

Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



From the artist's statement for *Then They Remembered* by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity / sanctifiedart.org.

Palm Sunday March 24, 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

Worship will begin in the narthex with the Blessing of the Palms.
All are welcome to join the palm processional from the narthex into the sanctuary.

PRELUDE

† WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

† CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Sing songs of loudest praise!

Many: Hosanna!

One: Sing songs that are unashamed.

Many: Hosanna!

One: Sing songs without being afraid.

Many: Hosanna!

One: Sing for the God of tomorrow and today.

Many: Hosanna!

One: Let us worship the One worthy to be praised.

Many: Hosanna!

† BLESSING OF THE PALMS

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

One: HOSANNA!

Many: BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD.

One: HOSANNA! Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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BLESSING OF THE PALMS

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We give you thanks, almighty and eternal God, for sending JESUS to redeem the world through acts of love and compassion. When he entered Jerusalem Jesus was hailed as king by those who raised their palm branches and spread coats on his path, but instead of rising to their praise, Jesus resisted royalty and rode in atop the back of a donkey instead. His model of servanthood demonstrates for us today the true victory for which we sing, Hosanna!

We carry these branches as signs of Jesus' ultimate triumph: that love wins, even in the face of death. Let his victory remain with us, even as we take up our crosses and follow him, that we may die and rise with him, and finally enter God's holy reign; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

†**PROCESSION OF PALMS** *All Glory, Laud and Honor*

†**CALL TO CONFESSION**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Holy God, we want to run into the streets and sing your praise! We want to be bold and unashamed of this good-news Gospel. However, too often we find ourselves standing against the wall.

Many: Too often we stay quiet.

One: Too often we let others carry the song. Forgive us for the moments when we could lead the parade but instead find ourselves standing on the sidelines.

Many: Show us which songs are ours to sing. Show us which parades are ours to lead, and then give us the courage and conviction to do both. With hope and honesty, we pray, amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Friends, no matter where you are on the parade route—whether you are waving palm branches through the streets or standing against the wall, quiet and cautious—Jesus marched for you. Jesus' love, his striving for justice and mercy, it was for you. You are included in this story and nothing can ever change that.

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So hear these words and trust them deep in your bones: We have reason to sing, for Jesus Christ loved you yesterday. Jesus Christ loves you today. And Jesus Christ will love you tomorrow. You are forgiven, claimed, and sent to serve. Go out and sing. Go out trusting these words. Amen.

† **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: The Peace of God be With You

Many: And also with you.

† **HYMN OF RESPONSE:** *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

HEARING THE WORD

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rebecca Morello

(All children are invited to come forward for a special lesson at the chancel)

FIRST LESSON: Zechariah 9:9-13.

Reader: Glenn Phillips

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
Today I declare that I will restore to you double.
For I have bent Judah as my bow;
I have made Ephraim its arrow.
I will arouse your sons, O Zion,
against your sons, O Greece,
and wield you like a warrior's sword.

MUSICAL OFFERING:

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

arr. Douglas Wagner

SECOND LESSON: Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

"Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

One: Words of hope for a hopeful people

Many: Thanks be to God

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**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 (UNISON)

God, who calls us to faithfulness even when the road ahead is paved with silence and grief, we come to you with thanksgiving and praise. You have given freely, blessing the meek; shepherding the outcast; and adopting the stranger. Receive now our gratitude in the form of our earthly riches and spiritual commitments. Like a little boy's lunch, God of new beginnings, multiply what we offer here, so that your love will extend out "there." Amen.

CHORAL REFLECTION:*Shouts of Hosanna*

John Purifoy

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

Please prepare to partake of the Eucharist in your seats. The communion kits include whole wheat bread and non-alcoholic grape juice. (Gluten free is available.) Raise your hand if you need assistance with your communion elements and an usher will assist you. Communion cups may be discarded in the baskets as you leave the sanctuary.

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

CHORAL REFLECTION

Solus ad Victima

Kenneth Leighton

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.

