

Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



And Open Our Eyes to Behold Love's Face, Jan Richardson,
janrichardsonimages.com/

April 12, 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

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather on the road, not always knowing who walks beside us.

Many: Christ meets us in our questions, our searching, our in-between places.

One: Our hearts burn as the story unfolds, hope rising where we least expect it.

Many: Come, Christ—be known among us, as we welcome new life and new opportunities.

†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 #70 God of the Sparrow

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Maggie Kennedy Morey

Children are invited to join Rev. Maggie 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: Psalm 116:1 - 4,12 - 19

Reader: Jody Sanders

I love the Lord because he has heard
my voice and my supplications.
Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.
Then I called on the name of the Lord,
“O Lord, I pray, save my life!”
What shall I return to the Lord
for all his bounty to me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord;
I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.
Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his faithful ones.
O Lord, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.
You have loosed my bonds.
I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice
and call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.
Praise the Lord!

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Our Love Can Mend A Broken World
Countryside Choir

Tom Trenney

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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.

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Hymn #425 Let Us Break Bread Together

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Adam Witte

Please find the QR code within the bulletin 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

Gracious God,

you meet us on the road and reveal yourself in the breaking of bread.

Receive these gifts and our lives as offerings of gratitude and hope.

Use them to kindle hearts, nourish your people, and make your love known in the world. Amen.

†SENDING HYMN

Hymn #442 We Are Walking

†BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Countryside Choir, Adam Witte, director
Alex Ritter, organ and piano

Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by Chris Gilmore
in loving memory of Mary Ann Olson.

Flowers were given today by the Phil Johnson Family in memory of Sally Johnson.
YOU ARE ALWAYS ON OUR MINDS.

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:

April provides a bridge as nature transforms winter's chill into spring renewal with blooming flowers, budding trees and vibrant green grass. Spring reminds us that a fresh start is possible, with a mix of rainy days and sunshine. It is a time for hope, growth, and joy.

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

Prayers of support and comfort for **Roger (Judy) Waible** as he experiences additional health issues.

Prayers for **Kris Olberding** who is recovering after a brief hospital stay.

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!

