



## Order of Worship 10 a.m.

### Gathering

Prelude: *Come Sunday* - Duke Ellington

Words of Welcome: Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

† Gathering Song, Hymn #284: *Gather Us In*

Call to Worship: Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

One: The God of all creation calls us.

**Many: We come, knowing that our deliverance and hope rest in God.**

One: Power and steadfast love belong to God.

**Many: We come to sing and pray, celebrating the presence of this mighty, loving God.**

Let us pray: Holy One, God of all Creation,

you call us to be your people,

to carry your vision in this time and place,

to go where you send us

to help welcome your amazing good news.

As we gather in the presence of the risen Christ

to spread the news that your realm is near,

fill us with your Holy Spirit,

O God of all Creation.

**Fill us with your glorious Spirit,**

**that we may share your good news**

**with a world in need.**

**Amen.**

Pass the Peace

One: The Peace of God be With You

**Many: And also with you.**

† Hymn (vs. 1, 4): *All Are Welcome*

### Hearing The Word

Children's Church: Rebecca Morello

First Lesson: Psalm 62:5-12

Lori Shrum, liturgist - C4 Choir - Adam Witte, director - Tyler Gruttemeyer, vocals  
Matt Wallace, sax - Rick Avard, piano - Alex Ritter, organ - Steve Gomez, bass

Choral Refection: *The Call* - David Ashley White

*The Call* by George Herbert

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life;  
Such a Way as gives us breath,  
Such a Truth as ends all strife,  
Such a Life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength;  
Such a Light as shows a Feast,  
Such a Feast as mends in length,  
Such a Strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart;  
Such a Joy as none can move,  
Such a Love as none can part,  
Such a Heart as joys in love.

Second Lesson: Mark 1:14-20 - Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Message: *Making Galilee Great Again*

## ***Responding to The Word***

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Musical Refection: *Softly and Tenderly*

Time for Community

Sharing Our Gifts

Prayer of Dedication

Musical Reflection: *Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult*

Communion: Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

† Hymn: *The Summons*

Benediction: *For a New Beginning* - John O'Donahue - Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Postlude: *Toccata on "Lift Every Voice and Sing"* - Mark Miller

OUR WORSHIP HAS CONCLUDED. NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

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

*For a New Beginning*

In out-of-the-way places of the heart,  
Where your thoughts never think to wander,  
This beginning has been quietly forming,  
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.

For a long time it has watched your desire,  
Feeling the emptiness growing inside you,  
Noticing how you willed yourself on,  
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.

It watched you play with the seduction of safety  
And the gray promises that sameness whispered,  
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,  
Wondered would you always live like this.

Then the delight, when your courage kindled,  
And out you stepped onto new ground,  
Your eyes young again with energy and dream,  
A path of plenitude opening before you.

Though your destination is not yet clear  
You can trust the promise of this opening;  
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning  
That is at one with your life's desire.

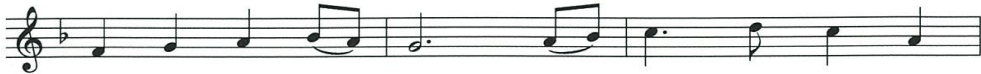
Awaken your spirit to adventure;  
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;  
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,  
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.

— *John O'Donohue* —

# All Are Welcome



1. Let us build a house where love can dwell And  
 2. Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, And  
 3. Let us build a house where love is found In  
 4. Let us build a house where hands will reach Be -  
 5. Let us build a house where all are named, Their



all can safe - ly live, A place where saints and  
 words are strong and true, Where all God's chil - dren  
 wa - ter, wine and wheat: A ban - quet hall on  
 yond the wood and stone To heal and strength - en,  
 songs and vi - sions heard And loved and treas - ured,



chil - dren tell How hearts learn to for -  
 dare to seek To dream God's reign a -  
 ho - ly ground, Where peace and jus - tice  
 serve and teach, And live the Word they've  
 taught and claimed As words with - in the



give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions,  
 new. Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness  
 meet. Here the love of God, through Je - sus,  
 known. Here the out - cast and the stran - ger  
 Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter,



