

Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



Lilacs in a Window, Marie Cassat, 1892

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 12, 2024

Order of Worship Sunday May 12, 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

Beautiful Love

Victor Young

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

†GATHERING SONG

Hymn #14 (vs. 1-3) *Womb of Life, and Source of Being*

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Rebecca Morello

One: When we are confused

Many: Lord, give us peace.

One: When we are afraid

Many: Lord, give us peace.

One: When we are lost in grief

Many: Lord, give us peace.

All: O God, meet us in this room

And grant us peace!

†PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of God be With You

Many: And also with you.

†HYMN OF RESPONSE

All Are Welcome (vs. 2)

Hearing the Word

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 1

Reader: Diane Hill

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on God's law they meditate day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

†HYMN

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

SECOND LESSON: John 17:6-23

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

“And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.

“Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

MESSAGE

Jesus Prays for Us

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.

A TIME FOR COMMUNITY

SHARING OUR GIFTS

The Social Justice and Outreach Board has designated Court Appointed Special Advocates for Douglas County, or CASA, as the recipient of the May Box donations.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

God of the Resurrection, help us use these gifts to offer hope where there is sorrow, peace where there is chaos and love where there is fear. We can do incredible things because your Spirit lives within us. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

In Your Own Sweet Way

Dave Brubeck

SERVICE OF 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

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 HYMN

We Reclaim the Name of Jesus

†BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

There Will Never Be Another You

Warren / Gordon

Matt Wallace, sax - Rick Avard, piano
Alex - Ritter, organ - Steve Gomez, bass

Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by Cathy and Rick MacInnes
in memory of their mothers Ruth MacInnes and Janice Eicher.

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

Music Notes

Womb of Life and Source of Being was written by Ruth C. Duck, a notable hymn writer with a controversial but effective style regarding gendered language. According to hymn scholar Simon Hill, "When it comes to handling sexist or exclusive language, Duck does not believe that the issue should be solved by eliminating all gender and placing a ban on gendered images. Instead, Duck advocates for the presence of both masculine and feminine imagery and language, creating a space for both traditional wording as well as new wording. She proves that the two perspectives can exist side by side. After all, the Scriptures are filled with metaphors that cover an array of images. Duck sees this as a call for Christians to thoughtfully develop and sing of new metaphors ... To read the complete Music Notes, scan the QR code >



Cover Art Notes

Marie Cassatt's 1892 painting, *Lilacs in a Window*, captures the essence of the Easter season with its delicate portrayal of nature's renewal. Set against a backdrop of soft, diffused light filtering through a window, the painting depicts a lush bouquet of lilacs in full bloom, their vibrant hues symbolizing the spirit of resurrection and new life. Cassatt's meticulous attention to detail in rendering the intricate petals and verdant foliage evokes a sense of quiet reverence, inviting us to contemplate the beauty and wonder of the natural world during this time of spiritual reflection and renewal.

Sanctuary Art Notes

It's All About Love Tapestry by Anne Gifford. Artist's statement: "We are all in it together: all ethnicities, all creeds and beliefs, the young and the old, all over the world and throughout time. I pieced together small squares of faces, hair, skin colors: family, friends, strangers, the famous and the unknown, to create this painting that is meant to encompass the entirety of humanity. The current pandemic touches each and every one of us without discrimination. So does the love of God."

The Box for May

CASA partners with child-serving agencies to distribute Project Hope Packs, backpacks with personal care & comfort items, to traumatized children entering foster care or being moved between placements. Scan the QR code for their Wishlist



Join us for

Coffee with the Pastor

Sunday, May 19

Every third
Sunday after
the service



Pentecost Pancake Breakfast

You're invited!

Pancake Breakfast on Sunday,
May 19, 8-9:30 a.m. in Marys' Hall.

Scan the QR code
to register!



Pancakes, eggs,
sausage, pastries and
juice!



Sharing our Gifts

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



COUNTRYSIDEUCC.ORG/GIVE

