



**December 18, 2022
Light in a Dark Place:
The Candle of Love:
Love's Perfect Partner
Matthew 1:18-25**

Countryside Community Church
13130 Faith Plaza | Omaha, NE 68144 | 402-391-0350
countrysideucc.org

Order of Worship

Gathering

Prelude:

Carillon on a Ukrainian Bell Carol - Gerald Near

Words of Welcome / † Mission Statement

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Announcements

Dan Loven-Crum

Call to Worship

Kathleen Samland

Advent Wreath Lighting

Ramirez Family

† Hymn #128 (vs. 4):

One Candle is Lit

Choral Reflection:

Children's Carol

The First Lesson:

Let the Stable Still Astonish - Leslie Leyland Fields

Kathleen Samland

Choral Reflection:

Silent Night

Children's Church

Emma Boyd

† Congregational Carol: #153 (vs. 1)

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

The Second Lesson:

The Refugees - Ann Weems

Carlos Figueroa

Choral Reflection:

In the Bleak Midwinter arr. Will Todd

The Third Lesson:

Shepherd's Song at Christmas - Langston Hughes

Carlos Figueroa

Choral Reflection:

Angels from the Realms of Glory - arr. Dan Forrest

The Fourth Lesson:

Matthew 1:18-25

Kathleen Samland

Choral Reflection:

The Rose - Amanda McBroom - arr. Craig Hella Johnson

Reflection:

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Choral Reflection:
Personet Hodie - arr. Will Todd

Communion
Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Musical Meditation:
Ukrainian Bell Carol - Mykola Leontovych

The Fifth Lesson:
Amazing Peace by Maya Angelou
Dinah Gomez

Choral Reflection:
Ding Dong, Merrily on High arr. Howard Helvey

Pastoral Prayer / † Lord's Prayer
Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

† Congregational Carol #150 (vs. 1, 3):
Hark the Herald Angels Sing

The Basket
Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Countryside Blessing
Leslie Summers-Day

Postlude



Sunday, December 25, there will be a single service at 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Night Wonderers and Core 56 musicians led by Emily Wadhams and Valentine Wadhams - C4 Choir - Countryside Ringers - Adam Witte, director
Emily Wadhams, Soloist - Rick Avard, Piano - Alex Ritter, Keyboards -
Carlos Figueroa, Percussion - 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 9:00 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 the Office at 402-391-0350 or office@countrysideucc.org

Joys:

A prayer of gratitude after Autumn Cox received a good report after her Thursday melanoma surgery. She will proceed with periodic visits but not for cancer treatments.

The members of Countryside Community Church would like to thank **Rev. Don Sarton and his wife, Bev**, for their generous gift of art to our church. The carved wooden creche in our front windows is a gift from their personal collection.

Concerns:

Continued prayers for **Doug Dushan**. The shot he received in his eye on Friday is reversing some of the rapid erosion of his vision he was experiencing late in the week. He is headed to the Iowa eye Institute on December 23 for more answers. Prayers for Doug's medical team as well.

Please pray for peace and comfort for **Karen Follon** and her family as they grieve the loss of **Jim Follon** who died on December 1. A memorial service will be held on Sunday, December 18 at 1 p.m.

Continued prayers for **Don Sarton's** friend Rev. David Van Heyningin after a head injury: David's white counts are down and nothing else to report as they have him sedated to fight the sepsis. A physician from David's last church has offered to work with his wife, Gin, in her efforts to advocate for David's care. God, we thank you for sending help to Gin at this time.

Continue to uplift in prayer members of our congregation who are recovering from various health concerns: **Karen Fenne, Pat Walstrom, Dee Schlautman, Salley Classen, Greg (Johnna) Roberts, Greg Witte, Kaitlan and others.**

2022 Contribution Deadline

Please remember to submit your final contributions for 2022 to the church before the end of the year. The IRS looks closely at charitable giving, and we want you to understand that in order for your contribution to be deductible in 2022, your contribution must be postmarked or physically received at the church office by December 31, 2022. Please note that your check date alone will not control which year your contribution applies to.

Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by Chuck Jansen
in memory of Marilyn Jansen.

2022 Poinsettia Dedications

Shannon and Rick Avard

In memory of Marvin Seitz Jr.

