

Order of Worship

Gathering

Prelude:

Christmas Time Is Here -

Vince Guaraldi / Lee Mendelson

Words of Welcome / † Mission Statement

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Announcements

Dan Loven-Crum

Examen

Dan Loven-Crum

Call to Worship

Mary Johnston

Advent Wreath Lighting

West Family-- Metta, Andy, Keller, and Bennett

† Hymn #128 (vs. 2):

One Candle is Lit

Hearing God's Word

Children's Church

† Hymn #119:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Scripture

Matthew 3:1-12

Mary Johnston

Reflection

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Musical Reflection:

Walk in Light - Karen Marrolli

Responding to God's Word

Communion

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Musical Meditation:

Give Me Love (Give Me Peace On Earth) -

George Harrison

Pastoral Prayer / Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

† Hymn #142:

People, Look East

The Basket

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Countryside Blessing

Nancy Deetz

Postlude:

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

OUR WORSHIP HAS CONCLUDED.

NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

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

December 4, 2022
Light in a Dark Place:
The Candle of Peace:
The Hebrew Prophets
The Dream of Peace



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.

C4 Choir - Adam Witte, director

Matt Wallace, sax - Rick Avard, piano

Alex Ritter, organ - Carlos Figueroa, drums

Steve Gomez, bass

Follow the Star - Dec. 10, 5-7 p.m.

A one-day, festive event exploring the different aspects of the holiday season (including the Christmas Tree, Holiday Foods and the Nativity) and how they relate to our faith.

Jazz Coffeehouse - Saturday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m.

Pipe Organ Extravaganza - Sunday, Dec. 11, 4 p.m.

Poetry Small Group

Are you interested in poetry? Reading it, writing it, or exploring new works? If so, we have an opportunity for you! Our growing Arts Ministry is launching Small Groups to crowdsource creative ideas and materials for worship. The worship planning team is planning a poetry-focused sermon series in the spring, and this group will be an integral part of that effort. Please contact Alex Ritter at alexr@countrysideucc.org if you would be interested in joining.

Music notes:

Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965) was an English writer and suffragette who is best known in the US for her hymn "Morning Has Broken" (popularized by Yusuf Islam's recording). Her hymns are controversial! The Hymn Society of Great Britain has spoken against her hymns for not saying anything about original sin and claim that her texts are, "certainly not specifically Christian, echoing some sort of harmony with Judaism and Islam."

People Look East has the spirit of a Christmas carol, but features an imaginative Advent text that is particularly remarkable when viewed through a progressive theological framework. Imagery guides us "toward the star," with each verse depicting a different manifestation of "love:" first as a guest, then as "the rose," then as "the star," and finally as "the Lord." As one hymn scholar puts it, "Key images of the season are abundant. East is the direction of the rising sun and, in the history of Christianity, the coming Messiah.

continued on back

continued from front

In stanza two, the 'furrows' (or trenches dug in the ground) of bare earth are waiting for the seed that will flourish in the reign of the Promised One. In stanza three, the stars that guided the Magi shape the 'bowl' of the heavens, giving signs of hope beyond 'the frosty weather.' The angels' song, in stanza four, sets 'every peak and valley humming,' an oblique reference to Isaiah 40:4, 'Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low.'"

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:

Daron Kruse and Judy Hartlieb welcomed their second granddaughter, Anoona Rae. Erin and Brendan Healey and big sister Ilex are all doing great. Daron and Judy will meet Anoona in Florida in January.

CONCERNS:

Please pray for **Ed (Kim) Schwartz** and his family. Ed's sister, Marge McElwain, passed away after being in a hospice program with stage four cancer. Ed and Kim were able to visit Marge at her home in Indiana this week. God, please grant peace and strength to this family in this time of loss.

Jim (Karen) Follon died December 1 surrounded by the ones who loved him most. He passed on at peace and out of pain. Prayers and hugs for the Follon family are greatly appreciated.

Wendy Wright, **Marcia (Tim) Kerrigan's** twin sister, had a heart attack and passed away on Tuesday. Wendy was perfectly healthy - this is a total shock. Her husband is Jon. The daughters are Miranda, a 20-year-old who attends Washington University in St. Louis and Gabriella, a 17 year-old senior in high school in the District of Columbia. The Memorial Service was held Friday in Rockville, Maryland. Please pray for Marcia, Tim and Marcia's family at this time of loss.

Please pray for Jim Hanson, **Molly Anderson's** stepbrother. He has been diagnosed with bladder cancer and is not doing well.

Please pray for a dear friend of **Chris Gilmore**. Her friend Brian has been diagnosed with a virulent form of prostate cancer and will begin treatment shortly.

Don Sarton is asking for prayers for his dear friend Rev. David Van Heyning in after an accident last weekend. David has been in a coma. This week he wiggled a finger on command and they adjusted the sedation to see if he could wake up but he has not yet. Small increments in the healing process. We lift David up in prayer and ask God to heal him after this head injury. May he come out of the coma soon.

Virginia (Ginny) Chick died on Friday, November 25, and the service was on Friday, December 2, at 11:00 a.m. The service was at Countryside followed by lunch in the Commons. Pastor Keith Herron conducted the service. Please pray for peace and strength for Ginny Chick's family and friends at this time of loss.

Please continue to pray for **Pat Walstrom** who is still in terrible pain. She is at Nye Legacy in Fremont for rehabilitation but is not ready for visitors at this time. On top of the rehab and the pain, she is burdened with Medicare issues and handling finances. God, please grant Pat relief from the pain and peace in dealing with the tasks at hand.

Please pray for **Autumn Cox**, who is scheduled for melanoma surgery on December 8. We ask for prayers for her family, her surgeon and healing for Autumn.

Please continue to pray for **Tom and Ann Huxtable-Scates's** daughter Kaitlin, and her family as she continues navigating through a terrible ankle break. She has had surgery and is slowly recovering and getting better every day. However, she cannot put any weight on her ankle for 6 weeks. Tom and Ann would like to thank everyone for their positive thoughts and prayers and ask for continued prayers of strength and health for all of them through all of this.

Continue to lift in prayer members of our congregation who are recovering from various health concerns:

Karen Fenne, Geoff Amstutz, Dee Schlautman, Greg (Johnna) Roberts, Greg Witte and others.

The CDC just raised the risk level for COVID-19 to Yellow. Please pray for our church community as we currently have several families who have tested positive for COVID. In addition, we have others with the Flu and RSV. God, we ask you to bring a speedy recovery to all who are experiencing symptoms and not feeling well.

Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by De Schmierer.