

Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



Seventy-seven Times, by Lauren Wright Pittman. Inspired by
Matthew 18:15-22. Digital painting

Fifth Sunday of Lent March 17, 2024

Countryside Community Church
13130 Faith Plaza | Omaha, NE 68144 | 402-391-0350
countrysideucc.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP

† Indicates those places where those who are able are invited to stand.
Text in **bold** indicates places where the congregation is invited to join in response.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

†GATHERING HYMN:

My Wandering Heart

Hannah Brown

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

One: Why are you here?

Many: I am seeking God with my whole heart, with my entire mind, with a fire burning in my bones.

One: I see it! You're in the right place! This is God's house. The door is open to you.

Many: Why are you here?

One: I am seeking God with my whole heart, with my entire mind, with a fire burning in my bones.

Many: We see that in you! You're in the right place. This is God's house. The door is open to you.

One: Let us worship God.

Many: Let us learn from the Spirit. Amen!

(Please be seated)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, We long to be lifelong learners. We long to approach you with curiosity and an open mind. Instead, we often live as if we know best. We forget that the disciples called you "Rabbi, Teacher."

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(continued)*

Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious. Forgive us for the times when we assume we know best. Forgive us for the moments when we imagine that our learning is done and that we have all the answers.

Like Peter—who was brave enough to ask, “How many times should we forgive?”—make us brave. Spark a desire in us to learn, and may our curiosity carry our faith into deeper waters. With hope and humility, we pray, amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Family of faith, When Peter asked Jesus, “How many times should I forgive?” Jesus responded with abundance. That abundance exists for you as well.

No matter what you have done or left undone, no matter what lessons you have learned or are still learning, God’s abundant grace exists for you. God’s love will never run out.

So hear and rest in this good news: You are forgiven. You are loved. You are invited to serve.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The Peace of God be With You

Many: And also with you.

†HYMN OF RESPONSE: *The Church Where Love Lives (vs. 2)*

HEARING THE WORD

CHILDREN’S CHURCH

(Children are invited to join Children’s Church in the Chapel)

Rebecca Morello

FIRST LESSON:

Psalm 119:9-16

Molly Anderson, liturgist

How can young people keep their way pure? By guarding it according to your word.

With my whole heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commandments.

I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you.

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.

With my lips I declare all the ordinances of your mouth.

I delight in the way of your decrees as much as in all riches.

I will meditate on your precepts, and fix my eyes on your ways.

I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

MUSICAL REFLECTION:*Pray for Forgiveness*

Alicia Keys

SECOND LESSON:

Matthew 18:15-22

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

MESSAGE

Abundant Grace

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

CHORAL REFLECTION:

Agnus Dei

Paul Halley

A TIME FOR COMMUNITY

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

SHARING OUR GIFTS

The Social Justice and Outreach Board has designated Voices of Children in Nebraska as the recipient of both Countryside's Easter Offering and March Box donations. They ask that you share your monetary abundance with our children who face challenges every day.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, we offer back to you a portion of our gifts, and ask you to multiply in abundance the grace, joy, hope and love you offer to a world desperate to receive and embrace your peace. Amen.

COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Invitation to the Table

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to the God of love.

Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

Sharing the Meal

Communion Music:

Both Sides Now

Love Shall Overcome

Joni Mitchell

Carlos Colón

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Thank you, God, for renewing us at your table by the presence of our Christ. Thank you for your eternal love, the Bread of Life, that sustains all creation. May you continue to love us in our faithful acts and by that love discourage us from our unfaithful acts, that we might rejoice as your servants to the world. Amen.

SENDING

† SENDING HYMN:

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

BENEDICTION

Beloved wanderer, as you leave this place, may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve. May you look for God in every face. May you find the courage to get out of the boat, to run to the tomb, and to speak of your faith. And when the world falls apart, may you hear God's voice deep within, saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid." You are called. You are blessed. In both your ups and your downs, you always belong to God. Go now in peace. Go trusting that good news.

Amen.

POSTLUDE


OUR WORSHIP HAS CONCLUDED. NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

C4 Directed by Jim Larrabee

Dr. Christine Beard, flute – Julia Olynyk, vocals, – Matt Wallace, sax
Rick Avard, piano – Alex Ritter, organ, piano – Carlos Figueroa, drums
Steve Gomez, bass

The Church Where Love Lives

Amanda Udis-Kessler




5 The church where love lives is a safe place for all where we
church where love lives draws the stran-ger in-side, mak-ing
church where love lives is pre-par-ing a feast for the



10 ga-ther in won-der to re-mem-ber God's call, to em-bo-dy God's
neigh-bors of stran-gers, not a neigh-bor den-ied, till there's hea-ven on
pained and re-ject-ed, for the lost and the least, for the ones filled with



15 vi-sion of kind-ness and care with each song that we
earth and God's will has been done, till the whole of cre-
ter-ror and those filled with shame. Come and sit at our



20 of-fer, with each pro-test and prayer. On this sa-cred four-
a-tion is re-stored to its home. a-tion is re-stored to its home.
ta-ble. Love has called you by name.




