

Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



Beseeking by Hannah Garrity, Ink on paper
Inspired by Matthew 16:21-23.
"God forbid it!" says Peter to Jesus
(Matthew 16:22).

Fourth Sunday of Lent March 10, 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:

Gentle Rain

Luiz Bonfá

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

†**GATHERING HYMN:**

#595 Be Thou My Vision

†**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rebecca Morello

One: On our worst days,

Many: God is good.

One: On our best days,

Many: God is good.

One: When life is consistent,

Many: God is good.

One: And when life turns on its head,

Many: God is good.

One: Day and night, Monday through Sunday,

Many: God is good. God is here. God is love.

One: Hold tight to that good news. Let us worship God!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, We often find ourselves moving through a world that does not make sense. Like Peter, we want to yell out, *This should not happen!* We want to control scenarios beyond our reach. We want to hold your world in our hands. Forgive us for the moments when we lead with declarations instead of curiosity. Forgive us for arguing when we could listen. Forgive us for fixating on one truth, when we could open ourselves up to many. Soften our hard edges and teach us how to listen. With hope in our hearts we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Friends, no matter how many times you have dug your heels in, no matter how many fights you have wanted to pick with God, no matter how many times you have disagreed, raged, or clung to what you know instead of embracing holy change—we worship a God of grace.

Nothing can separate us from God's love, not even a stubborn attitude or a tense heart. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel: God's love for us will always be deeper than we can imagine.

We are seen. We are loved. And we are forgiven.

Now let's follow Peter, and go be the Church in the world. 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.1)

HEARING THE WORD

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Connie Johnk-Ware, liturgist

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble
and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and
from the south.

Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction; they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress; he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction. Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

CHORAL REFLECTION:*Christ Be Our Seed*

Carl Schalk

SECOND LESSON: Matthew 16:21-23

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

MESSAGE*Setting Our Minds on the Things of God*

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

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.

MUSICAL REFLECTION:*No One Is Alone*

Stephen Sondheim

A TIME FOR COMMUNITY**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

Faithful and Generous God, we share this morning that which we are able, knowing that it is just a small portion of all that we have received. We pray that you will see these offerings used to benefit those in need, that they might be fed in body, mind, and spirit. We know that in the very act of giving, we ourselves are fed. We thank you for the opportunity to share our gifts, and we ask that you would inspire us to be ever more generous, as you are abundantly generous to us.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION:

Fix You

Chris Martin

COMMUNION

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

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:** #542 *Jesus Lover Of My Soul*

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:

Toccata on Aberswyth

Brenda Portman

OUR WORSHIP HAS CONCLUDED. NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

C4 Directed by Adam Witte

Julia Olynyk, vocals, oboe – Matt Wallace, sax

Alex Ritter, organ, piano – Carlos Figueroa, drums – Steve Gomez, bass

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:

Rita (Don) Otis's brother passed away last week. Please pray for comfort and peace for Rita.

Norm Pavey had outpatient foot surgery on Thursday, March 7. Please pray for a complete healing for him!

Mary Sutton's brother, John Sutton, passed away Saturday, March 2, in Virginia after having several difficult surgeries. Please keep Mary and her family in prayer during their time of grief.

Lent

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

Holy Week

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:

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 a.m. - Worship, 9 a.m. - Brunch, 10 a.m. - Worship, 11 a.m.

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

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



Omaha Symphonic Chorus Winter Concert

Sunday, March 10, 2 p.m.


Guest Conductor Adam Witte

The Winter Concert explores themes of darkness and light. Selections include Donatas Sakaras' *The Rain has Held Back*, Dan Forrest's *Light Beyond Shadow*, and Aaron Copland's *The Promise of Living*.


**Tickets at omahasymphonicchorus.org
Or at the door for \$25 (\$20 for seniors).**

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. da-tion of faith and of trust we are build-ing a world that is
ta-ble. Love has called you by name.



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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

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.

