

# Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



*Who Do You Say That I Am?* by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

## Third Sunday of Lent March 3, 2024

Countryside Community Church  
13130 Faith Plaza | Omaha, NE 68144 | 402-391-0350  
[countrysideucc.org](http://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 SONG:

Hymn #280 *God is Here!*

### † CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

*Inspired by Psalm 19*

One: If you ask the sky who God is,

**Many: the sky will tell you of God's reach.**

One: If you ask the day who God is,

**Many: the sun will tell you of God's warmth.**

One: If you ask the night who God is,

**Many: the moon will tell you of God's comfort.**

One: "The heavens are telling the glory of God" Are you listening?

**Many: We are listening! We will sing of God's glory.**

**All: Let us worship Holy God.**

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, Some days, we are quick to declare your goodness. Like Peter, we see you in our midst and we are confident in our faith. Other days, we are distracted and uncertain, desperate for answers.**

**Forgive us for losing sight of you.**

Some days we are quick to trust your blessings—  
trusting that we are called, that we can make a difference.

Other days, our praise falls silent and doubt creeps in.

**Forgive us for losing sight of ourselves.**

We know that fear and doubt are part of the journey of faith. But for the days when we are far from you and far from ourselves, we ask for your tender grace.

**Pull us closer toward you. Remind us of the mountaintop moments of our faith.**

**Amen.**

### **ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

Friends, Whether you speak to God in a whisper or with clear conviction, with questions or with answers, with hope in your heart or with doubt in your throat— God will always listen with love and mercy. So rest in this good news: regardless of how loudly you live your faith—you belong to God. You are loved. You are claimed. You are forgiven. Speak *that* good news with confidence. 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.3)

## HEARING THE WORD

### **CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

Rebecca Morello

### **FIRST LESSON:** Psalm 19

Mark Ware, liturgist

The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens they have set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. Its rising is from the end of the heavens and its circuit to the end of them, and nothing is hid from its heat. The law of God is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of God are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of God are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of God is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of God is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of God

are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. But who can detect one's own errors? Clear me from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless and innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O God, my rock and my redeemer.

**SECOND LESSON:** Matthew 16:13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

**MESSAGE**

*Praise the Mount*

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

**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.**

**HYMN:**

*You Sought Me*

**SHARING OUR GIFTS**

The Social Justice and Outreach Board has designated Voices for Children in Nebraska as the recipient for 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 who calls us by name and rescues us from danger, receive now the gifts of our hands and the blessings of our hearts. Use these gifts to calm our storms and settle our souls that your peace may abide with and within. Amen.**

**CHORAL REFLECTION:**

*How Firm A Foundation*

John Rutter

**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.**

**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

† **SENDING HYMN:** Hymn #273 *Built on the Rock*

**COUNTRYSIDE BLESSING**

given by Charlotte Wadhams

**POSTLUDE**

OUR WORSHIP HAS CONCLUDED. NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

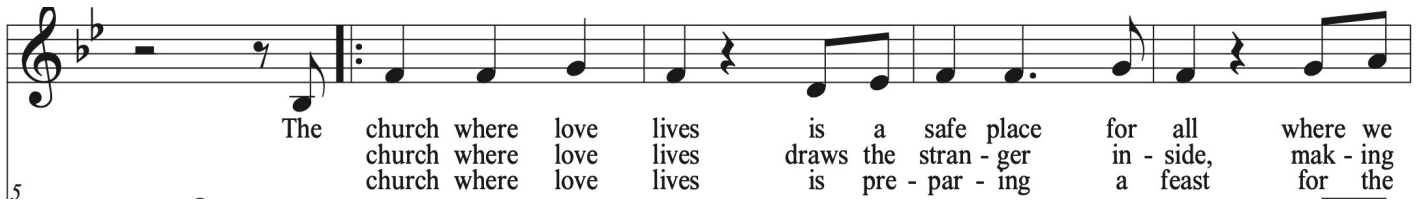
Mark Ware, liturgist – Charlotte Wadhams, Blessing  
C4 Directed by Adam Witte  
Alex Ritter, organ

## **Sunday Flowers This Week**


Flowers were given today by Jodie Nichols  
in honor of her families March birthdays:  
Tom – Barb (96 Today!) – Mike – Angela – Eloise and Steph.  
In memory of Scott.

