

Order of Worship

Gathering

Prelude:

Prelude - Gabriel Pierne

Words of Welcome / † Mission Statement

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Announcements

Dan Loven-Crum

Examen

Dan Loven-Crum

Choral Call to Worship:

De Profundis

Hearing God's Word

Baptism:

Theodore Jacob Bender son of

Ashley and Jon Bender

Musical Reflection:

Waters of March - Antônio Carlos Jobim

Scripture: Psalm 130*

Dale Jones

Reflection

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Poetry: *Sometimes, I Am Startled Out of Myself -*

Barbara Crooker

Dave Wingert

Musical Reflection:

What Wondrous Love is This

Responding to God's Word

Communion

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Musical Reflection: *Nobody Knows You When You're*

Down and Out - Jimmie Cox

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

The Basket

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Poetry:

The Growing Edge - Howard Thurman

Dave Wingert

Countryside Blessing

Charlotte Wadhams

Postlude:

Out of the Depths I Cry to Thee BWV 686 - J.S. Bach

OUR WORSHIP HAS CONCLUDED.

NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

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

* Psalm 130 adapted by Nan Merrill.



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

Julia Olynyk - Emily Wadhams - Brenda Stursma, vocalists

Matt Wallace, sax - Alex Ritter, organ / piano

Steve Gomez, bass

Music notes:

Prelude Meditation:

Let This Darkness Be Like A Bell Tower - Rainer Maria Rilke

Quiet friend who has come so far,

feel how your breathing makes more space around you.

Let this darkness be a bell tower and you the bell. As you ring,
what batters you becomes your strength.

Move back and forth into the change.

What is it like, such intensity of pain?

If the drink is bitter, turn yourself to wine.

In this uncontainable night, be the mystery at the crossroads of
your senses,

the meaning discovered there.

And if the world has ceased to hear you,

say to the silent earth: I flow.

To the rushing water, speak: I am.

Our Call to Worship this morning is the first verse of Martin Luther's poetic paraphrase of the *De Profundis*, or Psalm 130, translated into English by Catherine Winkworth, a nineteenth century women's rights activist and education advocate who specialized in the poetic translation of German hymns. This first verse of Psalm 130 is deeply introspective prayer for help - the psalmist acknowledges their own shortcomings but trusts in God's redemption and forgiveness.

continued on the back:

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 who would benefit from prayer, want to share a joy or be included on the bulletin list and or on Countryside's Prayer Chain, contact Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones at 402-391-0350, ext. 225 or sarahrj@countrysideucc.org

CONCERNS:

Please join in praying for the following new and ongoing concerns:

The life of **Betsy Lay's** mother, Mirian Lay, was celebrated in a service last Monday, March 20. Please continue to pray for Betsy and her family during this time of grief.

Please continue to keep the family of **Pat Walstrom** in your prayers. Pat died on Tuesday, March 21.

Prayers for **Susan Wagoner**, who is having gallstone surgery this week at Bellevue Medical Clinic. We pray that this gives her relief from the progressive abdominal pain that she has been having.

Please continue to pray for the family of **Rodge Bickerstaff**, who died on Wednesday, March 15. His memorial service is being planned for May 22, and more details will be provided as that date nears.

We'd also like to add the Pastoral Search Committee to our prayers, that as they continue their work, they be uplifted with strength and endurance, that they hear the voice of the Spirit speaking to them, and that they continue the good work they have begun. We know they have been hard at work for many months, and we want them to feel our support!

Music notes continued from the front:

Bach's chorale prelude *Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu dir* BWV 686 (*Out of the Depths I cry to Thee*) is a monumental organ piece composed in the strict polyphonic style of the Renaissance (which ended a century before Bach's career). Bach displays his extraordinary mastery of counterpoint in this six-voice fugue (four in the hands, two in the feet) which is unique in that it has two independent lines in the pedal, so each foot plays a melody at the same time rather than both feet playing one, which is usually the case. This makes it one of the more difficult pieces in the organ repertoire, and the effect of all six voices being played simultaneously is a profound crescendo building up until all six voices sound in each phrase of the chorale. It is one of his most powerful and emotionally charged works.

Bach also wrote a companion piece for the keyboards without pedal (BWV 687) that is our prelude this morning. It is a stark contrast, reflecting the humility and vulnerability of humanity. This introspective setting reflects the first verses of the Psalm that are heard in our Call to Worship.

Waters of March was written by Antônio Carlos Jobim during a heavy rainstorm that turned his ranch into a muddy landscape. In Argentina, the "waters of march" bring about an end to Summer, and despite the ominous nature of winter, there is a promise of spring – and new life on the other side. The text emphasizes life's difficulties and life's joys – a collage juxtaposing the imagery of both. Jobim "was struck by the idea that everything in life is like the waters of March, flowing and changing and moving forward."

What Wondrous Love Is This dates back to the late 18th century and was discovered by composer William Walker on a journey through the Appalachian region. The tune had been around for many years, circulating orally, when Walker transcribed it in 1835 for Southern Harmony, his collection of music from the oral and shape note traditions that democratized religious music and influenced folk music. Appalachian settlers were largely Irish and Scottish immigrants, and their cultural roots are deeply woven into the fabric of this hymn from an ethnomusicological perspective.

C. Michael Hawn, hymnologist and scholar, writes that the hymn "captures our attention right from the beginning with its simplicity and persistence – "What wondrous love is this" sung three times. This repetition is not the sign of a weak poet who has a narrow range of expression, but a fellow traveler who has experienced profoundly the sacrificial love of Christ and can only express again and again – "What wondrous love is this." It is the kind of repetition that sounds trite when spoken, yet gains strength and power through singing. These are not the carefully crafted words of a theologian, but utterances directly from the heart or, even more profoundly, from the soul."

Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by Leslie Summers Day
in memory of her mother, Suzanne Levine,
on her birthday.