lord, and we lift each one to your healing presence.***

Pray for **Rod and Dee Bennett** as he tries to grow in strength at Brookestone Meadows, and as Dee continues to manage at their apartment. The Bennetts have a very loving family, and this family is doing good work while managing everything and also looking to future needs. ***Lord, we ask you to be near both Rod and Dee while they're apart and working so hard, and we ask you to bless their daughters with wisdom at this time.***

Jim Gilbert had some good news and some bad new this past week. Thankfully, his back won't be needing any surgical help or intervention; unfortunately, the vertebrae in his neck are needing considerable attention. Next steps are unknown for now, but the path will appear as his doctors process the information. ***We pray for Jim as he waits, Creator God, and we thank you for walking this path ahead of him.***

I'm sad to report that (deceased Countrysider) **Brownie Gass's daughter Deb Stang** passed away this past Saturday while under hospice care and also while surrounded by her loving family. Deb's husband Dan, their adult children, grandchildren, and Deb's two sisters (Lisa and Stacy) need our prayers of comfort and peace. A celebration of Deb's life will be held at Lauritzen Gardens at some point. ***Dear God, thank you for Deb's welcome home and relief from suffering from cancer. We lift Dan, their family and her sisters in our loving prayers.***

Mike and Jan Brown are on vacation this week to western Nebraska as they celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary a bit early. Please contact the office, and Pastor Tracey will help you with pastoral care needs and prayer needs. You can also email her at Traceyp@countrysideucc.org. ***Thank you, Lord, for the miracle of long marriages!***

Music Notes Cont.

If I Can Help Somebody was written in 1945 by a woman named Alma Androzzo. The lyrics carry a powerful message, encouraging us to care for one another as Jesus taught. It was a favorite hymn of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

If I can help somebody as I pass along,
If I can cheer somebody with a word or song,
If I can show somebody he is trav'ling wrong,
then my living shall not be in vain.

Pastor Tracey Perry
Minister of Worship and
Congregational Care

Pastor Anna Crews Camphouse
Minister of Engagement and For-
mation

Dan Loven-Crum
Director of Vision
and Stewardship

Julia Olynyk, vocalist - Matt Wallace, Tenor Sax -Rick Avard, Piano
Carlos Figueroa, Percussion - Alex Ritter, Piano and Organ