

# Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



*Fill My Cup*, by Steve Prince / [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

Easter Sunday  
9 and 11 a.m.  
April 20, 2025

# Order of Worship

Sunday, April 20, 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

**PRELUDE** *Toccata* Joseph Jongen

**†WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP** Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Many: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

One: We are afflicted in every way—

**Many: But not crushed.**

One: Struck down—

**Many: But not destroyed.**

One: For we are persuaded that neither death, nor life,

**Many: Nor angels, nor principalities,**

One: Nor things present, nor things to come,

**Many: Nor powers, nor height, nor depth,**

One: Nor anything else in all creation...

**Many: Can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Savior.**

One: For we are Easter people, and today, we rise!

**Many: We are Easter people, and today, we rise!**

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Many: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**EASTER INTROIT** *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty (He Is Risen! He Is Risen!)* arr. Cathy Moglebust  
Countryside Ringers

**†PASSING OF THE PEACE** Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

One: The Peace of God be With You

**Many: And also with you.**

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

All children are invited to join Heather up front at the Chancel for a special Easter lesson. Following the lesson, children will return to the pews to sit with their families. The nursery is available for children infant-4 years.

### Sung Response

*Go now in peace, go now in peace,  
may the love of God surround you  
everywhere, everywhere  
you may go.*

## Hearing the Word

### LESSON: Psalm 118

Readers: (9 a.m.) Maggie Jones / (11 a.m.) Nancy Cohen

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Let the house of Aaron say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Let those who fear the Lord say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Out of my distress I called on the Lord; he answered me and set me in a broad place. With the Lord on my side I do not fear—what can mortals do to me? The Lord is on my side to help me; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to put confidence in mortals or princes.

All nations surrounded me; in the name of the Lord I cut them off! They surrounded me on every side like bees, blazing like fire among thorns; in the name of the Lord I cut them off! I was pushed hard, so that I was falling, but the Lord helped me. The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the Lord does valiantly; the right hand of the Lord is exalted!" I shall not die, but I shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord. The Lord has punished me severely, but did not give me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! Give us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! We bless you from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, and I will extol you.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

## ANTHEM

*Christ Arose!*

arr. Mary McDonald

Countryside Community Church Choir

Diane Hill, organ - Alex Ritter, piano

## LESSON: Luke 24:1-12

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

## MESSAGE

### *Responding to the Word*

## HYMN OF RESPONSE

Hymn #230 *Now the Green Blade Rises* (v. 1, 2, 3)

## PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

**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.**

## SHARING OUR GIFTS

The Social Justice and Outreach Board has designated One World Health as the recipient of both Countryside's Easter Offering and April Box donations.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

**God of Resurrection and Redemption, we offer our gifts alongside our alleluias! We offer our hands, feet and voices to take the celebration out of this place into a world that so desperately needs hope. May we go out with such joy and power that the ground beneath our feet quakes, and people see in us your redeeming love; the triumph of light over darkness! In the name of the risen Christ, we pray. Amen.**



## SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

### Invitation to the Table

Today, we come to this ordinary table under extraordinary circumstances.

While the world offers crumbs to God's beloved children, we are invited to a feast that feeds all.

We are invited to RISE—together—in hope: as a form of resistance, as an act of faith, as a celebration of our shared life in Christ.

We are invited to an open table, and to open our hearts, that God's love might feed our souls.

May this table be for us a renewing of our minds, a strengthening of our bodies, an affirmation of Spirit's call to rise with Christ—to share the hope we know, the faith we hold, and the love we experience—extravagantly. Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**Many: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!**

### Communion Prayer

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

### 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 Hymns:

#414 *Eat This Bread*, #393 *One Bread, One Body*

### 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*

### †SENDING HYMN

Hymn #216 *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* (vs. 1-3)

### BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

### POSTLUDE

*Gentle Rain*

Luiz Bonfá

C4 and Countryside Ringers - Adam Witte, Director

Alex Ritter, organ and piano - Carlos Figueroa, drums - Matt Wallace, saxophone - Steve Gomez, bass

# 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](mailto:sarahrj@countrysideucc.org)

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

Please keep **Megan Vacha** and family in your prayers. Her husband, **Bob**, died on Friday, April 18. A Celebration of Life will be planned early this summer.

## Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by Steve Gomez.

*Happy Easter and Happy Birthday to Dinah Gomez who is celebrating her birthday today!*

*I Love You!*

## 2025 Easter Flower Dedications

Kathy & John Besancon

In memory of loved ones

Julie & Keith Carlson

In memory of their daughter Braydee

Mimi & Ferde Goings

In memory of Jayne Barrie / Mert & Hazel Goings

Dinah & Steve Gomez

In honor of their families

Pam, Andrew, April, Sloane & Andrew Jr. Govier

In memory of Dr. Bruce Govier

Trisha Hoffman-Ahrens

In honor of Jena Hoffman, Mark Goss, Drew Ahrens

Lindsey Ahrens Polk, Maren Polk and Spencer Polk

Sherryl L. Lilley

In honor of their grandchildren, Zoe, Niles, Ellis and Levi

Cathy & Rick MacInnes

In memory of Loren and Evelyn Fraser

Mary & Ray Meints

In memory of Lynn and Dick Asprooth / Helen & Al Roy

Vicki & Joe Roy

In memory of George & Lily Woods

Lori Shrum

In memory of loved ones

Amy and David Worth

# Upcoming events

## FREE SELF DEFENSE CLASS

Saturday, May 3, 11:30-12:30  
OR  
Monday, May 5, 6-7 pm

Led by **Rick Royers**, owner of Heartland Karate  
Sponsored by the Congregational Life Board



TOGETHER WE *save lives by giving blood*



**May 4**  
**8:30 am - 2 pm**  
**Activity Center**



Adult Ed

## Perspectives

**Sundays 11:15 AM – 12:30 PM**

**Sunday, April 27**

*Legislature 101*, with Maureen Hornacek and members of the Rainbow Parents of Nebraska

**Sunday, May 11 & 18**

*Learning about the Qur'an – and from It*, with Denny Clark on May 11 and Imam Ibrahim Ashour on May 18 who will be joining us from the American Muslim Institute (AMI).



Adult Ed

## Soup, Salad & Scripture

## Bring-Your-Own-Lunch Series

**Tuesdays, 11:30 AM – 1 PM**

**April 22 & 29**

*Paul's Letter to the Romans* with Don Sarton

**May 6, 13, & 20**

*Paul and Women – Untangling the Strands* with Dr. Denny Clark

**Cooking Class Graduation**  
**Wednesday, May 21**

**HB**  
House of Bah  
Foundation

**& Wednesday Night  
Family Night**



# Upcoming events

## Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, April 27  
10 a.m.

## Omaha Tornado 50th Anniversary Interfaith Worship Service



*Remembering the 1975 Omaha Tornado*

May 6, 2025, 7 PM

First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass St.



*Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis*

*"Reclaiming the Faith Voice"*

Sunday  
May 4, 2025  
10 AM