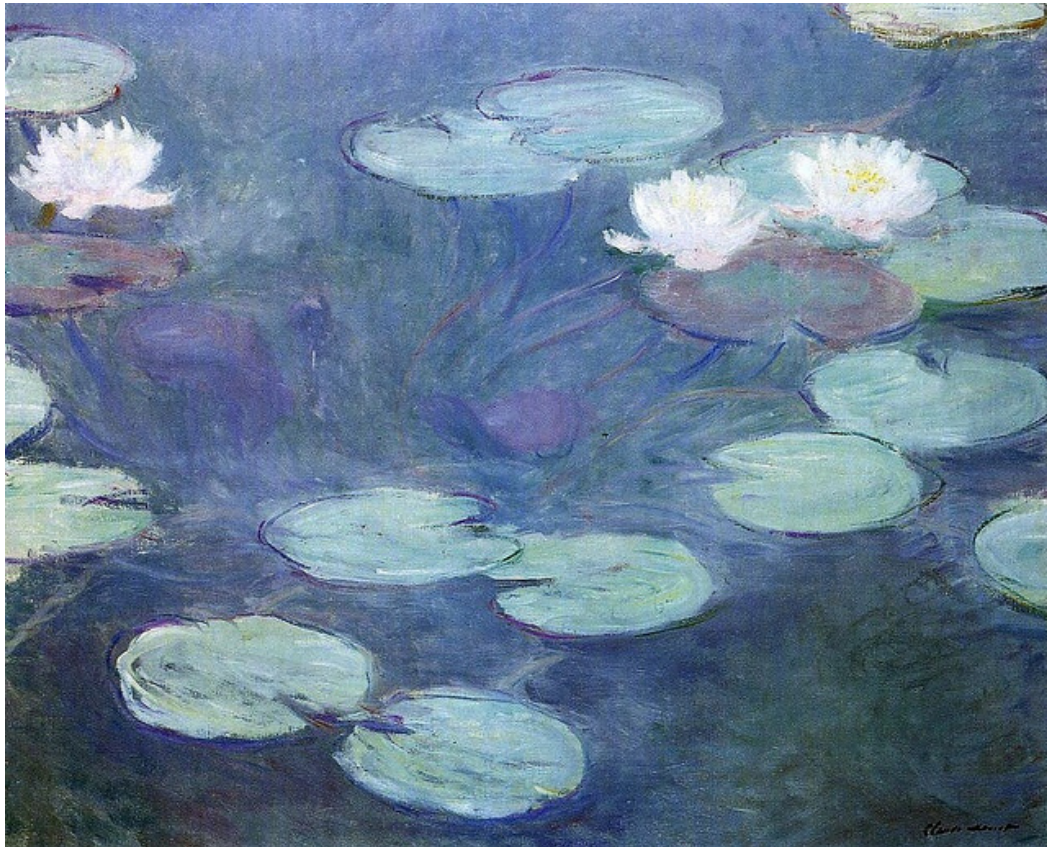


# Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



*Water Lilies*, oil on canvas, Claude Monet, 1914-1926

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**April 21, 2024**

# Order of Worship Sunday April 21, 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**

### **WELCOME**

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

### **†GATHERING SONG**

*Shepherd Me, O God*

*Please join Julia in singing the chorus. See the insert and screens.*

### **†CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 23)**

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

One: Come, walk in green pastures.

**Many: We follow the Shepherd.**

One: Come, lie down in green pastures.

**Many: We trust the Shepherd.**

Come, dine at the table of abundance.

**Many: We are fed by the Shepherd.**

Come, dwell in God's house.

**All :We live in the Shepherd's care.**

### **†PASSING THE PEACE**

One: The Peace of God be With You

**Many: And also with you.**

### **†HYMN OF RESPONSE**

*All Are Welcome (vs. 3)*

# Hearing the Word

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Rebecca Morello

(Children are invited to join Children's Church in the Chapel)

## FIRST LESSON: Acts 4:5-12

Reader: Marilyn Look

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are being asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.'

"There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

## CHORAL REFLECTION

*The Lord is My Shepherd*

Howard Goodall

## **SECOND LESSON: John 10:11-18**

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

One: Words of hope for a hopeful people.