Rock of faith and vault of grace; Here the  
 And as sym - bol of God's grace; Here as  
 Is re - vealed in time and space; As we  
 Bear the im - age of God's face; Let us  
 Prayers of faith and songs of grace, Let this



love of Christ shall end<sup>d</sup> di - vi - sions:  
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:  
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,  
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:  
 house pro - claim from floor to raft - er:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

# The Summons



1. Will you come and fol - low me If I but  
 2. Will you leave your - self be - hind If I but  
 4. Will you love the 'you' you hide If I but  
 5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true When you but



call your name? Will you go where  
 call your name? Will you care for  
 call your name? Will you quell the  
 call my name. Let me turn and



you don't know And nev - er be the same?  
 cruel and kind And nev - er be the same?  
 fear in - side And nev - er be the same?  
 fol - low you And nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, Will you  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare Should your  
 Will you use the faith you've found To re -  
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go Where your



let my name be known, Will you let my  
 life at - tract or scare? Will you let me  
 shape the world a - round, Through my sight and  
 love and foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and



life be grown In you and you in me?  
 an - swer prayer In you and you in me?  
 touch and sound In you and you in me?  
 live and grow In you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b.1949, © 1987, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent  
 Tune: KELVINGROVE, 7 6 7 6 777 6; Scottish traditional; arr. by John L. Bell, b.1949

## Music notes:

*Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult* was written by one of the great hymn writers, Cecil Francis Alexander. In addition to hymn writing and poetry, she was known for her charitable work and social advocacy in 19<sup>th</sup> century Ireland. Many of her texts were intended for children but have considerable depth in their underlying imagery.

Inspired by today's gospel story, the text reminds believers of the continuous call to action; — to be the hands and feet of Jesus in a world in need of healing and transformation. She wrote this text as Ireland was recovering from the 1845-1849 famine that the British exacerbated, similar to the nearly decade long US-backed blockade of Yemen and the siege of Gaza taking place today. Hymn scholar Pam McAllister puts this in perspective, arguing this text should be explored in the context of our hyper-consumerism-driven world, and notes that during this time, "Mrs. Alexander made frequent visits to those who were still struggling to survive. She traveled the soggy moorlands, bringing food, clothing, and medical supplies to farm families. She also gave away the money she made from her hymn and poetry collections. As she wrote the words... she remembered the apostles who were asked to leave everything behind — work, home, family. Her Christ pleads, 'Christian, love me more than these!' Startled, we realize that the hymn is in the present tense. Jesus calls us. Us? Yes! We are the ones called from our obsession with 'the vain world's golden store.'"

*Softly and Tenderly* is an altar call hymn that was frequently used in the revivalist tradition and remains popular today, often used at funerals. It's debatable whether the author of this hymn meant it as an exhortation to "profess faith in Christ... OR ELSE!" Though he may have held that point of view, the words don't convey that. Indeed, if we look beyond, it takes on an entirely different character, rather than an exclusive demand it is an inclusive invitation, that all are loved and affirmed by God.

Rev. Carlton R. Young, notes that this hymn is a lullaby with music and words "that characterize Jesus as a mother, gently rocking and comforting a child. This attribute contributes to the continuing popularity of this genre of religious song that presents Jesus as waiting, caring, and forgiving in intimate—and for many, compelling—metaphors."

Based on its scriptural references, mainly the story of the Prodigal Son, the message is clear – the text invites us to celebrate God's limitless love and abounding forgiveness and mercy and asks us not to "harden our hearts" to God's vision for love and peace.

*The Summons*, penned by John Bell of the Iona Community—a group committed to liturgical innovation and social justice—poses reflective questions from Christ's perspective, culminating in our response. This hymn encapsulates the community's ethos, emphasizing active engagement in Christ's call to social justice and inclusion.

# 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 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!*

**David Ried** and Rhonda Sowers were married at St. Pete's Beach in Florida on January 12. We celebrate their marriage with them!

## CONCERNS:

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

**Robyn (David) Hubbard's** mother, Sarah Ginn, passed away on January 10. Services celebrating her life were held on Thursday, January 18. Please keep Robyn in your prayers during this time of grief.

## 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.

## Sharing Our Gifts

### The Box recipient - Community Cupboard

- Shelf stable protein, canned goods

### The Basket - Donate

- Support Countryside's ministries

*Scan the QR code to access online giving for both the Box and Basket or visit [countrysideucc.org/give](http://countrysideucc.org/give)*

