

Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



The Gifts of Pentecost, Countryside Intergenerational Artists, 2023

PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 19, 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 SONG Hymn #582 (vs.1, 3) *Come Down, O Love Divine*

†CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

One: Divine Teacher, whirl around us with your wisdom,

Many: Divine Comforter, encircle us with the peace that comes only from you.

One: As the Holy Winds fill our lives with dreams, empower us to live God's hope in this world.

Many: As the Holy Fire fills our hearts with visions, empower us to create a world of justice and peace.

One: May the Divine Gales of this day move us to know the love of God.

Many: Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

Liturgical Interpretation

Acts 2

Judy Waible & Team

†PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of God be With You

Many: And also with you.

†HYMN OF RESPONSE

Come To Us, Creative Spirit

Hearing the Word

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Rebecca Morello

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

FIRST LESSON: Romans 8:22-27

Reader: Trish Hoffman-Ahrens

We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

CHORAL REFLECTION

Like A Mighty Wind

Karen Marroli

SECOND LESSON: Acts 2:1-21

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?"

Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

‘In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit,
and they shall prophesy.

And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.

Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

MESSAGE

Too Deep for Words

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

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

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)

Spirit of Love, giver of every good and perfect gift, receive now our gifts and use them to further the beauty of your people, united for justice, compelled by love. Amen.

COMMUNION MUSIC & MOVEMENT

One Bread, One Body

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Invitation to the Table

One: Come to this table

Where bread and cup are transformed by the Spirit of God
Into a meal of love and grace.

Many: **A supper of visions and dreams**

A table where all souls are welcome

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.

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

#257 *There's a Spirit in the Air*

†BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE**

Every Time I Feel The Spirit

Iain Farrington

C4 and Countryside Ringers - Adam Witte, director
 Emily Wadhams, vocals - Dr. Christine Beard, flute
 Lisa Nielsen, violin - Shannon Merciel, cello
 Alex Ritter, organ and piano

Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by Deb and John McCollister.

"Happy Pentecost to our Countryside family as we trek east to our new home.

Love you all!"

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

Please join in praying for the following new and ongoing concerns:

Christy Kleffman requests prayers for her son Charlie Kleffman, who is 18 and will be having spinal surgery on May 23. As the surgery comes closer, they are becoming more nervous. Please pray for a successful surgery, for the wisdom of the doctors and for a good recovery.

Come to Us, Creative Spirit



1. Come to us, cre - a - tive Spir - it; In this ho - ly
2. Po - et, paint - er, mu - sic - mak - er, All your treas - ures
3. Word from God, e - ter - nal spring - ing, Fill our minds, we



house Ev - 'ry hu - man tal - ent hal - low,
bring; Crafts - man, ac - tor, grace - ful danc - er,
pray; And in all ar - tis - tic vi - sion



Hid - den skills a - rouse That, with - in your earth - ly
Make your of - fer - ing. Join your hands in cel - e -
Give in - teg - ri - ty. May the flame with - in us



tem - ple, Wise and sim - ple May re - joice.
bra - tion; Let cre - a - tion Shout and sing!
burn - ing Kin - dle yearn - ing Day by day.

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Music Notes

Come Down, O Love Divine was written by a 14th-century Italian mystic named Bianca of Sienna. As with many hymns, the Irish retranslated it, and the English (Ralph Vaughan Williams) set it to music, and it immediately became popular. Like many of the hymns translated by Irish and British poets in the 19th century, the language has staying power even in our 21st-century lives. The final verse is a commitment to love, an exhortation to create a place where the Spirit makes a dwelling.


(continued on the back)

Orange Dawn was written by Australian composer Ian Clarke in 1992. From the composer: "I had recently co-written some tracks based on East Africa for use on Wildlife programmes using bamboo flute and concert flute (amongst other things) using some of the bright-tone and bamboo-tone fingerings... We had been given a brief about the East African rift valley and encouraged to sound non-western. This led to the exploration of different colours."

"The piece was originally inspired by the vision of a dawn scene in the Great Rift Valley of East Africa. Awakening exotic animal life was envisaged silhouetted against a dramatic rising sun. In the opening and closing sections alternative fingerings [extended techniques for the instrument] are used to help create a mysterious earthy quality to the sound."

Cover Art Notes

The Gifts of Pentecost art installation is a series of acrylic-on-canvas paintings created by Countryside members and their families in 2023. It was sponsored by the previous Board of Arts Ministries and planned in conjunction with the Wednesday night Youth Programming. This was the first Intergenerational Art Project to be completed in our new building. The goal of this project was to promote fellowship between the adults and youth within our congregation through the creation of meaningful art for the Pentecost season. Countryside youth and adults worked together to creating the individual pieces that combine to make a cohesive single piece of art. The smaller canvases, painted freehand by 4- to 7-year-olds, each depict a gift given by the Holy Spirit to the believers of Jesus. The medium-sized pieces, created by youths in second through fourth grades and several adults, depict believers receiving gifts of the Holy Spirit through tongues of fire. The fire was also painted freehand. Adults created the three largest canvases to give the illusion of the fire. The dove was hand painted by a single individual.



Sharing our Gifts

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



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