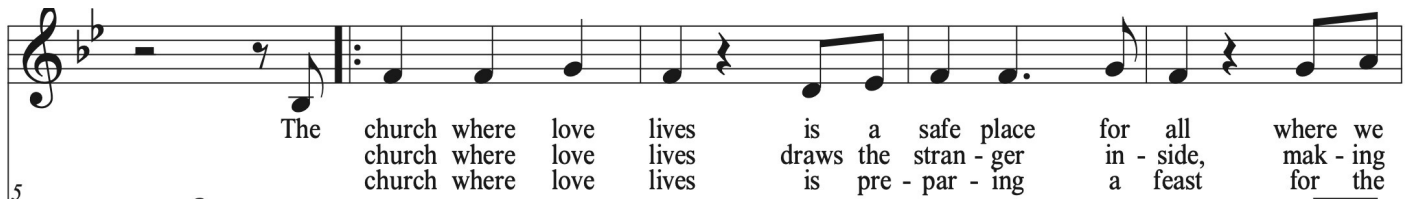
3

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.

The Church Where Love Lives

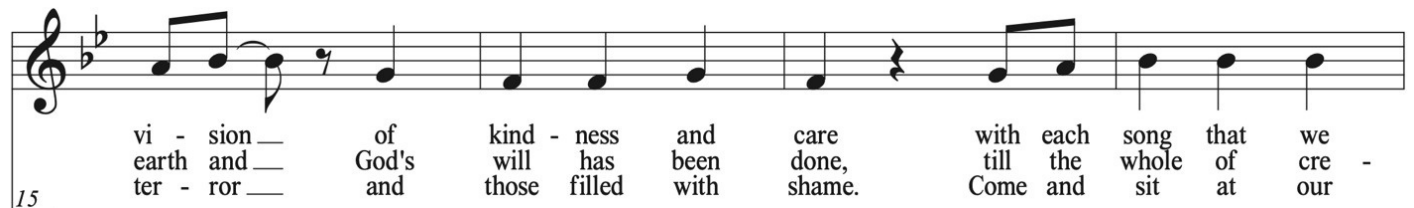
Amanda Udis-Kessler



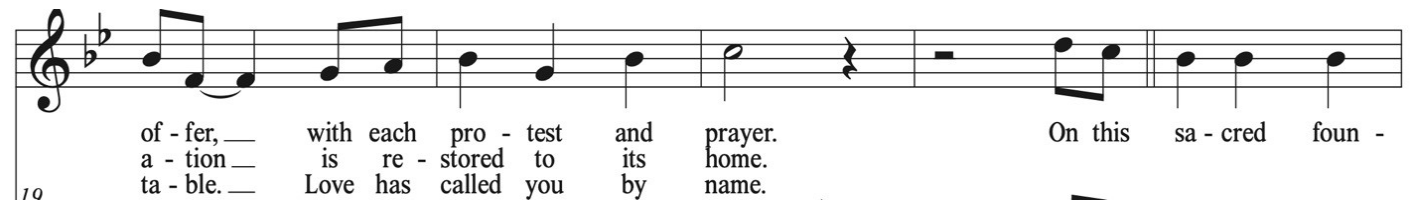
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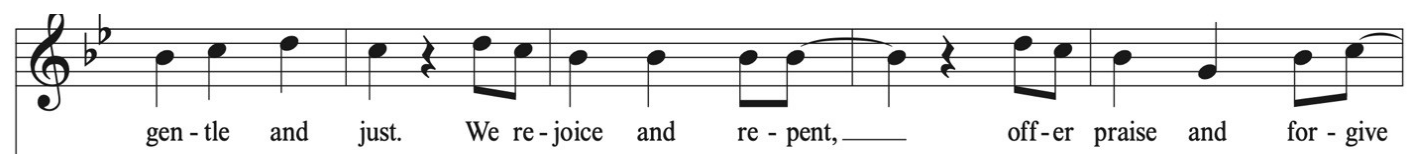
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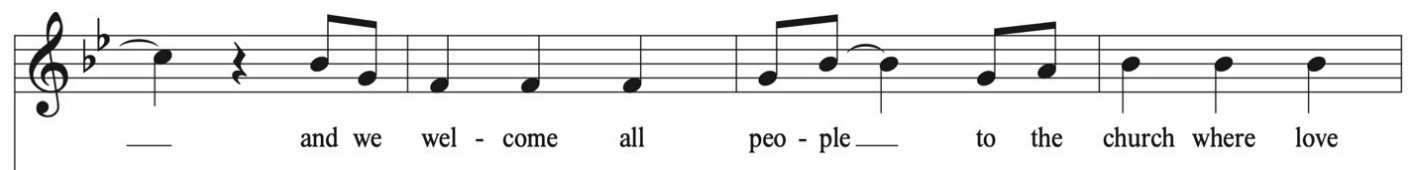
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