

Order of Worship

Gathering

Prelude:

I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In

Words of Welcome / † Mission Statement

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Announcements

Dan Loven-Crum

Examen

Dan Loven-Crum

Call to Worship

Daron Kruse

Hearing God's Word

Children's Church

Rebecca Morello

† Hymn #162:

What Child is This?

Scripture: Matthew 3:13-19

Daron Kruse

Reflection

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Call to Remembrance of Baptismal Covenant

Musical Meditation:

Baptized in Water

Responding to God's Word

Communion

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Musical Reflection:

What Child is This?

Pastoral Prayer / † Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

† Hymn #172:

We Three Kings

The Basket

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Countryside Blessing

Dale Jones

Postlude:

Caravan - Juan Tizol

OUR WORSHIP HAS CONCLUDED.
NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

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

Countryside Community Church

13130 Faith Plaza | Omaha, NE 68144 | 402-391-0350

countrysideucc.org



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.

Julia Olynyk, vocalist - Matt Wallace, sax - Rick Avard, piano
Alex Ritter, organ - Carlos Figueroa, drums - Steve Gomez, bass

Music notes:

I Saw Three Ships is an English folk carol that dates from the seventeenth century. The meaning behind this simple song is unclear. Is it a case of bad geography? Perhaps. Maps weren't great in those days. The nearest body of water would have been 30km from Bethlehem. Why are Mary, Joseph and the babe near a body of water? Maybe a beach in Egypt where they fled after meeting the magi? It would have been expensive to travel via boat, and not a good way to hide from Herod's army. Did the minstrels who wrote the lyrics realize the ship is an Arabian euphemism for camels? Are the ships a euphemism for the magi themselves? Is this a reference to the ships that carried the supposed remains of the magi to be stored in the Black Cathedral in Cologne, Germany?

While we shouldn't overthink a song that, as one commentator puts it, is repetitive with asinine lyrics such that were you to be stuck on a ship with these minstrels singing it on repeat would make you want to walk the plank, you can still choose your own adventure as to the meaning of this popular carol.

continued on the back:

continued from the front:

We Three Kings was written in the 1850s in America and was the first American hymn to become globally popular. It was for nearly a hundred years considered to be the only American contribution to the English language hymn repertory because so many of what we now know to be quintessentially American hymns either came from the Appalachian and Southern oral and shape-note traditions which weren't "discovered" until the early twentieth century, or were spirituals that were disregarded or ignored due to racism.

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:

Dear Countryside Family, Rich and I thank the Countryside community of angels for the prayers, phone calls, kindnesses and meals during my long healing process after a complex foot surgery that did not go as planned. My surgeon has recently released me from his care. After being off my feet for over a year I am now in physical therapy to regain strength and am making great progress. We are grateful for your love, support and generosity. - **Gloria and Rich Mannel**

Shannon Avard's sister, Michelle, is expected to have a complete recovery after her recent stroke. She is at Madonna Lincoln and doing exceptionally well. Thank you for all of your prayers of concern for her.

Elaine Wiles has accepted her offer to the Colorado School of Mines for the Fall of 2023. She plans to study economics and environmental engineering.

CONCERNS:

We are asking for prayers for the **Kathleen and Todd Samland family**. Todd's Dad, Ted Samland, died on December 29, in Olympia, Washington. Ted visited Nebraska regularly and had attended church when in town and enjoyed Countryside. Ted was Grandpa to Hannah and Rachel Minor. God, please give the Samland family peace and strength during this difficult time.

Susan Wagoner's beloved brother-in-law, Doug Gulden, passed away peacefully on 12/31/22 after a long and courageous battle with Multiple System Atrophy. Please pray that his wife, Susan's sister, Tracy, and their sons Daniel and Andrew Gulden are given the peace of knowing he is free from pain. Everyone who knew him reported that he was a wonderful, kind, honest man and was a true friend. Please lift Susan and her entire family as they find their way through this grief.

Rodge Bickerstaff has been moved to a UNMC facility. He was scheduled for gallbladder surgery, but because of some other health reasons, it has been postponed. He appreciates phone calls. Here is his cell number 402-598-5159 for anyone who would like to call.

Continued prayers for **Shannon Avard's** mom, Sunny, as she works toward recovery from Covid. Some unusual symptoms are sending her back to the doctor this week.

Marylinn (Andy) Smith fell and broke her arm. She is at Old Mill Rehab Center behind Huber Chevrolet at about 114 and Dodge. Andy is asking for prayers and people to visit.

Continue praying for **Don Sarton's** friend Rev. David Van Heyningin who is recovering from a head injury. His white count continues to go down and the doctors are beginning again to ween him off of some of the medications. His muscle mass has declined to the point where he could not stand. The good news is there is movement.

Continue prayers for **Pat Walstrom** as she continues to deal with pain. It has only slightly improved but she is alert and very communicative.