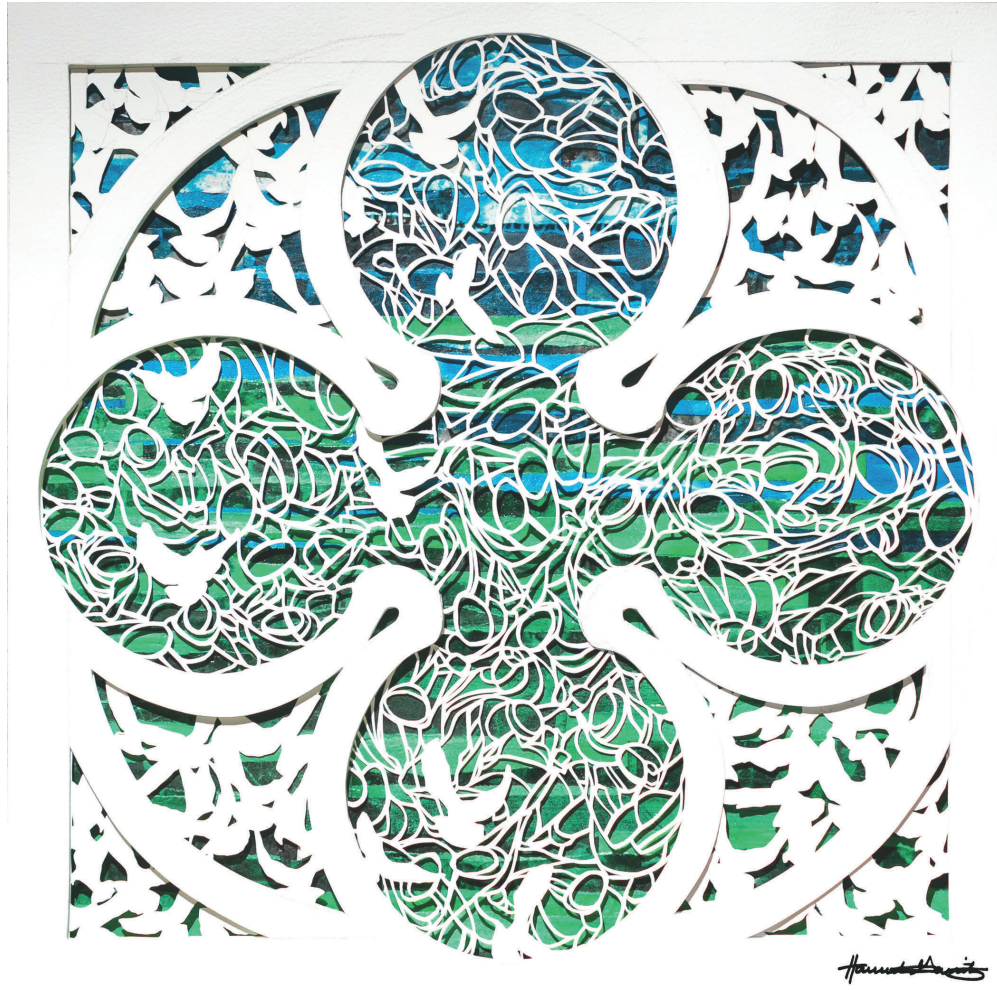


# Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



*Hannah Garitty*

*Meet Me In Galilee, Hannah Garitty / sanctifiedart.org*

**Easter Sunday**  
**9 and 11 a.m.**  
**April 5, 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

**PRELUDE** *Piece d' Orgue* J.S.Bach

*Tell Me Something Good* Stevie Wonder

**†WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP** Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Many: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

One: Tell me something good—

**Many: Love is alive.**

One: Tell me something good—

**Many: The stone is rolled away.**

One: Tell me something good—

**Many: Death does not get the final word.**

One: We come like the women to the tomb—

**Many: With fear and great joy.**

One: For nothing can separate us from the love of God—

**Many: Not even death itself.**

One: For we are Easter people—

**Many: And today, we rise.**

**EASTER INTROIT** *Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed* arr. Linda Scholes

Countryside Ringers

**†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

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

All children are invited to join Heather up front at the Chancel for a special Easter lesson. Following the lesson, children will return to the pews to sit with their families. The nursery is available for children infant-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 118**

Readers: Leslie Day (9 a.m.) / Nancy Cohen (11 a.m.)

