



## Order of Worship

Gathering

Prelude:

*A Child Is Born* - Thad Jones

Words of Welcome / † Mission Statement

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Announcements

Dan Loven-Crum

Examen

Dan Loven-Crum

*Childhood* - Pat Metheny

Call to Worship

Leslie Summers-Day

**Hearing God's Word**

Children's Moment

Rebecca Morello

Musical Reflection:

*Child of Mine* - Carole King

Scripture:

I Samuel 16:1-13

Leslie Summers-Day

Reflection

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Musical Meditation:

*Nature Boy* - Nat King Cole

**Responding to God's Word**

Communion

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

The Basket

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Choral Reflection:

*For All the Children* - David Lohman

Countryside Blessing

Lori Shrum

Postlude:

*What a Wonderful World* -

George David Wiess / Bob Thiele

OUR WORSHIP HAS CONCLUDED.

NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

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

C4 Choir - Adam Witte, director  
Julia Olynyk, vocals - Matt Wallace, sax  
Alex Ritter, piano - Carlos Figueroa, drums  
Steve Gomez - bass

*April 23, 2023*

*"Here I Am"*

*Rev. Dr. Keith Herron*



## 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:**

David Lohman's *For All the Children* was inspired by his work at the Institute for Welcoming Resources, part of the LGBTQ-Welcoming Faith Movement. Lohman was asked to write a hymn in honor of a UCC minister Rev. Ann B. Day and her partner Donna Enberg who lead the UCC's Open and Affirming program for twenty years and were retiring from that ministry. For Lohman, "The task was daunting because I had never written lyrics before. I stared at a blank sheet for weeks as the deadline drew ever closer. Then I thought of the adage, 'Write what you know.' So, what did I know? Well, I was clear that I was doing this Welcoming work so that queer kids growing up after me wouldn't have to experience the despair, isolation, and shame that had filled my adolescent years. Once that was clear in my mind, thoughts began pouring onto the page and the song almost wrote itself."

The song has an important place in our engagement with the seasons of life topic as a church community. The lyrics are focused on children and their place in the church, but the message extends to all of God's children across all ages and walks of life. What goes unspoken in the lyrics is a reminder of the complicity of religious institutions in the perpetuation of anti-LGBTQ fervor, white supremacy, ableism, violence, and other injustices, and a reminder of a message that is absent from the vast majority of churches. As Lohman puts it "church, at its best, is a place where God's unfathomable and limitless love is celebrated. At its worst, the church can be a place where our prejudices and fears of those who are different receive reinforcement every time it declares who is, and who is not, acceptable in God's sight." A reminder of why the work we must do as a community of faith to fight injustice is so important.

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](mailto:sarahrj@countrysideucc.org)

## JOYS:

*Please lift these joys with prayers of celebration and praise!*

We give thanks for the Anti-Racism workshop that was held last weekend on April 14 & 15 and for our guest preacher, Rev. Dr. Velda Love, last Sunday. We are so grateful that the Anti-Racism Designation Group brought Rev. Dr. Love and Dr. Sharon Fennema to Countryside to teach and inspire us! May the work of the Spirit continue to move us to be an Anti-Racist Church!

## CONCERNS:

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

**Virginia Bigelow** passed away on Thursday, April 13. Her memorial was held here in the sanctuary on Wednesday, April 19. Please keep her friends and family in your prayers during their time of grief.

**Marcia (Michael) Free's** father died on April 16. Marcia's aunt has also entered hospice care just this week. Please keep Marcia and her family in your prayers.

**Robyn (Dave) Hubbard's** surgical procedure was rescheduled due to an issue with a back ordered part for the surgical robot, and we will remember her again in our prayers closer to the new surgery date of May 5.

**Ann (Kevin) Naylor's** surgery is scheduled for Tuesday, April 25. Please hold the Naylor's in your prayers and lift Ann up for healing.

**Margie (Glenn) Phillips** had hip replacement surgery on April 14. It went well, and we continue to pray for a full recovery!

**Jo Poole** died on April 18, and her life was celebrated on April 22. Please keep her children, their families, and her friends in your prayers.

*We continue to pray for the Pastoral Search Committee, as they continue in their process towards calling Countryside's next Senior Minister. 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:

*For All the Children - David Lohman*

God, we gather as your people to raise our song above, and we dare to claim the promise of Your love.  
Though the day may not yet be here, we trust it soon will be when your children will be free.

Oh, may our hearts and minds be opened, fling the church doors open wide. May there be room enough for everyone inside.  
For in God there is a welcome, in God we all belong. May that welcome be our song.

Oh, we sing for all the children, that one day they be free; and we sing for generations yet to be,  
that they never have a reason to doubt that they are blessed. May they, in your love, find rest.

Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and shame, so afraid of who they are and whom they love.  
May the message now be banished that Your love is for the few; may their faith in You renew.

God, we're working for the future when children far and wide can live their lives with dignity and pride.  
As they grow in strength and stature, may they join us hand in hand, as against all hate we stand.

## Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by David Ried  
in memory of Judi Ried.