

Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



Transfiguration, Jan Richardson

March 2, 2025

† 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

COMMUNITY TIME (9:55)

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

PRELUDE

Equinox

John Coltrane

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

†GATHERING SONG

Hymn #4 *Holy, Holy, Holy* (vs. 1)

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

One: Today, we gather to witness the light breaking forth among us—transfiguring the ordinary, revealing the sacred, and calling us to see anew.

Many: God, open our eyes to the beauty that surrounds us, the love that shines through us, and the hope that sustains us.

One: Let your light blind us with truth.

Many: Let your light shine through us in love.

All: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it!

†HYMN OF RESPONSE

Hymn #284 *Gather Us In*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT & DISCOVERY KIDS

Children are invited to join Heather for a lesson at the chancel and then head to Discovery Kids classes. Nursery is available for children 0-4 years.

Hearing the Word

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 99

Reader: Molly Anderson

The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble!

He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

The Lord is great in Zion;

he is exalted over all the peoples.

Let them praise your great and awesome name.

Holy is he!

Mighty King, lover of justice,

you have established equity;

you have executed justice

and righteousness in Jacob.

Extol the Lord our God;

worship at his footstool.

Holy is he!

Moses and Aaron were among his priests,

Samuel also was among those who called on his name.

They cried to the Lord, and he answered them.

He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;

they kept his decrees

and the statutes that he gave them.

O Lord our God, you answered them;

you were a forgiving God to them

but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

Extol the Lord our God,

and worship at his holy mountain,

for the Lord our God is holy.

SECOND LESSON: Mark 9:2-9

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling bright, such as no one on earth could brighten them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

MESSAGE*Blinded by the Light: The Call to See and Be Seen**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.

MUSICAL REFLECTION*Improvisation***SHARING OUR GIFTS**

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

The Social Justice and Outreach Board has designated Restoring Dignity for the March Box donations.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Loving God, we offer these gifts as a reflection of your abundant love and our commitment to be vessels of your peace and justice in the world. Bless them to further your work of transformation and grace in our community and beyond. 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

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

Look To The Sky

Antônio Carlos Jobim

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

Hymn #442 *We Are Walking In The Light Of God*

†COUNTRYSIDE BLESSING

Molly Anderson

POSTLUDE

You Are the Sunshine of My Life

Stevie Wonder

C4 Choir - Adam Witte, director

Matt Wallace, saxophone - Alex Ritter, organ and piano

Carlos Figueroa, drums - Steve Gomez, bass

Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by Jodie Nichols
in honor of her family's March birthdays:
Tom, Barb, Mike, Angela, Eloise, Steph and Scott.

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 be included 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:

Please keep **Doug Bloomquist**, our Building & Property Coordinator, and his family, in your prayers. His mother, Delores Bloomquist, died on February 23 at the age of 96.

Please continue to pray for the family of Alice Ramos, a young girl who recently passed away, whose family is friends with **Marcia Blum's** son. The family is deeply grieving and our prayers for their comfort would be welcome.

Mark (Roxanne) Draper had surgery for a total hip replacement last Tuesday. Please keep him in your prayers as he heals.

Please keep **Dan (Mike) Loven-Crum** in your prayers, as Dan's mother, Verona Loven, was admitted to the hospital this week with COVID and is very weak. Please pray for Dan and his siblings as they attend to their mother and make decisions about her care.

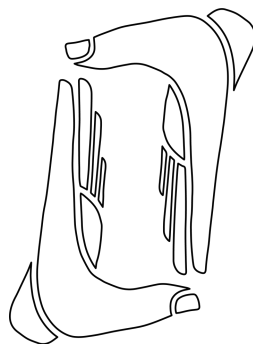
Book Study

Discover Awe This Lent: Four Mondays at 12 p.m.: March 10, 24, 31 and April 7 (zoom optional available).

Join us this Lenten season for a transformative book study on *Awe: The New Science of Everyday Wonder and How It Can Transform Your Life* by Dacher Keltner. Together, we'll explore how the experience of awe connects us to God, deepens our relationships, and reveals the sacred in our everyday lives.

Through thought-provoking discussions and reflective practices, we'll journey through themes of wonder, compassion and the sacred mysteries of life, all while grounding our exploration in the hope of Lent. Come with an open heart and leave inspired to see the world—and your faith—in a whole new way. All are welcome!

Dacher Keltner is a professor of psychology at the University of California, Berkeley, and the faculty director of UC Berkely's Greater Good Science Center. A renowned expert in the science of human emotion, Dr. Keltner studies compassion and awe, how we express emotion, and how emotions guide our moral identities and search for meaning.





Lenten Season

Wednesday, March 5, Ash Wednesday

- Ashes-to-Go drive-through, 12 p.m.
- Ash Wednesday Service & Imposition of Ashes, 7 p.m.
- Labyrinth Prayer Walk opens through Thursday, April 17.
- Art Walk opens through Thursday, April 17.
- Poetry Journey begins, through Sunday, April 20.

Sundays, March 9 through April 13

- Contemplative Lenten Taizé Worship, 8:30 a.m.
- Traditional, Jazz and Communion Worship, 10 a.m.

Mondays, March 10, 24, 31 & April 7

- Discover Awe Book Study, 12 p.m.

Holy Week

Sunday, April 13, Palm Sunday

- Procession, 9:45 a.m.
- Service, 10 a.m.

Thursday, April 17, Maundy Thursday

- *Living Last Supper*, 7 p.m.

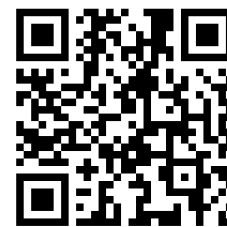
Friday, April 18 - Good Friday

- *Tenebrae* Service, 7 p.m.

Easter

Sunday, April 20 - Easter Sunday

- Sunrise Service, 7 a.m.
- Worship Service, 9 a.m.
- Easter Brunch & Egg Hunt, 10-11 a.m.
- Worship Service, 11 a.m.



Scan the QR code or visit countrysideucc.org/lent for the complete Lenten and Easter Guide

