

# Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



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

## Easter Sunday Sunrise Service April 20, 2025, 7 a.m.

Countryside Community Church  
13130 Faith Plaza | Omaha, NE 68144 | 402-391-0350  
[countrysideucc.org](http://countrysideucc.org)

# Order of Worship

Sunday, April 20, 2025, 7 a.m.

† 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

### †WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

### †GATHERING SONG     Hymn #216 *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* (vs. 1, 2)

### †CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-

Thomas

One: My dear friends, over this Lenten season, we have known grief. We have known loss. We have known the long road, tired and winding. We have whispered prayers on bended knees. We have stared at the sky, empty of stars. But today—

**Many: today we know hope.**

One: Today we know life. Today we know that death does not have the last word.

**Many: Today we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God.**

One: It is Easter. May hope find you. And may you know, deep in your bones, that today is a new day.

**Many: Alleluia! Amen.**

### PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of Alleluias and empty tombs, God of garden plots and good news, it is Easter. It is finally Easter. In a world full of grief and heartache, in a world full of violence and oppression, in a world full of loss and separation, we long for this day because Easter sings a different song. Easter sings a song of hope. Easter sings a song of new life. Easter sings a song of love that makes you want to jump out of your chair and run barefoot to the tomb. Easter smells of fresh flowers and baked bread. It sounds like trumpets and laughter. It feels like a crowded table and a warm hug. Yes, Easter sings a different song. So in a world full of grief, help us to cling to Easter's hope. In a world full of grief, help us hear this story of good news. In a world full of grief, we're ready to jump out of our chairs and run barefoot to the tomb. With hope we pray, with hope we listen, Amen.

## Hearing the Word

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*Morning Has Broken*

arr. Phillip Keveren

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.

One: Words of Resurrection Hope for a people of Hope,

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

## MESSAGE

*Why Do You Look for the Living Among the Dead?*

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

## *Responding to the Word*

### EASTER AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (responsively)

One: In the dark before dawn,

**Many: we believe that God is alive.**

One: In the midst of our grief,

**Many: we believe the Spirit is at work.**

One: In the chaos of our broken world,

**Many: we believe that love is on the loose.**

One: For no stone could keep God at bay,

**Many: and no violence could keep God's love from us.**

One: So today we sing,

**Many: Alleluia!**

One: For somewhere in between our belief and doubt,

**Many: hope lives.**

One: Christ has died,

**Many: and Christ has also risen. Thanks be to God! Amen**

# Sending

## †SENDING HYMN

Hymn #222 *Christ is Risen, Shout Hosanna* (vs. 1-2)

## †BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

Adam Witte, piano

## 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.

## 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 & David Worth

# Christ The Lord Is Risen Today!

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Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

All creation join to say, Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!

Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!

Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!



# Christ Is Risen, Shout Hosanna!

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna!

Celebrate this day of days!

Christ is risen!

Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.

In the desert all surrounding, see,  
a spreading tree has grown.

Healing leaves of grace abounding  
bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits  
from the caverns of despair.

Walk with gladness in the morning.

See what love can do and dare.

Drink the wine of resurrection,  
not a servant, but a friend.

Jesus is our strong companion.

Joy and peace shall never end.



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