# The Church Where Love Lives

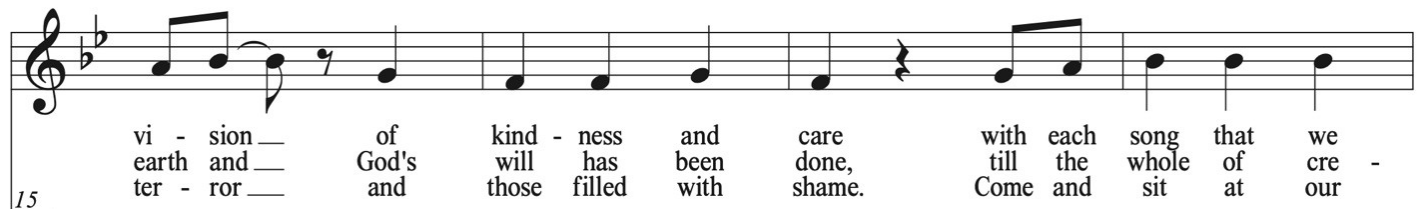
Amanda Udis-Kessler



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



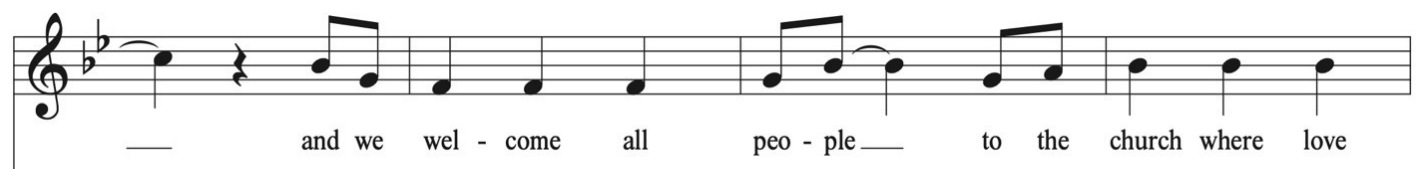
10 of-fer, with each pro-test and prayer. On this sa-cred foun-  
a-tion is re-stored to its home. a-tion is re-stored to its home.  
ta-ble. Love has called you by name.



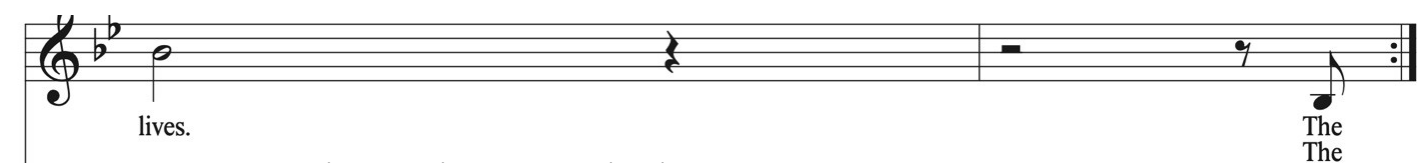
da-tion of faith and of trust we are build-ing a world that is



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

# You Sought Me

ERHALT UNS, HERR 8.8.8.8

Words by Anna Strickland, 2023

Music by Joseph Klug, 1543



My \_\_\_ bones and \_\_\_ head were bent down low  
A \_\_\_ chance en - count - ter \_\_\_ by the lake  
I \_\_\_ tried to \_\_\_ tell you, "Leave me be-  
When I be - gin to \_\_\_ doubt my worth



When you ap - proached me on your own  
I thought this must be some mis - take  
I'm not sure what you see in me."  
Re - mind me I was formed from earth



You sought me \_\_\_ out \_\_\_ and called my name  
That some - one \_\_\_ wrapped in hol - i - ness  
And yet you \_\_\_ chose my net \_\_\_ to fill  
The ve - ry \_\_\_ good cre - a - tion of



My life would nev - er be the same  
Would wil - ling - ly em - brace this mess  
With all my faults you call me still  
My God who seeks me out in love



*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 altar;  
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.

## 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:

Please continue to pray for **Ann and Tom Scates**. Ann is recovering from a mild concussion, and Tom has learned that he will need to have his gallbladder removed. Thankfully, Tom's ribs are causing less pain day by day.

**Mark (Brenda) Stursma's** stepfather, Don Derringer, passed away on February 21 in Pella, Iowa at the age of 80. He was a loving father and grandfather (to Luke and Matt) who will be greatly missed. His funeral was held on February 26 in Pella.

# Lent

## Holy Week

### **3rd Sunday of Lent: March 3**

#### **Worship, 10 a.m.**

*Wandering Heart: Praise the Mount*  
Matthew 16: 13-20 / Psalm 19

### **4th Sunday of Lent: March 10**

#### **Worship, 10 a.m.**

*Wandering Heart: I'm Fixed Upon It*  
Matthew 16: 21-23 / Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

### **5th Sunday of Lent: March 17**

#### **Worship, 10 a.m.**

*Wandering Heart: Teach Me*  
Matthew 14:22-33 / Psalm 22:23-31

### **Psalm Sunday: March 24**

#### **Worship, 10 a.m.**

*Wandering Heart: Songs of Loudest Praise*  
John 12:12-16

### **Maundy Thursday, March 28**

#### **Worship, 7 p.m.**

*Wandering Heart: Streams of Mercy*  
John 13:1-20

### **Good Friday, Worship, March 29**

#### **Worship, 7 p.m.**

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

#### **Sunrise Service, 7 AM**

#### **Worship, 9 a.m.**

#### **Brunch, 10 a.m.**

#### **Worship, 11 a.m.**

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

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### ***Poetry with the Pastor***

Feb. 26-March 25


#### **Mondays at Noon**

Book: *The Hurting Kind*, by Ada Limon



# Sharing Our Gifts

**The Box & Easter Offering recipient  
Voices for Children**



*Scan the QR code to access  
online giving for The Box and  
Easter Offering or visit  
[countrysideucc.org/give](https://countrysideucc.org/give)*

