

# Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



*Swirling Diversity*, virtual graphic, Countryside creative collaboration  
with DALL-E 3 AI, May 20, 2024

## May 26, 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 #4 *Holy, Holy, Holy*

### †CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

Voice of God, you speak to us in so many ways - giving us strength.

**We come, to worship our God and to listen to God's messages of hope.**

Voice of God, you speak to us in so many ways - giving us your peace.

**We come, to worship our God and to learn of God's messages of grace.**

Voice of God, you speak to us in so many ways – and we respond in worship, singing praise to your name, with joy and gratitude.

**We come, to worship our God, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, three in one, holy, holy, holy. Speak to us that we might hear your voice.**

**Amen.**

### †PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of God be With You

**Many: And also with you.**

### †HYMN OF RESPONSE

*Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*

For the hymn *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*, you are invited to sing on the chorus, and Julia will sing the verses.

# Hearing the Word

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rebecca Morello

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

## FIRST LESSON: Psalm 8

Reader: Nancy Behringer

O Lord, our Sovereign,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
You have set your glory above the heavens.  
Out of the mouths of babes and infants  
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,  
to silence the enemy and the avenger.  
When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars that you have established;  
what are humans that you are mindful of them,  
mortals that you care for them?  
Yet you have made them a little lower than God  
and crowned them with glory and honor.  
You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;  
you have put all things under their feet,  
all sheep and oxen,  
and also the beasts of the field,  
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,  
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.  
O Lord, our Sovereign,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

## MUSICAL REFLECTION

*My Lord What a Morning*

## **SECOND LESSON: Matthew 28:16-20**

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

### **MESSAGE**

*Coded Words for the Knowing*

### **MUSICAL REFLECTION**

*Talking 'Bout a Revolution*

Tracy Chapman

## *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)**

**With loving hearts, let us bring our offerings to God. Holy God, your love overflows in the gift of your Spirit. Bless these gifts that we offer that they may spread your blessing in a world of hurt and need; in Christ's name. Amen.**

**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**

**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**

*#592 Every Time I Feel The Spirit*

**†BENEDICTION****POSTLUDE**

*Every Time I Feel The Spirit*

Iain Farrington

Julia Olynyk, vocals - Mat Wallace, sax - Rick Avard, piano  
Alex Ritter, organ - Carlos Figueroa, drums - Steve Gomez, bass

# Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness



Spir - it, Spir-it of gen - tle-ness, blow through the wil - der-ness,



call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,



stir me from plac - id-ness, wind, wind on the sea.

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## Music Notes

The hymn *Spirit of Gentleness* is one of the most compelling contemporary hymn texts on the subject of the Holy Spirit, with modern, captivating allusions derived from scripture. Brian Wren, whose hymns we have sung at Countryside writes: "what a superb text it is. 'Coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep', 'with a law and a land', 'stung with the sand', 'from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams' and many more, are stunning lines of simplicity and depth."

# Art Notes

Pentecost is a celebration of inspiration, transformation and the infusion of divine presence into the human experience. In creating a piece of art for this bulletin, we chose to collaborate with artificial intelligence (AI), hoping this modern tool could mirror the themes central to Pentecost.

AI represents a convergence of human creativity and advanced technology. By utilizing AI to generate art, we're exploring the interplay between human input and machine learning. Does that echo the divine-human interaction celebrated during Pentecost? At the least, it allowed us to transcend traditional artistic boundaries and delve into new realms of creativity and expression.

The AI acts as a contemporary conduit for inspiration. We asked it to create a vibrant, flowing work of art that celebrates the Pentecost season, using red, yellow, orange and complimentary colors. We also asked it to express the concepts of renewal, transformation and change. It interpreted our prompts and instructions and created a work that blended our artistic vision with its algorithmic creativity. What do you think of the AI's work?

Can this collaboration can be seen as a metaphor for the way the Holy Spirit works through individuals, inspiring and transforming their actions and thoughts? Does using AI in creating the cover art could reflect the ongoing dialogue between tradition and innovation within the church and broader society? Can AI-generated art speak a universal visual language, accessible and resonant with a global audience, just as the apostles spoke in diverse tongues, reaching a multitude of cultures?

Using AI to create art for the Pentecost season was a deliberate choice to celebrate the themes of inspiration, transformation and universal communication. Does it honor the tradition of Pentecost? Does it embrace the innovative spirit of our times and create a bridge between the sacred and the contemporary?

# 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

## Joys

We celebrate with our students, teachers, and other school employees who have successfully concluded another school year! May your summer be full of fun and rejuvenation!

## Concerns

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

**Christy Kleffman's** 18-year-old son Charlie had spinal surgery on May 23. Please pray for Charlie's healing and recovery and for their family to have all the support and care they need.

**Marion Norman's** daughter, Beth Stenger, has been receiving treatment for cancer and this week was admitted to CHI Bergen Mercy Hospital. Beth is not doing well, and Marion requests prayers for strength. Please also keep Marion in your prayers as she supports and advocates for her daughter.

**Sharon (Rick) Royers's** sister's husband has been diagnosed with esophageal cancer. They had been waiting since last Friday for biopsy results, and are distressed to receive this news. This is the same sister whose son has a brain tumor. Please keep Sharon's sister, her husband and their family. and Sharon and Rick, in your prayers.



## Sharing our Gifts

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