

Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



Graphic art by F. Barton Davis

June 16, 2024

Order of Worship Sunday, June 16, 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)

THE COMMEMORATION OF JUNETEENTH

“Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world. Now I've been free, I know what a dreadful condition slavery is. I have seen hundreds of escaped slaves, but I never saw one who was willing to go back and be a slave.” ~ Harriet Tubman

Gathering

PRELUDE *Summerland* William Grant Still

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

†GATHERING SONG Hymn #442 *We Are Marching In the Light of God*

WORDS OF COMMEMORATION Sharon Royers & Kayla Johnson
Racial Justice Team

CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER OF INVOCATION Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

One: Come, beloved of God,

Gather in this place where justice and freedom meet!

Come, you who are broken-hearted and you who are bold:

Gather in this place of courage, forgiveness and grace.

**Many: Here love is poured out in abundance,
here tears and hope are mingled together.**

On: Here God's people find healing in the work of liberation,
and strength in stories of justice.

**Many: Come, let us set our minds on freedom,
as we turn our hearts to God in worship**

PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of God be With You

Many: And also with you.

HYMN OF RESPONSE

All Are Welcome vs. 1

Hearing the Word

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Rebecca Morello

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

FIRST LESSON: Mark 4:26-34

Reader: Natalie Mason

He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle because the harvest has come."

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Fanmi Imen

Valerie Coleman

SECOND LESSON (Video):

I Am Human

Reflections by Maya Angelou

MESSAGE

Praying With Our Legs

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Responding to the Word

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas - Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

One: As we enter this Juneteenth holiday celebration, we offer prayers for ourselves and the world...

That those entrusted with authority in our nation may support the changes needed in order to exercise leadership and promote healing in an authentic, responsible, and peaceful manner, we pray . . .

Many: May we accept the call to be bearers of peace.

One: That the fullness of justice and compassion may be extended to the victims and families who have been subjected to violence, abuse, discrimination, murder, or the threat of, we pray . . .

Many: May we accept the call to be bearers of peace.

One: That our nation and communities find ways to actively participate in efforts to eliminate violence, especially violence against black and brown people, so that this country may take the lead in fostering conditions for healing racial division, we pray. . .

Many: May we accept the call to be bearers of peace

One: That we will challenge our elected leaders and those who make decisions around education to offer the fullness of our American history, that all may know the challenges and struggles, as well as the gifts and offerings of African-Americans...

Many: May we accept the call to be bearers of peace.

One: That all who gather this week to remember Juneteenth be able to freely, peaceably, and in celebration with us, remember together, we pray . . .

Many: May we accept the call to be bearers of peace.

One: That we be courageous in living out the Gospel, we pray . . .

Many: May we accept the call to be bearers of peace

THE LORD'S PRAYER: MAORI & POLYNESIA

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trial too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.**

A TIME FOR COMMUNITY

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

SHARING OUR GIFTS

The Social Justice and Outreach Board has chosen I Be Black Girl as the recipient of our June Box donations.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

**Holy God, magnificent, sustaining farmer of the future, receive these gifts, we pray.
Through our offering, help us know in some surprising way that you are bringing into being
something wonderful and new. Amen.**

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

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

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.

COMMUNION MEDITATION

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

Come to Tend God's Garden

†BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata on "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Mark Miller

Dr. Christine Beard, flute - Alex Ritter, organ and piano

Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by David and Amy Worth, "In memory of our fathers."

Don Worth - a mentor to many, a friend to all

Jim Puckett - who grew the most beautiful flowers

Art Notes

F. Barton Davis is a preacher & missionary who served for 37 years in such divergent places as College Park Maryland, Tallahassee Fl, New York NY, Atlanta, Ga, Harare Zimbabwe, Nairobi Kenya, and Birmingham Al.

Human Family Maya Angelou

I note the obvious differences
in the human family.
Some of us are serious,
some thrive on comedy.

Mirror twins are different
although their features jibe,
and lovers think quite different thoughts
while lying side by side.

Some declare their lives are lived
as true profundity,
and others claim they really live
the real reality.

We love and lose in China,
we weep on England's moors,
and laugh and moan in Guinea,
and thrive on Spanish shores.

The variety of our skin tones
can confuse, bemuse, delight,
brown and pink and beige and purple,
tan and blue and white.

We seek success in Finland,
are born and die in Maine.
In minor ways we differ,
in major we're the same.

I've sailed upon the seven seas
and stopped in every land,
I've seen the wonders of the world
not yet one common man.

I note the obvious differences
between each sort and type,
but we are more alike, my friends,
than we are unlike.

I know ten thousand women
called Jane and Mary Jane,
but I've not seen any two
who really were the same.

We are more alike, my friends,
than we are unlike.

We are more alike, my friends,
than we are unlike.

Music Notes

Valerie Coleman is an African-American flutist and composer, and I'd argue one of the foremost modern American composers. Highlighted as one of the Top 35 Women Composers by The Washington Post, she was named Performance Today's 2020 Classical Woman of the Year, an honor bestowed to an individual who has made a significant contribution to classical music as a performer, composer or educator. I strongly encourage you to check out her work.

From the composer:

"The title, *Fanmi Imen*, is Haitian Creole for Maya Angelou's famous work, *Human Family*. Both the musical and literary poems acknowledge differences within mankind, either due to ethnicity background, or geography, but Angelou's poetic refrain:

"We are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike," reaffirms our humanity as a reminder of unity. Within the flute and piano parts are motifs representing cultural differences, that come together to form a tapestry, united through tempi, and quasi cadenza-like transitions. The work begins and ends with a patriotic American feel, to symbolize and recognize the contributions immigrants have made towards the building of a nation as a whole. The work includes harmonies and thematic material that represent French flute music blending with an underlying pentatonicism found in Asian traditions, a caravan through Middle Eastern parts of the world that merge with Flamenco music within the Quasi-Cadenza, and an upbeat journey southward into Africa with the sounds of Kalimba (thumb piano). Here, the flute imitates the thumb piano as it playfully taps out a tune that spells out a morse code message of U-N-I-T-Y within the rhythm. The many twists and turns come together to create a sound that symbolizes a beautifully diverse human race."

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 sahrj@countrysideucc.org

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

Please continue to pray for **Marion Norman's** daughter, Beth, who is now home from the hospital but is still quite weak. Marion requests prayers for strength for Beth and let us keep Marion in our prayers as she provides care and support to her.

Please pray for Katie, a patron of the Countryside Food Pantry for many years. She is asking for prayer for her son Anthony who is in foster care. He has been in foster care with one family and is now being moved to another family, and Katie is praying that he can stay with the original family instead. Please lift up prayers for Katie, her son, and this entire situation.

Sharing our Gifts

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



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