

# Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



*Nasturces*, Gustave Caillebotte, 1892

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**May 5, 2024**

Order of Worship Sunday April 28, 2024

† 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**

### **WELCOME**

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

### **†GATHERING HYMN #280**

*God is Here!*

### **†CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

One: Sing to the Lord a new song,

**Many: For our God alone is Lord of all.**

One: Break into joyous songs of praise,

**Many: Let all the earth celebrate and rejoice.**

One: For our God comes in victory,

**Many: With righteousness and justice for all.**

**(from Psalm 98)**

### **†PASSING THE PEACE**

One: The Peace of God be With You

**Many: And also with you.**

### **†HYMN OF RESPONSE**

*All Are Welcome (vs. 4)*

# Hearing the Word

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Rebecca Morello

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

### FIRST LESSON: Acts 10:44-48

Reader: Jodie Nichols

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

### SECOND LESSON: John 15:9-17

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

## *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.**

### **A TIME FOR COMMUNITY**

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

### **BLESSING OF STEPHEN MINISTERS**

**Prayer: God of Love,**

**You called Stephen Ministers to bring your compassionate care to those who are burdened. We are thankful for our Stephen Ministers who have served by listening, loving, caring and supporting. Reveal to them your presence as they now rest and care in new and ongoing ways in our church and in the world. Amen.**

### **SHARING OUR GIFTS**

The Social Justice and Outreach Board has designated CASA - Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children - as the recipient of the May Box donations.

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)**

**God of unimaginable love, we have known of your caring since we were babies in our mother's arms. We have been told the stories of your love, and we have sung songs about your love. These things bring us comfort. What challenges us is the command of Jesus, "As I have loved you, so you should love one another" – not just those who think as we do, pray as we do, and look the way that we do. Help us, through our giving, our living and our loving, to live up to the challenge of loving as you would have us love. In the name of the risen Christ, we pray. Amen.**

## SERVICE OF 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

*As you are able, please come forward to receive the bread and cup. If you prefer to take communion in your seat, raise your hand and a server will bring the elements to you. At Countryside, we serve gluten-free bread and non-alcoholic grape juice to support a diversity of needs. Communion cups may be discarded in the basket as you leave the sanctuary.*

## COMMUNION MEDITATION

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**We give thanks, gracious God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### †SENDING HYMN

*Open Our Minds, O God*

### †COUNTRYSIDE BLESSING

Mark Draper

## POSTLUDE

Alex Ritter, organ

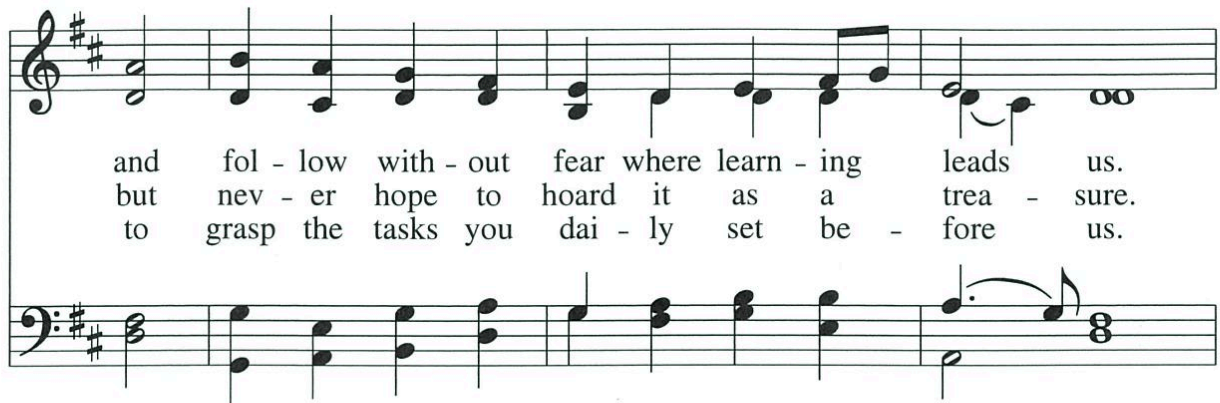
*All are invited to thank our Stephen Ministers and enjoy light refreshments in Common Grounds immediately following the worship service.*