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Let the house of Aaron say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Let those who fear the Lord say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Out of my distress I called on the Lord; he answered me and set me in a broad place. With the Lord on my side I do not fear—what can mortals do to me? The Lord is on my side to help me; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to put confidence in mortals or princes.

All nations surrounded me; in the name of the Lord I cut them off! They surrounded me on every side like bees, blazing like fire among thorns; in the name of the Lord I cut them off! I was pushed hard, so that I was falling, but the Lord helped me. The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the Lord does valiantly; the right hand of the Lord is exalted!" I shall not die, but I shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord. The Lord has punished me severely, but did not give me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! Give us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! We bless you from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, and I will extol you.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

## MUSICAL REFLECTION

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*  
Countryside Choir

arr. Mack Wilberg

## SECOND LESSON: Matthew 28:1-10

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

## MESSAGE

*Get On the Donkey*

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

## *Responding to the Word*

## HYMN OF RESPONSE

Hymn #230 *Now the Green Blade Rises* (v. 1, 2, 3)

## 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 (Tri-Faith Initiative Easter Offering)

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 (UNISON)

**God of resurrection and good news, we bring our gifts alongside our alleluias. Send us out to live what we proclaim—with joy that rises, love that heals, and hope that cannot be buried. May our lives tell something good: that your light still shines and your love is alive in the world. In the name of the risen Christ, we pray. Amen.**

**Invitation to the Table**

Today, we come to this ordinary table under extraordinary circumstances. While the world still deals in scarcity and fear, this table tells a different story. Here, there is enough. Here, love is alive. Here, no one is turned away and all are fed.

This is the table where Jesus gathered with his friends on the night before everything changed—where he broke bread, shared the cup, and reminded them that love would hold, even in what was to come.

So come—not because you have it all figured out, but because you are hungry for hope. Come, because this table is open, and because God’s love is still being poured out for the world. Come, and be fed by a story that refuses to end in death.

**Many: We come to be fed by love that is alive in the world.**

**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 (9 a.m. only)**

*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 Meditation***Gentle Rain*

Luiz Bonfá

**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 #222 Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!***†BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

**POSTLUDE***Windows*

Chick Corea

Countryside Choir and Countryside Ringers - Adam Witte, director

Alex Ritter, organ and piano - Carlos Figueroa, drums - Matt Wallace, saxophone - Steve Gomez, bass

## 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](mailto: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.

**Johnna Roberts** asks for prayers and thoughts of comfort and healing for family and friends. Her brother Greg Atkinson had a mild stroke on March 6 and is now back at Parsons House and doing well. Johnna's brother Stephen Millspaugh passed away March 18 in Weatherford, OK. Johnna is scheduled for a tendon repair in her right hand on April 9.



## 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!



# 2026 Easter Flower Dedications

Robyn Amis	In memory of Col. Robert & Marian Jacobsen
Kathy & John Besancon	In memory of loved ones
Joyce Davis	In memory of Kari Johnson
Dinah & Steve Gomez	In honor of their families
Pam, Andrew, April, Sloane & Andrew Jr. Govier	In memory of Dr. Bruce Govier
Phil Johnson	In honor of Sally Johnson
Karmen King	In honor of her husband Jacob for his service as a dedicated chaplain amid the war
Dan Loven-Crum	In honor of Verona Loven
Sherryl L. Lilley	In memory of family members
Cathy & Rick MacInnes	In honor of their grandkids, Zoe, Niles, Ellis & Levi
Mary & Ray Meints	In memory of our parents
Martha Nash	In memory of Bob Nash & Katy Nash Jetter
Susie Owens	In memory of Randy Owens
Susan & Steve Rothe	In memory of their mothers
Vicki & Joe Roy	In honor of their daughters, Stephanie and Allison & their families
Kathleen & Todd Samland, Hannah & Rachel Minor	In memory of their dads and grandpas: Bill, Ted & Dave
Lori Shrum	In memory of George & Lily Woods
Mary Watke	In memory of Easter Bunny in wheelchair
Stacy & Andy Wilson	In memory of their loved ones
Amy and David Worth	



