

# Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



Emmett, 5, Kindernook Orange Room

**May 3, 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**

*Footprints*

Wayne Shorter

**WELCOME**

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

**†CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We gather this morning carrying what it costs —

**Many: The words we almost said. The stand we almost took.**

One: We gather as people shaped by a faith that does not promise safety —

**Many: Only presence. Only love. Only the God who goes before us.**

One: On this side of Easter, we do not grieve as those without hope —

**Many: We hope as those who know what love is willing to endure.**

One: Come, let us worship the God who showed us what courage looks like —

**Many: And ask for the grace to show up when it matters. Amen.**

**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**

*All Are Welcome (vs. 3)*

**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: Acts 7:55-60

Reader: Jodie Nichols

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

## MUSICAL REFLECTION

*Seek Ye First*  
Countryside Choir

Karen Lafferty arr. Wagner

## SECOND LESSON: John 14:1-14

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

## MESSAGE

*Showing up even when it costs you*

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

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 (unison)

**God of grace, we bring what we have – knowing it is never as much as what you have given us. May these gifts be an act of showing up – for those without a nest to return to, for those who need someone to simply be present. May we give not out of obligation, but out of abundance. Amen.**

## SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

### Invitation to the Table

One: The Lord be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**Many: We lift them to God.**

One: Let us give thanks to the God of love.

**Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### 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 Meditation:

*Blue In Green*

Miles Davis

## 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

Hymn #576 *My Faith Looks Up To Thee*

## †COUNTRYSIDE BLESSING

Jodie Nichols

## POSTLUDE

*Groovin' High*

Dizzy Gillespie

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

## 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](mailto:office@countrysideucc.org).

## **Prayers of Gratitude for the following Joys:**

We rejoice in the month of May, when creation bursts into life and possibility. In longer days and gentle warmth, we glimpse renewal all around us—blossoms opening, birds returning, and hope rising quietly within. May invites us to step outside and notice the beauty that surrounds us, reminding us that growth and joy are always unfolding, often in the simplest moments.

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

Prayers of healing for **Johnna Roberts**, who is recovering from surgery.

Prayers for **Dave Wingert** who has shoulder replacement surgery scheduled for May 4.

Prayers for the **Miller family** as **Derek** has completed his four rounds of chemotherapy and is waiting for more testing.

Prayers for **Marcy (Joel) Patton**, who has been diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. She is undergoing chemotherapy and has recently been hospitalized with an infection.

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

## **On the Cover**

Through May, our Sunday bulletins will feature artwork created by the talented young artists of Kindernook. Each year, all of Kindernook's students—84 amazing children this year—create their own special masterpiece as part of a fundraiser called *Our Amazing Artists*, which typically raises around \$700 for Kindernook's scholarship fund. This year, five families are receiving scholarship support, and they're hoping to exceed their goal!

As you enjoy these colorful covers each week, celebrate the creativity, imagination, and joy of the Countryside community's youngest artists—and the way their gifts help make Kindernook accessible to more families.

For more information on Kindernook or the *Our Amazing Artists* project, contact Anne Jackson at [annej@countrysideucc.org](mailto:annej@countrysideucc.org).