# Open Our Minds, O God



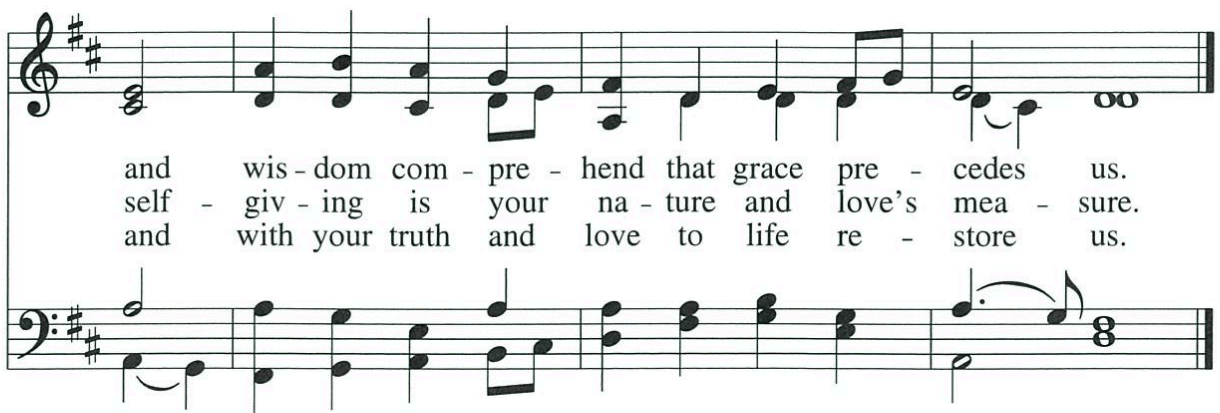
1 O - pen our minds, O God, that we may seek your truth  
2 O - pen our hearts, O God, that we may know your love  
3 O - pen our hands, O God, that we may be con - tent



and fol - low with - out fear where learn - ing leads us.  
but nev - er hope to hoard it as a trea - sure.  
to grasp the tasks you dai - ly set be - fore us.



Let know - ledge strength - en faith, wheth - er in age or youth,  
Teach us how love spares not, spends o - ver and a - bove;  
Give us the faith to dare, to spend, and to be spent,



and wis - dom com - pre - hend that grace pre - cedes us.  
self - giv - ing is your na - ture and love's mea - sure.  
and with your truth and love to life re - store us.

## Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today in honor of Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas's installation as Senior Minister of Countryside.

## Joys & 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)*

### CONCERNS

Please keep the family of **Jerry (Mary) Gray** in your prayers. Jerry passed away on Monday, April 29 and his funeral was held at Countryside on Friday, May 3 at 3 p.m.

**Carrie Leathers (Ilene Arnold)** fell and broke her femur on Tuesday, April 30. She is now in a boot with crutches and awaiting guidance about the next steps from her orthopedist.

## Cover Art Notes

Gustave Caillebotte's 1892 painting, *Nasturtiums*, invites contemplation and reflection, offering us a moment of respite and connection with the natural world. A prominent figure in the French Impressionist movement, Caillebotte was not only an artist but also a passionate gardener. *Nasturtiums* captures the beauty and vitality of these vibrant flowers in a lush garden setting. The blooming flowers can be seen as a metaphor for the Easter season's themes of renewal and rebirth; after a long winter, flowers emerge from the soil, bursting forth with vitality and color. *Nasturtiums* serves as a poignant reminder of the spiritual significance of Eastertide, inviting us to reflect on the themes of renewal, resurrection and the abundant grace of God.

# Countryside Community Church All Are Welcome

INSTALLATION SERVICE

Please join us this afternoon at 2 p.m. for the Installation of

*Rev. Dr. Jennifer Shultz-Thomas*

as Countryside's Senior Minister!

M A Y

SUNDAY

5

AT 2 PM

2024

*Reception following!*

## Sharing our Gifts

Scan the QR code to visit the  
Countryside giving page to  
donate or give to the Box



[COUNTRYSIDEUCC.ORG/GIVE](https://COUNTRYSIDEUCC.ORG/GIVE)