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

## **MESSAGE**

*The Good Shepherd*

*Responding to the Word*

## **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.**

**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 new life, out of the abundance of our lives we offer these gifts to you. Through your blessing and our willingness to share, may these offerings become a source for hope and love in this church family, and in the community beyond us, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**MUSICAL REFLECTION**

*Swingin' Shepherd Blues*

Moe Koffman

**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.*

## COMMUNION MEDITATION

*My Shepherd, You Supply My Need*

### 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 HYMN

*Doxology*

### †BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

C4 - Adam Witte, director - Diane Hill, piano and organ  
Julia Olynyk, vocals - Matt Wallace, sax - Rick Avard, piano  
Carlos Figueroa, drums - Steve Gomez, bass

### **Sunday Flowers This Week**

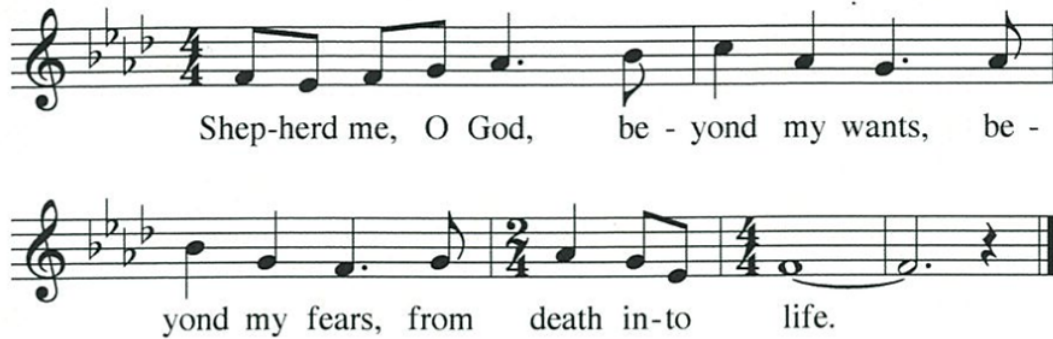
Flowers were given today by Steve Gomez  
in honor of Dinah Gomez's Birthday, April 20.

*I Love You!*

## SHEPHERD ME, O GOD

Psalm 23

Marty Haugen



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -  
yond my fears, from death in-to life.

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## 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](mailto:sarahrj@countrysideucc.org)*

### CONCERNS

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

**John (Cyndi) Kugler** is home from the hospital but is still dealing with the medical complications that arose after his back surgery. Please continue to keep him in your prayers.

**Bev (Don) Sarton** remains in Methodist Hospital receiving treatment for pneumonia and atrial fibrillation. Please keep Bev and Don in your prayers for healing and strength.

### JOYS

*Please join in lifting praise for these joys & celebrations!*

**Nancy and Bob Davis** are great-grandparents! Their grandson Danny and his spouse, Stella Creamer, became parents on April 11. The baby's name is Theodore Wren Creamer.

## Narthex Art Installation

The *Blessings of the Earth* Art Installation currently displayed on the great wall in the Narthex is a group of 92 living edge wall plaques created by Countryside members & their families. It was sponsored by The Worship and Arts Board and planned in conjunction with the Children's Wednesday night programming. This is the second Intergenerational Art Project created in our new church. Countryside adults worked alongside Wednesday Wonderers, Core 56ers and members living in senior facilities to create *Blessings of the Earth*, which honors Earth Day. For more information, read 'About The Art' accompanying the installation.



## Cover Art Notes

Claude Monet painted his timeless masterpiece series, *Water Lilies*, between 1914 and 1926. These ethereal works of art are a testament to Monet's deep connection with nature and his pursuit of capturing light and beauty. In these serene compositions, layers of vibrant colors blend seamlessly, creating a mesmerizing reflection of the lilies floating atop the tranquil waters of his garden pond. As we commemorate the resurrection, Monet's portrayal of renewal and tranquility resonates deeply. Just as the water lilies emerge anew each spring, so too does the promise of spiritual rebirth and eternal life. This iconic series of paintings serve as a visual meditation on the themes of resurrection, hope and the eternal cycle of life.

## Sharing our Gifts

Scan the QR code to visit the Countryside giving page to donate or give to the Box



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