Megan Connelly

In memory of Alice Kerr

Teri and Mark D'Agostino

In memory of Geri and Al Schuele

Chris and Rick Gilmore

In honor of their family

Mimi and Ferde Goings

In memory of Jayne, Mert and Hazel

Carol Goldstrom

In memory of Gayle and Irene Cummings

Dinah and Steve Gomez

In honor of our family

Robyn and David Hubbard

In memory of our parents Ivan and Jeanette Hubbard, Bill Ginn

Amy and John Kampfe

In memory of our parents

Judy and Daron Kruse

Sherryl L. Lilley

Cathy and Rick MacInnes

In honor of our children and grandchildren: Alissa, Beau, Zoe and Niles; Amy, Dan, Ellis and Levi

Deb and John McCollister

In memory of Bob Way and John and Nan McCollister

The Murray Family

In memory of Ron Schmierer

Jodie Nichols

In memory of family and friends who have passed

David Palmer

In memory of George and Cynthia Palmer

Norman Pavey, Cynthia Pavey and Sarah O'Leary

In memory of Fred and Ruth Pavey, Charles and Luverna Brown and Jed O'Leary and Sybil Pavey

Amy and Mike Phillips

In memory of Marilyn Jansen and Glenn Ried

Gloria Ried and Chuck Jansen

Marj Sambasile

In honor of her family

Kathleen and Todd Samland

Bev and Don Sarton

In memory of Harold and Bess Beaumont and Alma and George Broomfield

De Schmierer

In memory of Ron Schmierer

Kathy and Joe Shotkoski

Mary Watke

In memory of Jim

Julie and Mark Wilson

In memory of our parents

Stacy and Andy Wilson

In memory of loved ones

Music notes:

Our Wednesday Wonderers and Core 56 kids have an important contribution to our worship life today. As a congregation, we are exploring the Accessible to All (A2A) designation, a journey through which we can better reflect the spirit of Christ's radical welcome to all people. Part of this journey is expanding our awareness through education and, in the spirit of that goal, the kids have incorporated A2A into one of their pieces.

Another aspect of their musical experience these last few weeks has been writing a song together about what Christmas means to them and exploring how the rituals of Christmas intersect with our faith traditions and foundational stories- from the festive to the theological!

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear may be the only well-known Christmas carol that doesn't mention the birth of Christ. It focuses on the song of the angels: "peace on Earth, and goodwill to men." The author was an ordained Unitarian minister and one of the earliest social gospel hymn writers. The context for the hymn's creation was the social turmoil during the lead-up to the Civil War and the just-ended Mexican-American war. It was controversial at the time, and to some degree remains so even now. The third verse, which we will sing on January 1, is excluded from many a hymnal, calls for hope for a time when humanity 'sends back the song which now the angels sing,' peace to counter division and anxiety, a love to carry us through 'life's crushing load,' and a distant yet tangible joy embodied in Christ.

Personet Hodie Translation

On this day earth shall ring with the song
children sing, to the Lord, Christ our King,
born on earth to save us;
he who the Creator gave us.

Now a child born, adorned in swaddling
clothes in a stable, the vain powers of Hell,
spoiled of prey, now fear him.

Magi three find their way by a star's shin-
ing ray to the child in the hay; give their
wondrous presents.
Let us all sing as the angels, Glory to God
in the Highest.

The Rose / Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming, from tender stem hath sprung!

Some say, "Love. It is a river that drowns the tender reed"

Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.

Some say, "Love. It is a razor that leaves your soul to bleed"

It came, a flow'ret bright

Some say, "Love. It is a hunger an endless aching need"

amid the cold of winter

I say, "Love. It is a flower and you its only seed"

When half spent was the night.

It's the heart afraid of breaking that never learns to dance

It's the dream afraid of waking that never takes the chance

It's the one who won't be taken who cannot seem to give

And the soul afraid of dyin' that never learns to live

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,

When the night has been too lonely and the road has been too long

Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.

And you think that love is only for the lucky and the strong

True man, yet very God,

Just remember in the winter far beneath the bitter snows

From sin and death He saves us

Lies the seed that with the sun's love in the spring becomes the
rose

And lightens every load.