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All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

- 1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
- 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
- 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

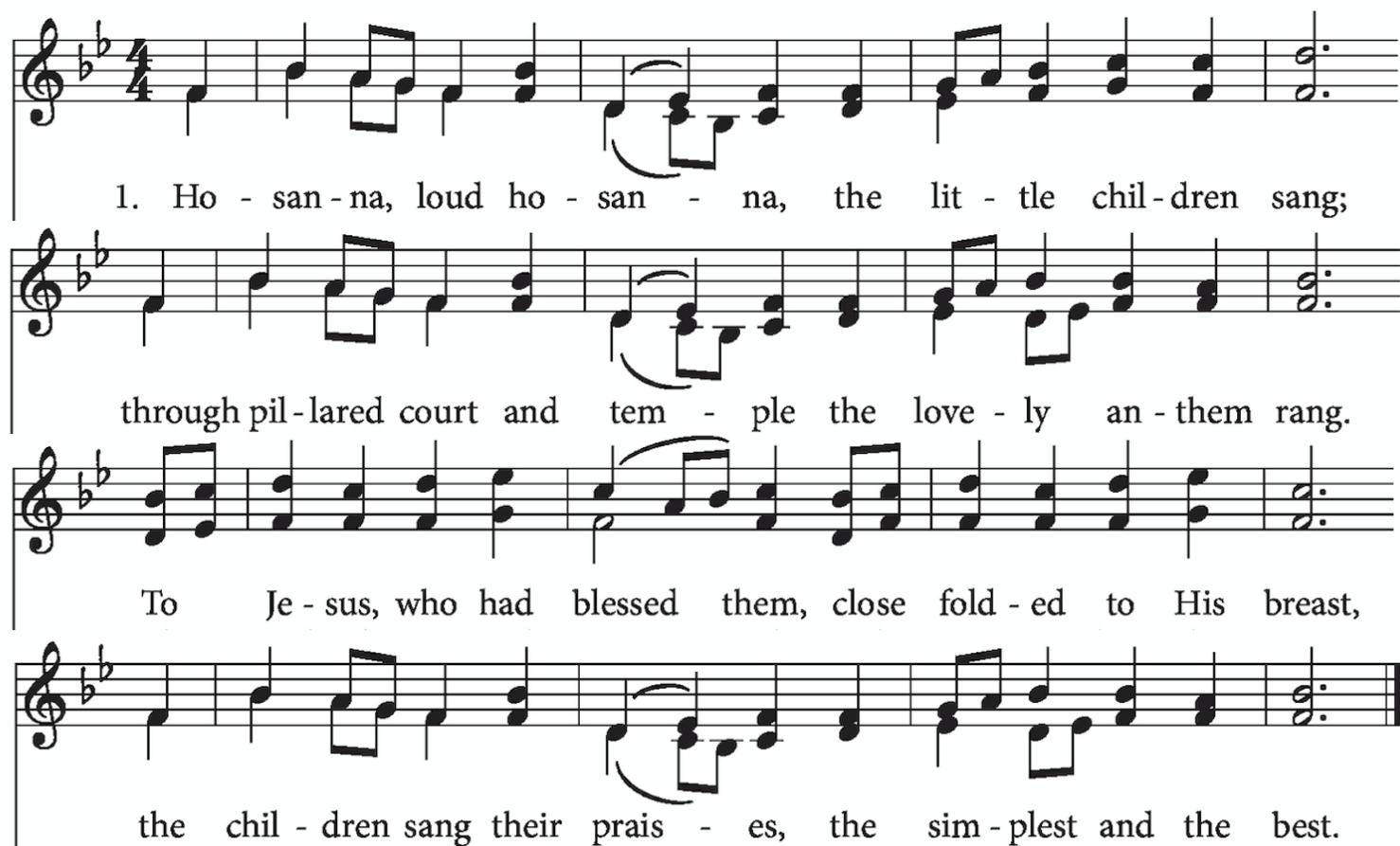
Refrain

now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
 cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
 our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
 To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Jennette Threlfall, 1873

ELLACOMBE
76 76 D

Vollständige-Sammlung, 1827



1. Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang.
 To Je - sus, who had blessed them, close fold - ed to His breast,
 the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.

