

Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



We Are Small, We Are Numerous, We Are Deep, Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

First Sunday of Lent

February 22, 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: We gather because God shows up in real places, among real people.

Many: We come as we are, trusting that God is near.

One: When truth enters the room, what harms cannot stay hidden.

Many: We worship the God whose presence brings healing and freedom.

†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 #5 (vs. 1-3) *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

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: John 2:1–11

Reader: Earl Cohen

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet.” So they took it. When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days
Countryside Choir

arr. Michael Myrick

SECOND LESSON: Matthew 13:31–32

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

MESSAGE

The Good News is...so good it catches us by surprise!

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 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

Adam Witte

Please find the QR code below or at the Spotlight table in the narthex for more information about how to support our community partners this month through The Box and Fingerprints and also to contribute to Countryside's annual mission spending plan (budget). Countryside is 100% dependent on member giving to support the mission and ministries of our church. We are grateful for all the ways you give to sustain our vibrant and welcoming community!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of abundance, you take what is ordinary and transform it into joy.

Bless these gifts we offer, that they may be poured out where hope has run dry.

Use us, and all we give, to reveal your glory and bring your goodness to life. Amen.

†SENDING HYMN

Hymn #16 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

†BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Desafinado

Antônio Carlos Jobim

Countryside Community Church Choir - Adam Witte, director
Alex Ritter, organ and piano - Matt Wallace, saxophone
Carlos Figueroa, drums - Steve Gomez, bass - Julia Olynyk, vocals

Countryside Giving

Give a little, help a lot! Scan the QR code to support Countryside's mission, 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 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:

Renee Besancon rejoices that her niece, Claire, has been cleared to play softball following her recovery from a broken ankle.

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

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

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 healing and recovery for **Mike (Janelle) Baber** who fractured vertebrae in his neck after a fall down a flight of stairs. He is at home recovering. 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 the age of 93.

Kris and Merv Olberding request prayers for their son Connor, his wife Lizzie and the people of Ukraine. It's energy grid was hit by bombs, heat/water and electricity continue to be sporadic.

Prayers for **Derek (Sarah) Miller**. Derek was recently diagnosed with testicular cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy.

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

Prayers for healing for **Don Wigington** who had shoulder surgery and is doing well.

First Sunday of Lent

the good news is... so good it catches us by surprise



We Are Small, We Are Numerous, We Are Deep

Read Matthew 13:31-32

Artist Statement Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

Loose mustard seeds are nearly impossible to contain. They drift and scatter with the slightest breeze, asserting their own unruly will much like the mustard plants themselves. The mustard plant, dismissed as invasive weeds by some, is cultivated for healing and nourishment by others. Even now, after completing this piece, I am still finding stray seeds in my laundry, my car, my hair.

“They tried to bury us; they didn’t know we were seeds,” a line attributed to Greek poet Dinos Christianopoulos,* has become a rallying cry for separated families along the Mexican-American border. More than a century earlier, Toussaint Louverture—the formerly enslaved commander of the self-emancipated army of Black cultivators in Saint-Domingue (colonial Haiti)—voiced a similar belief upon his deportation and imprisonment in France: “You have done no more than cut down the trunk of the tree of Black liberty. . . It will spring back from the roots, for they are numerous and deep.”

From the Corn Mother of Indigenous myth to African women braiding okra seeds into their hair as they were forced from their homelands, many of our ancestors understood the power of carrying life in its smallest form. Seed-carrying is an act of faith. These tiny, unassuming specks hold the audacious hope that wherever we go, we already have what we need to take root and flourish in strange and foreign soils. May our faith and our hopes be just as audacious, resilient, and uncontainable as the seeds which hold the fruits of our faith.

Look

Pay attention to the textures in the artwork. Notice everywhere you see mustard seeds.

*Dinos Christianopoulos (1931-2020) wrote the couplet in 1978 (published in his book, *The Body and the Wormwood*) as a defiant statement against the Greek literary establishment, which had ostracized him due to his homosexuality.

