

Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



LL Cool J, Nicolette Faison, sanctifiedart.org

Second Sunday of Lent March 1, 2026

† 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)

Adam Witte

PRELUDE

Tell Me Something Good

Stevie Wonder

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, you who are loved more deeply than you know.

Many: Come, you who carry both beauty and burden in your hearts.

One: Here, love meets us without condition and calls us by name.

Many: Here, mercy flows freely, restoring what shame has tried to silence.

One: Come, let us draw near to the One who first loved us—

Many: and learn again how to love one another.

†PASSING OF 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

Hymn #517 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Heather Moran

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

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: Luke 7:36–50

Reader: Becky Knightly

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and when he went into the Pharisee's house he reclined to dine. And a woman in the city who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair, kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner." Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." "A certain moneylender had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven loves little." Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" But he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

MUSICAL REFLECTION

O Love

Elaine Hagenberg

Countryside Choir

SECOND LESSON: Matthew 25:35–40

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'

MESSAGE

The good news is...great love for God & neighbor Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Responding to the Word

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Mother and Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kin-dom 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 kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Gratitude for Years of Service “Celebrating Mary Watke”

Presentation of Gifts - Mary Meints

Prayer of Blessing - Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

You'll find a QR code on the next page of your bulletin or at the Spotlight table in the narthex to learn how to support our community partners through The Box and Fingerprints, and to contribute to Countryside's annual mission plan. Countryside is fully supported by member giving, and we are deeply grateful for the generosity that sustains our shared ministry.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Holy and generous God, everything we have is first a gift from you.

Receive these offerings as signs of our gratitude and our trust.

Use them to nourish the hungry, welcome the lonely, and restore the weary.

Let our giving become a witness to your abundant love,

moving through us and into the world. Amen.

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Invitation to the Table

One: This is God's table. Not a table of judgment, but a table of love.

Many: We come as we are—seen, known, and welcomed.

One: Here, no one is turned away. No story is too heavy. No heart is beyond mercy.

Many: Here, love meets us and makes us new.

One: This is the table where Jesus draws near to the weary, the hopeful, and the brave.

Many: We come hungry for grace and ready to receive.

One: Come, for this table belongs to God—and all are invited.

COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

Healing Prayer

Anyone is welcome to join Rev. Dr. Norman Pavey in the prayer corner in the rear of the sanctuary. You are invited to share a prayer request for yourself or others, and receive a prayer of blessing or anointing with oil as a reminder that God's presence is with you.

Communion Hymn

Hymn #414 *Eat this Bread*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, gracious God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us your presence. 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

The Summons

†COUNTRYSIDE BLESSING

Becky Knightly

POSTLUDE

Countryside Choir - Adam Witte, director - Matt Wallace, sax
Alex Ritter, organ and piano - Carlos Figueroa, drums - Michael Frederickson, bass

Countryside Giving

Give a little, help a lot! Scan the QR code to support Countryside's mission, Easter Offering, The Box and Fingerprints. Your generosity keeps our community warm, welcoming and full of life!



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, 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:

March is a transitional month blending spiritual introspection with natural renewal, heavily featuring the Lenten season. Lent calls for renouncing the pursuit of power, focusing instead on faithfulness and trust in God's, rather than seeking control. It is a time for quiet reflection, removing personal "logs" (faults) before addressing others' issues.

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

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Prayers for Margie (Glenn) Phillips as she recovers from knee replacement surgery.

Prayers for Marcy Patton who recently developed a blood clot and is hospitalized and after further testing was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.

Dave Wingert asks for prayers for positive healing following surgery for a detached retina.

Margie and Glenn Phillips ask for prayers for their 8-year-old granddaughter Divina who has Neurofibromatosis. She has tumors growing at the top of her cervical spine and will have a spinal fusion in 6-8 weeks.

Prayers for Derek (Sarah) Miller as he continues his chemotherapy for testicular cancer.

Rita (Don) Otis is requesting prayers and loving thoughts as she navigates a breast cancer diagnosis. She is currently participating in a 6-month drug trial.

Prayers for healing and recovery for Mike (Janelle) Baber who fractured vertebrae in his neck after a fall down a flight of stairs. He is recovering at home. Prayers of thankfulness that his injury will heal.

Prayers for Trevor (Chloe) Spanel as they remember and grieve the passing of Trevor's grandmother, Phyllis Spanel, at age 96.

All-Church Intergenerational Service Project Night Wednesday, March 4 | 5:30–7:30 pm | Marys' Hall

Get ready to roll up your sleeves and make a difference! Join the Wednesday Wonders for an all-church, intergenerational service project as we come together to package 30,000 meals for Meals from the Heartland. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors for an evening of teamwork, laughter, and hands-on service. No experience needed—just a willing heart and a sense of fun! Let's serve our community together. We need 30-60 volunteers to help package the meals in Marys' Hall.



**Register here
to join the fun!**



Matt Shepard Is a Friend of Mine Thursday, March 5 | 6:30–8:30 pm | Sanctuary

Join us on March 5 for a free screening of *Matt Shepard Is a Friend of Mine*, a powerful and intimate documentary directed by Matt's close friend, Michele Josue. Shown in the Sanctuary from 6:30–8:30 pm, the film tells Matt's story through those who knew and loved him, restoring the fullness of his life beyond the headlines. All are welcome.

*Matt Shepard
is a friend of mine.*



Performing Considering Matthew Shepard on April 25

Second Sunday of Lent

the good news is... great love for God and neighbor



LL Cool J

Rev. Nicolette Faison

Inspired by Luke 7:36-50

12"x24" Acrylic, marker, paper collage on canvas

Ladies love Cool Jesus. For real. Women absolutely loved Jesus, and the woman with the alabaster jar is a great example of that. Who else shows up to an event unannounced with expensive oils to not only anoint someone's feet but to then offer their tears and use their hair to wipe the feet clean? I don't think people comprehend the drama within that part of the story. This was an act of love, admiration, and prophecy. To me, this interpretation of the story gives the woman the attention she deserves.

When I thought about the theme, Tell Me Something Good, I realized I had spent much of my year guest preaching at classic church buildings with

stained glass windows which told the parishioners the good news of Jesus. It felt most appropriate to bring the concept of stained glass into my art. Instead of the maximalist collage approach that I often use, I chose to let the paint tell the story. The color choice is both bright and vibrant yet softer than other pieces. I selected the yellow purposely to contrast the purple hair. In an attempt to clearly separate the blue sky glass from the rest of the piece, I layered patterns with a red/pink color scale to make the art pop, emphasizing the distinct glass shapes one could find on a church window.

Several aspects of the piece are deconstructed, such as the woman's head and the foot of Jesus, both detached from bodies. I intentionally emphasize these elements to not distract us from the core of the story. The woman was intimately entwined with the feet of Jesus, her hair entangled with his leg. She released tears that would nourish his toes as the rich oil replenished his skin. To be cared for, to be seen, to be loved, that is something good. [Rev. Nicolette Faison](#)

Look

In the artwork, notice how deconstructed details are entwined together. What parts of the image draw your attention the most?

