



May 8, 2022
Mary's Cat: Martin's Vision
Rev. Judy Waible

Order of Worship

Gathering

Meeting God in Music:

She's Like No Other - Ole Børud

Words of Welcome

Dan Loven-Crum

Examen

Shelley Boyd

Call to Worship

Mark Ware

Hymn:

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

Hearing God's Word

Children's Moment

Rebecca Morello

Scripture:

Psalms 139:1-18, Isaiah 40:3-5

Mark Ware

Reflection:

Rev. Judy Waible

Hymn:

Womb of Life and Source of Being

Responding to God's Word

Communion / Lord's Prayer

Rev. Judy Waible

Musical Reflection:

Julia - John Lennon

Countryside Blessing

Cathy MacInnes

Postlude:

All The Things You Are

OUR WORSHIP HAS CONCLUDED.

NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

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:

Mothering God You Gave Me Birth is an adaptation by Jean Janzen (1933-present) of musings by Julian of Norwich (1342-1416), whose life fell entirely during the "Hundred Years War." According to Janzen's study of Julian of Norwich, "Julian saw Christ as our "true mother," saying, "The human mother will suckle her child with her own milk, but our beloved Mother, Jesus, feeds us with himself.""

On Mother's Day we also remember the mothering figures who are no longer with us. John Lennon wrote *Julia* about his mother who was killed in a car crash when he was 17 years old. Having been raised by his aunt for much of his life after his parents split at age five, the song's lyrics and musical style reflect a childhood he didn't have with his mother, though they reconnected in his teens. It was written in India when Lennon was studying transcendental meditation and many of the Beatles' more nuanced and profound lyrics were penned.

"*Womb of Life and Source of Being*" was written by Ruth C. Duck, a notable hymn writer with a controversial but effective style regarding gendered language. According to hymn scholar Simon Hill, "When it comes to handling sexist or exclusive language, Duck does not believe that the issue should be solved by eliminating all gender and placing a ban on gendered images. Instead, Duck advocates for the presence of both masculine and feminine imagery and language, creating a space for both traditional wording as well as new wording. She proves that the two perspectives can exist side by side. After all, the Scriptures are filled with metaphors that cover an array of images. Duck sees this as a call for Christians to thoughtfully develop and sing of new metaphors that fully and appropriately convey an encounter with the Divine, a call that Duck takes to heart in much of her hymn writing.

"*Womb of Life, and Source of Being*" takes on the matter of metaphor, exclusive language, and the Trinitarian formula. The traditional formula is often a subject of debate and theological question in terms of sexist language. Duck believes that because of the exclusive, male-centered language, the traditional formula - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - does not fully celebrate the liberation of new life offered through Jesus, the Christ. The traditional formula also runs the risk of implying a gender-exclusive community, rather than allowing the Trinity to be a model of a loving and all-embracing community. In "*Womb of Life, and Source of Being*," Duck makes an effort to broaden the images of the persons in the Trinity and to establish it as a model for a vibrant community."

Tyler Gruttemeyer, vocals - Rick Avard, piano - Alex Ritter, organ
Matt Wallace, sax - Carlos Figueroa, drums - Steve Gomez, bass

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 9:30 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:

Thank you to all of the wonderful retired ministers in our congregation who have stepped out of retirement to help our congregation through this time of transition. They have been preaching on Sundays, conducting funerals, weddings and providing pastoral care. They are a true JOY and inspiration to Countryside. **Thank you Rev. Jon Noble, Rev. Dr. Norm Pavey, Rev. Don Sarton and Rev. Judy Waible!**

CONCERNS:

Marilyn (Andy) Smith is in the hospital and the Smith family is asking for prayers for comfort, healing, and recovery.

Curtis Bryant and his partner, Sonja Tvtisch, ask for prayers for healing and for her complete recovery from inflammatory breast cancer. Prayers of comfort and peace for Curtis, too, as he continues to care for Sonja during this time.

Martha Hoig's 19-year old grandson, Braden Pearson, has been diagnosed with lymphoma and is receiving treatment at MD Anderson. Please pray for the strength, courage and healing Braden needs as he deals with his diagnosis and treatment.

Ann Burdette is in the hospital recovering from pneumonia. Please pray for a complete recovery for Ann. She has requested no phone calls or visitors while she recovers.

Deb Hickman had a total knee replacement on April 21 and is having a difficult recovery. Please pray for her pain relief, comfort and full recovery from surgery.

Sharon and Rick Royers's nephew, Michael Clouthier, continues to recover from brain surgery on April 7. He is making good progress but has many hard weeks of physical therapy ahead. Prayers for strength and for continued progress on his road to recovery.

Larry (Mary Jo) Weiss has been diagnosed with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and has been referred to a transplant team. Please lift Larry in prayer, and pray that he is able to receive a transplant. Please wrap Larry and Mary Jo in your prayers and love, even though they are miles away, let them feel the love of our Countryside family.

Jodie Nichols's 93-year-old mother fell last month and is now in a care facility to continue her recovery. Please pray for her continued healing. Jodie also has a dear friend, Sandy Taylor, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Please pray for Sandy, her family and her medical team as they navigate the next steps she will be taking. Please also pray for her full recovery from breast cancer.

Don (Bev) Sarton's sister, who turned 93 recently, is on comfort care and Hospice. Please pray for a peaceful journey as she and the family prepares for the next stage of her Life's journey.

Ardy Stultz is almost done with radiation treatment for breast cancer. Please pray that her treatments are successful and that she makes a full recovery.

Please continue pray for **Mike (Jan) Brown** as he continues to undergo chemotherapy for Multiple Myeloma. He is now halfway done with chemo and is responding well – he is scheduled for his bone marrow transplant in July. Please pray for a long remission for Mike at the end of these treatments.

MEMORIALS:

Judi Ried passed away at home on Friday, April 29. Her service was held at Countryside on Wednesday, May 4. Please pray for peace and comfort for the David and the entire Ried family in the midst of their grief.

Gracious God, I want to thank you for blessing me. Today, I pray not only for my loved ones, but also for those around me in positions of need. When I have food, help me to remember the hungry; When I have work, help me to remember the jobless; When I have a home, help me to remember those who have no home at all; When I am without pain, help me to remember those who suffer, And remembering, help me to destroy my complacency; help me to have compassion for those around me, and be concerned enough to help; By word and deed, those who cry out for what we take for granted. Amen.

Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by Cathy and Rick MacInnes.
In memory of their mothers, Ruth MacInnes and Janice Eicher.