da-tion of faith and of trust we are build-ing a world that is



gen-tle and just. We re-joice and re-pent, off-er praise and for-give



and we wel-come all peo-ple to the church where love



lives. The The

MY WANDERING HEART

LOVE OF GOD

F. M. Lehman, 1868–1963

Hannah C. Brown

Arr. Claudia Lehman Mays, 1892–1973



1. My wan-d'ring heart knows bar - ren land, great
2. My wan-d'ring heart is wild but true: a -



weight of sin, grave depth of doubt, sharp lure of
larned by awe, struck down, con-fused. In - spired, I



pow'r and proud com - mand, bleak want of hope, deep
try to fol - low you and drift off course, re -



thirst of drought. You hear my cry, soul-starved and
proached, re - fused. Oh, I've been lost, and tem - pest -



dry, and send your an - gels near. My spir - it
tossed, I've ven - tured far from shore, at last to



stirred, I heed your word, re-newed to serve you
land, re - turned to sand, re - born to love you



here. No mat - ter how I slip and stray, no mat - ter
more.



where I roam, on ev - 'ry far and fear - some



way you give my heart a home.

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1

Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of thy redeeming love.

2

Here I raise to thee an alter;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3

O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.

Prone to wander, how I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.

Music notes:

One of her first major hits, Joni Mitchell's *Both Sides, Now* examines the good and bad in life from multiple perspectives. Written during a particularly tough time in her life emotionally, her lyrics convey a holistic worldview, using a couple of examples, the first being clouds. Viewed from the ground versus from an airplane – two very different beautiful occurrences – a puffy bed below versus an ominous expanse that blocks the sun. She alludes to clouds as symbolic of depression. Another example is the ebb and flow of friendship in the midst of shifting personalities, with fractures percolating under the surface.

"I've looked at clouds from both sides now. From up and down, and still somehow it's cloud illusions I recall, I really don't know clouds at all."

Carlos Colón is a composer and documentarian who fled El Salvador as a child during the civil war. He wrote *Vencera el Amor (Love Shall Overcome)* to commemorate the martyrdom of six Jesuit priests and two women on the campus of Universidad Centroamericana in San Salvador on November 16th, 1989, by a CIA-trained and funded paramilitary death squad.

The Church in El Salvador was an advocate of peace, social justice and caring for the impoverished and downtrodden. This made them a target of brutal repression by the US-backed far-right government that started with the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero in 1980 and continued throughout the conflict.

Vencera el Amor takes its inspiration from Romans 12:21: Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive was written by Rosamond Herklots, a 20th-century British hymn writer. The hymn occurred to her while she was digging out weeds in her nephew's garden; she reasoned that their deep roots, obstructing the growth of the flowers near them, resembled the bitterness and resentment that can become entrenched and hinder one's growth in grace.

The text is reminiscent of the words of Martin Luther King Jr., who said "forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a constant attitude."

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

CONCERNS:

Carol Goldstrom had meniscus knee surgery and would appreciate our prayers. She is non-weight-bearing and in a wheelchair for seven more weeks as she recovers.

Jeri (Dave) Lundblad had knee replacement surgery, and we keep her in prayer as she heals.

De Schmierer continues to heal from a kidney infection and has had several related procedures. Please continue to pray for a full healing for her.

Mary Watke also had knee surgery on March 8 and is currently recovering at home. Please keep her in prayer for healing and relief of pain.

Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by Gloria Ried
in memory of Glenn Ried.

Lent

Holy Week

Poetry with the Pastor

Through March 25

Mondays at Noon

Book: *The Hurting Kind*, by

Ada Limon



Then They Remembered | Rev. Lisle Gwynn
Garrity | sanctifiedart.org

Palm Sunday March 24, 2024

Worship, 10 a.m.
*Wandering Heart: Songs of
Loudest Praise*
John 12:12-16



Golden Hour | Rev. Nicolette Penaranda |
sanctifiedart.org

Maundy Thursday March 28, 2024

Worship, 7 p.m.
Wandering Heart: Streams of Mercy
John 13:1-20



The Descent | Rev. T. Denise Anderson | sanctifiedart.org

Good Friday March 29, 2024

*Wandering Heart: Prone to Leave
the God I Love*

Worship, 7 p.m.

John 13:31-38, John 18:1-11, John 18:12-18,
John 18:19-27, John 19:1-30

Easter

Easter Sunday March 31, 2024

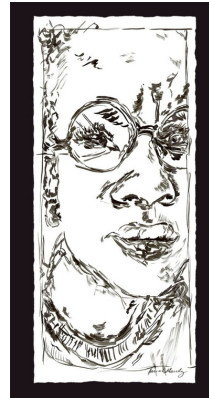
Wandering Heart: And I Hope
Luke 24:1-12

Sunrise Service, 7 a.m.
Worship, 9 a.m.
Brunch, 10 a.m.
Worship, 11 a.m.

Scan the QR code to
register for brunch!



Where? | Hannah Garrity | sanctifiedart.org



Easter Flowers!

Please help decorate the Sanctuary
for Easter with a blooming spring
plant or plants in honor or memory of
your loved ones. Order forms are
available in the church office and
Narthex. Return to the office by
Sunday, March 24.

\$15 per plant

Every third Sunday after worship

Coffee with the Pastor

Sunday, March 17

Chapel



**Register for Events at
Countrysideucc.org/register**



**Countryside
Community Church**