## **You're Invited!**

### **Meet Rev. Maggie Kennedy Morey**

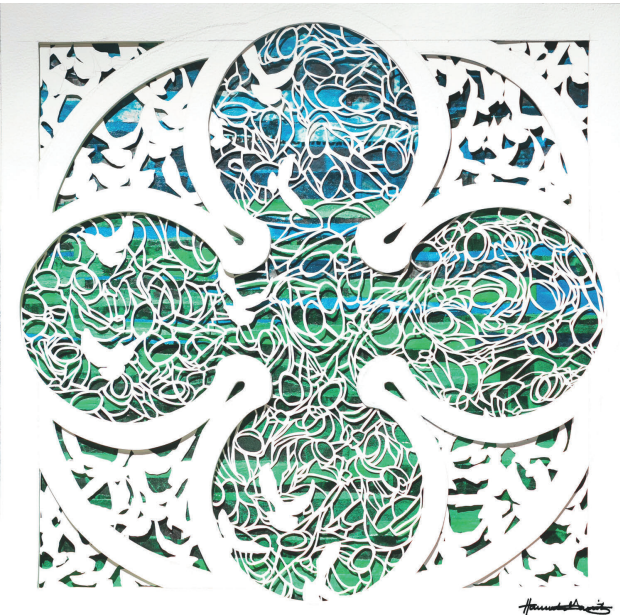
Come and meet our candidate for Associate Minister for Care, Connection, and Formation, Rev. **Maggie Kennedy Morey**, on **Saturday, April 11** in **Marys' Hall**.

We'll gather for a Meet & Greet from 10 am to noon. Rev. Maggie will share a few introductory remarks at **10:30 am**. This will be a relaxed and welcoming time to connect, ask questions, and begin getting to know her. **Light pastries and coffee will be available throughout the event.**

As a congregational church, opportunities like this are an important part of our shared discernment. We hope you'll come, spend some time in conversation, and help us extend a warm Countryside welcome.

# Easter Sunday

the good news is... *alive in the world*



## Meet Me in Galilee

Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Matthew 28:1-10

*18x18" Hand-dyed and collaged newspaper with paper lace overlay*

*The good news is alive in the world. Do not be afraid. Go back to Galilee. Go back to Galilee where it all started. Go back to Galilee and celebrate like we did at the beginning when we were not afraid, when these words of liberation had not yet drawn the trappings of imperial execution.*

Here in this artwork, the crowd is celebrating. Figures are dancing and dancing and dancing. Doves fly among the dancers, breaking borders, Holy Spirit. This throng is in the vacant space of the empty cross. The cross here is mirroring the traditional, four-petaled, stained-glass window design element, which has long represented the cross in European architecture.

The crowd dancing within the cross celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, fearlessly awaiting his arrival in Galilee. The Roman weapon of oppression, the cross, inflicts but a pause in the steadfast and abiding ministry of revolutionary love offered by Jesus in his public ministry. It is fitting then that we should go back to the place it began, when fear was not such a lethal factor. God has overcome death. Hallelujah!

Around the dancing figures in Galilee, patterns of doves disperse outward. The good news, the euaggelion, is alive in the world. Do you remember? The cross is empty, yet full. Overcome. Go and you will find Jesus, free in the world in the faces of strangers and neighbors. —**Hannah Garrity**

## Look

Study the figures in the crowd. What postures and expressions do you see? What emotions do you feel?