



February 27, 2022

Sacred Vision

Countryside Members

Brenda Stursma, Vocals (9:00)
 C4 conducted by Barron Breland (11:00)
 Alex Ritter, keyboards
 Matt Wallace, Tenor Sax

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: *Toccata on Lift Every Voice and Sing* - Mark Miller

Words of Welcome / Mission Statement
 Dave Wingert 9:00 a.m. - Katie D'Agostino 11:00 a.m.

Announcements

Dave Wingert 9:00 a.m. - Katie D'Agostino 11:00 a.m.

Examen

Mike Bonner 9:00 a.m. - Dan Kuyper 11:00 a.m.

Call to Worship

Mary Johnston 9:00 a.m. - Ann Huxtable-Scates 11:00 a.m.

Musical Reflection:

Draw us in the Spirit's Tether - Harold Friedell

Hearing God's Word

Children's Moment

Jeremy Wadhams

Scripture: Proverbs 29:18

Kathleen Samland 9:00 a.m. - Danielle Galvin 11:00 a.m.

Reflections:

Leah Georges - Doug Dushan

Musical Meditation:

Be Thou My Vision - Paul Basler

Responding to God's Word

Communion / Lord's Prayer

Don Sarton

Musical Reflection:

We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace -

Undine Smith-Moore

Hymn: "O God of Vision"

Charge and Benediction

Trish Hoffman-Ahrens 9:00 a.m. - David Hubbard 11:00 a.m.

Postlude: *Star Eyes* - Dexter Gordon

OUR WORSHIP HAS CONCLUDED.
 NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

Music Notes:

This week we will explore 'Lift Every Voice and Sing,' known as the "Black National Anthem," poem by James Weldon Johnson, set to music by James Rosamund Johnson. Though in the 1960s, it fell out of favor among some civil rights leaders who felt a black national anthem conflicted with unity and equality, and all Americans should unite under one anthem, it has seen a resurgence in popularity. Lift Every Voice and Sing is a testament to the struggle for justice in America – past, present, and future – one that speaks to the true fabric of American identity and speaks for all Americans.

Notably, the Star Spangled Banner was not popular in the South at the turn of the century for obvious reasons - in black schools and churches where many hadn't even heard the former, Lift Every Voice and Sing quickly became pervasive. According to Dr. Shana Redmond, a scholar on race and music history, "The Star Spangled Banner is missing something — radical history of inclusion, an investment in radical visions of the future of equality, of parity." For Redmond it "is a song about transcending difficulties — and those difficulties have never fully receded. "To sing this song is to revive that past — but also to recognize, as the lyrics of the song reveal, that there is a hopeful future that might come of it."

Mark Miller is a favorite composer at Countryside. Miller's impact on sacred music as a composer, academic, and liturgical musician has been profound and continues to grow, despite the significant barriers he faces as a gay African American. He believes that music can change the world in the spirit of Cornel West's quote "justice is what love looks like in public." We've heard his Toccata on Lift Every Voice and Sing in worship this year, but it's getting an encore, as I am making a recording and it is a great piece.

Undine Smith-Moore was known as the 'Dean of Black Women Composers' and wrote a variety of music that infused western classical music with the important legacy of black music in America. She once said that "Black music is a house of many mansions. Blacks have many musics and some of them relate in an extremely universal way to the human condition." Moore championed the teaching of African American music on school and university syllabuses and co-founded the Black Music Center to promote the wide range of black composition beyond the stereotypes that white institutions often boxed them into.

Dan Loven-Crum
 Director of Administration
 and Communication

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 Debbie Vihstadt at debbiev@countrysideucc.org or 402-391-0350.

JOYS:

Thank you to all the volunteers who are helping to create a Lenten season filled with spiritual experiences for our congregation.

CONCERNS:

Judi (David) Ried had a procedure to drain fluid from her right lung on Wednesday and there were complications, she is in the ICU. Please lift her in prayers of healing and for answers to what is causing her complications.

Martha Hoig has asked us to pray for a friend whose grandchild was a victim of assault. Please pray for the mental and physical recovery as well as strength and peace for the family and also for God to release the chains of hurt and anger for all those involved.

Gloria (Rich) Mannel is still dealing with a wound on her foot from surgery that is not healing properly. Please pray for her complete recovery and that she will be up and around soon.

Norm Pavey's sister, Cynthia Pavey, lost her dear friend, Amy Boulanger on February 1. Please pray for her and for Amy's brother and sister-in-law, Susie and Paul Boulanger. Please lift Cynthia, Susie, Paul and Norm in prayer and wrap them in love as they grieve the loss of Amy.

Doug Dushan is recovering from a shoulder surgery. Please pray for his full recovery and relief from pain.

Please pray for **Ardy Stultz's** friends, Bill and Sandy. Both have a reoccurrence of cancer and are in chemo treatments. Please pray for healing and good health for Bill and Sandy.

Please lift **Gloria Mannel** in prayers of healing. She has had a setback with her recovery from foot surgery.

Please pray for **Joe Blunk's** father to be comforted and supported as his dad navigates his illness.

Please pray for **Deb Hickman's** friend, Dana Tweeters, as she undergoes surgery for liver cancer and for her continued treatment and recovery.

Johnna Roberts is asking for prayers for her daughter and son-in-law who both have Covid-19. This is unfortunately her son-in-law's third bout of Covid-19 even after being fully vaccinated. Please pray for a quick and complete recovery and for this to be their last go around with Covid-19.

Please pray for **Mike Bonner's** brother, Brian and his partner Anna, who were able to find refuge in Warsaw after fleeing the violence in Ukraine. Please pray for their safety and the safety of their friends and Anna's family and for all of those who will have to deal with this senseless war.

MEMORIALS:

Nancy (Bob) Davis's sister, Judy Stokes, passed away in Kansas City in January. Please pray for the family that they are comforted during this time and are wrapped in God's love.

Vince (Cynthia) Lindenmeyer's mother, Karen Lauer Lindenmeyer, passed away on February 9. Please lift the Lindenmeyer family in love and prayers of peace and comfort.

For the people in Ukraine, until that day when peace shall reign, until that day when enemies stop *"breathing out violence"* at the borders of the innocent, let us hold onto the promise that we *"shall see the goodness of God in the land of the living."* On behalf of those who suffer and struggle, we wait and we pray and we listen to the psalmist. *"Be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!" – Psalm 27:13-14*

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 2

Service with imposition of ashes at 7:00 p.m. in Sanctuary.

Also available from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., meditation and imposition of ashes in the Sanctuary.

FLOWERS

Have you noticed? For the last few weeks Countryside has had fresh flowers gracing our Sanctuary and altar. HUGE thanks to Kim Schwartz for taking on the job of coordinating this reminder of God's beauty in our world. You can sponsor a week's flowers in honor of or in memory of a loved one or of a joyous event. Or just because - FLOWERS! The cost is \$40 and after church you may take your flowers home or have Countryside deliver them to one of our shut-in members. Stop in the church office to sign up!