

Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



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June 15, 2025

Order of Worship Sunday, June 15, 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.

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

COMMUNITY TIME (9:55)

Dan Loven-Crum

PRELUDE

Toccata on “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

Mark Miller

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

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.**

Peace I leave with you:

my peace I give you. I do not
give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be
troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:27

†HYMN OF RESPONSE

All Are Welcome vs. 2

COUNTRYSIDE RACIAL JUSTICE COVENANT

Becky Knightly

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children are invited to come forward for a lesson at the chancel. Nursery care is available for children 0-4 years.

SUNG RESPONSE

Go Now in Peace X 2

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: Psalm 146

Reader: Molly Anderson

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.

When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,

who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;

who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord!

MUSICAL REFLECTION

I Don't Feel No Ways Tired
Dre Black, vocalist - Alex Ritter, pianist

arr. Jaqueline Hairston

SECOND LESSON: Acts 16:19-26

Rev. Darryl Brown, Jr.

But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men, these Jews, are disturbing our city and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us, being Romans, to adopt or observe." The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.

When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

MESSAGE

Freedom for Everyone!

Rev. Darryl Brown, Jr.

Responding to the Word

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

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

One: That will will continue to walk in the ways of Jesus, in word and deed...

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

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Dan Loven-Crum

The Social Justice and Outreach Board has chosen the Center for Immigrant and Refugee Advancement as the recipient of our June Box donations.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

God of liberation, we offer these gifts in gratitude for freedom still unfolding.

Bless our hands, our voices, and our resources to build a world where all are truly free.

May justice roll down and hope rise up—today and every day. Amen

Sending

†SENDING HYMN

Hymn #453 *Called As Partners in Christ's Service*

†BENEDICTION

Rev. Darryl Brown, Jr.

POSTLUDE

Dre Black, vocals - Alex Ritter, organ and piano

Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by Robyn Amis
in memory of Robert Jacobsen and Rufus Amis.

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 am 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 the church office at 402.391.0350 or email office@countrysideucc.org.

Prayers of Gratitude for the following Joys:

Countryside was honored to host the morning session of the Tri Faith Initiative's Race, Religion and Social Justice Conference and the premier showing of the documentary, Strengthening Abraham's Bridge. Thanks to all the Countrysiders who volunteered to make the event successful.

Thanks for God healing power in the lives of **Keith and Reva Karstens**. It was good to see them in our midst at the RRSJ conference.

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

Larry (Mary) Brown had a bad fall Monday night and broke two vertebrae in his neck. He had surgery to stabilize his neck and is at the Med Center. He's doing well. Prayers are appreciated.

The family of **Carolyn Meissner** notified the church that Carolyn passed away on April 22. The family will hold a private inurnment later this month in the Columbarium, where she will be laid to rest next to her husband and son. Carolyn was a long-time member of Countryside. We hold her family in our prayers during this time of loss.

Prayers uplifted for the families of those impacted by the immigration raids in Omaha and around the nation. Liberating God, cut away our ties to power and privilege. Free us to stand with the oppressed, to love boldly, and to lose our lives in you.

Robert (Megan) Vacha's Celebration of Life service was held yesterday, June 14, here at Countryside. Please keep Megan and family in your prayers during this difficult time.

We lift up the many unspoken prayers within our congregation. Among us are those recovering from surgery or illness, those grieving the loss of a loved one, and others navigating the challenges of family, finances, relationships, or work. God, we lift them up to you.

CCC Antiracist Covenant

Countryside Community Church pledges to continue the ongoing work of antiracism. We, collectively and individually, commit to actively understand, identify, and dismantle racism, including in ourselves, both conscious and unconscious. We are inspired by the example of Jesus, grounded by the Holy Spirit, to be engaged in self-reflection, grow in awareness of systems of power and oppression, and challenge the status quo of white privilege and systemic racism so that all may experience love, safety, belonging, dignity, and equity.

We ACKNOWLEDGE:

- our lack of awareness regarding the complicity of the Christian Church's historic role in supporting and profiting from the subjugation and genocide of enslaved peoples, indigenous peoples, and all other marginalized groups.
- the effects of white supremacy, white exceptionalism, and white privilege present in the Church and community that have condoned people being treated as less than, inferior, or unworthy rather than as beloved children of God, made in the image of the Divine.
- we have participated in the normalization of unjust systems including healthcare, justice, policing, housing, and education.
- Nebraska's segregated communities have facilitated our complicity and allowed for systemic racism to continue.

We promise to TRANSFORM our hearts and minds by:

- not being silent or complicit but rather having the moral courage to publicly stand with people of color, the marginalized, and the oppressed.
- re-examining and deepening our understanding of systemic racism and its lasting damage to others and ourselves.
- engaging ourselves and our communities in critical discourse that propels us forward.

We commit to the following ACTION:

- Devise and implement standards, policies and programs that make our commitment to diversity and inclusion a visible reality.
- Stand up and speak out against everyday micro and macro acts of oppression, aggression, bigotry, and hate speech in all aspects of our common life.
- Educate ourselves and share with others the many places where our privilege blinds us and prevents us from showing compassion to others.
- Collaborate with community organizations to promote equity for all people.