

Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



Almond Blossoms, oil on canvas, Vincent van Gogh, 1890

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 14, 2024

Order of Worship Sunday April 14, 2024

† 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

Windows

Chick Corea

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

†GATHERING SONG

Christ Has Called Us To New Visions

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Rebecca Morello

One: When we are confused

Many: Lord, give us peace.

One: When we are afraid

Many: Lord, give us peace.

One: When we are lost in grief

Many: Lord, give us peace.

All: O God, meet us in this room

And grant us peace!

†PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of God be With You

Many: And also with you.

†HYMN OF RESPONSE

All Are Welcome (vs. 2)

Hearing the Word

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

(All children are invited to come forward for a special lesson at the chancel)

FIRST LESSON: Acts 3:12-19

Reader: Becky Knightly

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "Fellow Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the holy and righteous one and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

"And now, brothers and sisters, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent, therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out,

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Peace

Horace Silver

SECOND LESSON: Luke 24:36b-48

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. Yet for all their joy they were still disbelieving and wondering, and he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

MESSAGE

We are Witnesses

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our 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.

Responding to the Word

A TIME FOR COMMUNITY

Dan Loven-Crum

SHARING OUR GIFTS

The Social Justice and Outreach Board has designated Omaha For Us LGBTQ+ Center as the recipient of the April Box donations.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

God of the Resurrection, help us use these gifts to offer hope where there is sorrow, peace where there is chaos and love where there is fear. We can do incredible things because your Spirit lives within us. Amen.

CHORAL REFLECTION *All Things New* Craig Courtney / Poetry by Susan Bentall Boersma

Sorrow lingers in the garden, willows weeping, wet with dew.

But in the breeze, a whispered promise;

“I am making all things new, I am making all things new.”

Let the gentle hand of morning brush your eyes that you may see

Mercies new and never ceasing

Into all eternity, into all eternity.

Alleluia!

As it was in the beginning, in the end, so shall it be.

Through the cross, a new creation;

Christ has won the victory, Christ has won the victory.

Alleluia!

Step by faith into the promise, bow the knee with voices raised,

Singing “holy, holy, holy,”

In an endless song of praise, In an endless song of praise.

Alleluia!

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

Please prepare to partake of the Eucharist in your seats. The communion kits include whole wheat bread and non-alcoholic grape juice. (Gluten-free is available.) Raise your hand if you need assistance with your communion elements and an usher will assist you. Communion cups may be discarded in the baskets as you leave the sanctuary.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Thank you, God, for renewing us at your table by the presence of our Christ. Thank you for your eternal love, the Bread of Life, that sustains all creation. May you continue to love us in our faithful acts and by that love discourage us from our unfaithful acts, that we might rejoice as your servants to the world. Amen.

†SENDING HYMN #233 (vs. 1, 2)

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!

†BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

C4 - Adam Witte, director
Matt Wallace, sax - Rick Avard, piano - Alex Ritter, organ
Carlos Figueroa, drums - Steve Gomez, bass

Christ Has Called Us to New Visions 566

D A7 D A D G D A7 D

1 Christ has called us to new vi - sions, here to cel - e - brate and praise,
 2 As we lis - ten to each oth - er, as we speak in joy and pain,
 3 All cre - a - tion strug - gles, yearn - ing for a time of true sha - lom.
 4 Christ still calls us, young and ag - ing, men and wom - en, bound and free,

D A7 D A D G D A7 D

here con - fess our old di - vi - sions, here our peace pe - ti - tions raise.
 we be - come as sis - ter, broth - er, rec - on - ciled, at one a - gain.
 Are we try - ing, are we learn - ing now to make the earth our home?
 col - ors, tal - ents, thoughts en - gag - ing, joined in one com - mu - ni - ty.

D Em D G D G D Em D G D

Come re - pent - ant, come for - giv - ing, come in joy and hope and prayer.
 On - ly thus in work and feel - ing for our neigh - bor far or near
 For the hun - gry and de - spair - ing, for the poor of all the earth,
 Christ re - mold - ing, heal - ing, lead - ing, sins for - giv - en! Life re - stored!

D A7 D A D G D A7 D

Christ, once cru - ci - fied, now liv - ing, bids us faith and love to share.
 can we wor - ship God, re - veal - ing gifts of grace a - mong us here.
 make us part - ners, bur - dens shar - ing, bring - ing all a sense of worth.
 Let us live, God's jus - tice heed - ing, strength - ened by our ris - en Lord.

Words: Jane Parker Huber, 1926–2008

Music: John Wyeth, 1770–1858

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 NETTLETON

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 a.m. 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 on Countryside's Prayer Chain, contact Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones at 402-391-0350, ext. 225 or sarahrj@countrysideucc.org

JOYS

Margie and Glenn Phillips share the great joy of the arrival of their new grandchild this week! Elowen Marie May was born on April 8. Let us celebrate with them!

CONCERNS

Greg Atkinson (Johnna Roberts) shares that his cousin, Joanie Shuck, who we prayed for a few weeks ago, passed away peacefully on April 3 in Sioux City. Please pray for the family as they grieve.

Please keep **Peggy Boot** and her daughter, **Samantha**, in your prayers. Samantha is going through a very difficult time and could use our prayer support.

John (Cyndi) Kugler has been admitted to UNMC following complications after back surgery. He is not sure when he will be discharged, and even after heading home, he will have a lengthy recovery. Please keep him in your prayers for healing.

Norm Pavey had a stroke on the evening of April 7 and spent some time in Lakeside Hospital. He is now home with some updated medications.

Recently, **Bev (Don) Sarton** was diagnosed with lung cancer that had metastasized to her liver. She has been undergoing treatment and this week became very weak and has been admitted to the hospital with pneumonia and atrial fibrillation. Please keep Bev and Don in your prayers for healing and strength.

De Schmierer has been dealing with a kidney infection and kidney stones and was readmitted to the hospital for treatment this week. Please continue to pray for her to have a full recovery from this difficult ailment!



Art Notes

Scan the QR code for Cover Art notes.

