

# Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



*Believe* by Steve Prince / [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

## Palm Sunday April 13, 2024

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

# Order of Worship

Sunday, April 13, 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*

Worship will begin in the narthex with the Blessing of the Palms. All are welcome to join the palm processional from the narthex into the sanctuary.

### **Ringing of the Bell (9:55)**

#### **†WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

One: Sing songs of loudest praise!

**Many: Hosanna!**

One: Sing songs that are unashamed.

**Many: Hosanna!**

One: Sing songs without being afraid.

**Many: Hosanna!**

One: Sing for the God of tomorrow and today.

**Many: Hosanna!**

One: Let us worship the One worthy to be praised.

**Many: Hosanna!**

#### **†BLESSING OF THE PALMS**

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

One: HOSANNA!

**Many: BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!**

One: HOSANNA! Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

One: We give thanks to the God of holy disruptions,

**Many: the God whose justice reigns!**

One: We sing praise to the Holy One whose call to justice resounds in our bones, and whispers through these waving palm branches once more—

**Many: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

## **BLESSING OF THE PALMS** continued

One: From the dusty streets of Jerusalem to the cringey walls of government, we proclaim the day of the Lord's favor.

**Many Hallelujah! hallelujah! Christ comes in the name of God's radical love.**

One: Jesus the Christ, though hailed by the people as the King of kings, chose the road less traveled – not a chariot, but a colt; not a royal crown, but a crown of thorns—riding in as a servant, not a master; a shepherd, not a king. Jesus strode through the parade in humble form, not upon high casting downward a judging eye, but at eye level, he saw them. He took in the view: the sights of those who would betray him, those who would walk alongside and die with him, those who, ultimately, he would die trying to save...

**Many: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna!**

One: Blessed is Jesus, the one who comes and is coming.

**Many: Hosanna!**

One: Blessed is he!

**Many: Hosanna!**

## **†PROCESSION OF PALMS**

### ***Siyahamba (We are Walking in the Light of God)***

Siyahamb' ekhukyanyen' kwenkhos'

We are walking, O,

Siyahamb' ekhukyanyen' kwenkhos'

we are walking in the light of God.

Siyahamba, O,

We are singing...

Siyahamb' ekhukyanyen' kwenkhos'.

Siyahamba, O,

Siyahamba...

Siyahamb' ekhukyanyen' kwenkhos'.

We are walking in the light of God,

we are walking in the light of God.

We are walking in the light of God,

we are walking in the light of God.

One: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,

**Many: Hosanna!**

## **†PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: The Peace of God be With You

**Many: And also with you.**

## **†HYMN OF RESPONSE:**

*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

## CHILDREN'S TIME

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.

### Sung Response

*Go Now in Peace*

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

## *Hearing the Word*

### FIRST LESSON Zechariah 9:9-13

Reader: Mark Ware

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!  
See, your king comes to you;  
triumphant and victorious is he,  
humble and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.  
He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim  
and the war horse from Jerusalem;  
and the battle bow shall be cut off,  
and he shall command peace to the nations;  
his dominion shall be from sea to sea  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.  
As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,  
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.  
Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;  
Today I declare that I will restore to you double.  
For I have bent Judah as my bow;  
I have made Ephraim its arrow.  
I will arouse your sons, O Zion,  
against your sons, O Greece,  
and wield you like a warrior's sword.

Countryside Community Church Choir & members of  
the Countryside Community Church Handbell Choir

**SECOND LESSON: Luke 19:29-40**

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus, and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. Now as he was approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

"Blessed is the king

who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven,

and glory in the highest heaven!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

One: Words of hope for a hopeful people.

**Many: Thanks be to God!**

**MESSAGE***Stones have Stories to Tell*

*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.**

**SHARING OUR GIFTS**

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

The Social Justice and Outreach Board has designated One World Community Health Centers for the April Box donations. One World is also the 2025 Easter Offering recipient.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

God of justice and joy, may these gifts be stones of hope—offered not in silence, but in solidarity with all who cry out for peace. Bless them and us to build your kin-dom, one act of courage and compassion at a time. Amen.

## 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 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*

## †SENDING HYMN

Hymn #129 *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates*

## †BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

## POSTLUDE

Countryside Community Church Choir - Adam Witte, director  
Alex Ritter, organ and piano

### **Sunday Flowers This Week**

Flowers were given today by Trisha Hoffman-Ahrens  
in loving memory of her parents, Jess and Patty Hoffman on their 68<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.  
*Their faith, compassion and enduring love inspire me everyday.*

## *Joys and 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 **Jane Frey** in your prayers as she mourns the death of her dear friend and companion, Jack Kiscoan, for whom we prayed after his car accident a few weeks ago. He died last Friday, and a service celebrating his life will be held Monday, April 14 here at Countryside at 11 am.

Please continue to keep **Heather Russell** and her family in your prayers as they mourn the death of **John Russell**, who passed away in Greece several weeks ago. His funeral will be held on Saturday, April 12, at Countryside.

**Don and Diane Scott's daughter**, Sarah Linhardt, fell and broke her ankle two weeks ago. She had surgery Thursday to repair a dislocation in her left ankle. Please pray for guidance for the medical team, and for her healing and recovery surgery.

**Joan Barnett** passed away on April 2 at the age of 94. Her arrangements are being handled by Heafey Hoffman Dworak Cutler, and no services are planned at this time.



# HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

## Friday, April 18 - Good Friday

7 p.m. Combined Maundy Thursday and Good Friday  
Tenebrae Service with Tim Strang and the C4 Choir

Join us for a poignant Tenebrae service featuring Omaha  
Symphony Cellist Tim Strang and Countryside's C4 Choir.  
Tenebrae is a deeply symbolic, curated service designed  
to lead the congregation through the final hours of  
Christ's life on earth that includes choral anthems,  
instrumental duets, litanies, drama, liturgical elements,  
and underscores. This service offers a sacred space to  
contemplate the journey of Christ's passion and the hope  
that follows.

## Sunday, April 20 - Easter Sunday

### Easter Sunday Worship Services

Begin your morning with an 7 a.m. Sunrise Service, out on  
the lawn, followed by worship services at 9 and 11 a.m.

### Easter Brunch & Egg Hunt - 10-11 a.m.

Celebrate Easter with delicious food and family fun!  
Whether you worship at 7 a.m., 9 a.m., or 11 a.m., you're  
invited to join us for a festive Easter Brunch at 10 a.m.

At 10:30 a.m., children can enjoy an exciting Easter Egg  
Hunt, perfect for capturing joyful memories—so don't forget  
your cameras!

## EASTER OFFERING

OneWorld   
Community Health Centers



Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

"Reclaiming the Faith Voice"

Sunday  
May 4, 2025  
10 AM



**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

## Omaha Tornado 50th Anniversary Interfaith Worship Service



Remembering the 1975 Omaha Tornado

May 6, 2025, 7 PM

First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass St.