Music notes:

All Glory Laud and Honor is the quintessential Palm Sunday hymn, dating back to the ninth century, with text that follows Christ's entry into Jerusalem. It includes a reference to children that doesn't exist in the story, but comes later in the same chapter of Matthew (21) where Christ goes to the temple:

Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. "It is written," he said to them, "My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers." The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant.

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“Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked him. “Yes,” replied Jesus, “have you never read, “From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise’?”

Solus ad Victimam translates to “the only victim.” This anthem is a poignant and powerful setting that depicts Christ’s journey to the cross to die alone while foreshadowing Easter and the Resurrection. Both the choir and the accompaniment engage in musical text painting – most notably the organ conveying laughter at the end of the piece as the choir sings “heavy with weeping may the three days pass, to win the laughter of thine Easter Day.” It has a history of been banned by committees in some traditional church settings –

not because they want to avoid the concept of penal substitutionary atonement in the text, but because the anthem is dissonant and modern. One choirmaster in Scotland facing a ban as recently as 2019 wrote in response:

“‘Solus,’ with Helen Wadell’s excellent translation of a text by twelfth-century Peter Abelard, is a fine work too, with art AND craft displayed in almost every bar, from the slow, relentless tread of its introduction (“Alone to sacrifice Thou goest, Lord”) to the brilliant blaze of E major at the end. On Passion Sunday, we think of Christ’s inexorable journey to death – His being nailed to a cross, and left for 9 hours to die of shock, loss of blood and dehydration under the relentless glare of the Palestinian sun. Not nice. And the music of ‘Solus ad victimam’ reflects that. The Christian faith, surely, is not just a matter of ‘comfort,’ but is something too to challenge us, make us (sometimes) UN-comfortable, make us think; and if, on Passion Sunday, a ‘gritty’ anthem helps us do that then all well and good, and the music will have served its purpose very well.”

Jeanette Threlfall (1821-1880) wrote *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*, depicting the story of children in the Temple shouting Hosanna, and serving as a reminder that Christ welcomed and blessed children throughout his ministry. Threlfall was disabled due to two accidents, the last of which left her confined to her bed. She lived a long life despite her medical challenges, and had a vast output of poetry and hymns. This hymn centers children in the context of ministry, and reflects Threlfall’s contextualization of a number of Matthew texts leading up to the passion that remind us of the importance of children in our shared ministry.

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:

Sheila Hargreaves' daughter, Christa Graffius, passed away on Wednesday, March 20, after being treated for a brain tumor and subsequent strokes. Please keep Sheila and Christa's family in your prayers during this time of grief.

Linda Lovgren shares that her husband, Bob, is now living at the memory care home CountryHouse Residence at 5030 S 155th Street. Please keep them both in prayer and especially pray for Bob to adjust to this new home and to find new joys in life.

C4 and Countryside Ringers - Adam Witte, director
Alex Ritter, organ, piano

Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by Leslie and David Day
in memory of Leslie's mom, Suzanne Levine and David's mom, Betty Day.

Poetry with the Pastor

Through March 25

Mondays at Noon

Book: *The Hurting Kind*, by Ada Limon

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday March 28, 2024

Worship, 7 p.m.

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



Golden Hour | Rev. Nicolette Penaranda | 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



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

Easter Sunday March 31, 2024

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

Sunrise Service, 7 a.m.

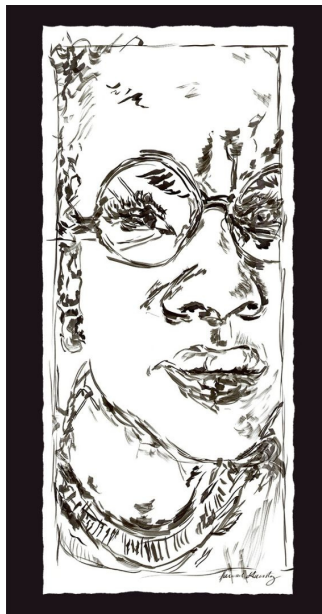
Worship, 9 a.m.

Brunch, 10 a.m.

Worship, 11 a.m.



Scan the QR code to
register for brunch!



Where? | Hannah Garrity | sanctifiedart.org

**Register for Events at
[Countrysideucc.org/register](https://countrysideucc.org/register)**



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



**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

