

Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



Changed by Community by Anna Strickland | Digital painting | Sanctifiedart.org

September 29, 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

COMMUNITY TIME (9:55AM)

Rev. Sarah RentzelJones

PRELUDE

Autumn Leaves

Joseph Kosma / Johnny Mercer

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Jenny ShultzThomas

†GATHERING SONG

Hymn #90, *Come, Christians, Join To Sing*

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, all who are weary and burdened, come with your joys and your struggles.

People: We gather, bringing our whole selves—our questions, our hopes, our doubts.

Leader: We gather in the presence of a God who calls us to deeper love, wider justice, and bold peace.

People: We come, seeking to be transformed by God's grace and to transform the world around us.

Leader: Christ meets us at the intersections of our lives, where love and liberation intertwine.

People: We are invited to open our hearts, to be known, and to know others, as we journey together.

Leader: Spirit of the Living God, move in this space, move in our lives, move through this community.

People: Let us worship with open hands, open hearts, and a commitment to the work of love.

Leader: Come, let us worship in the spirit of unity and possibility.

People: We are ready to be renewed and sent out to serve.

†PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of God be With You

Many: And also with you.

†HYMN OF RESPONSE

Hymn #305, *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT & DISCOVERY KIDS

(Children are invited to join Heather for a lesson at the chancel and then head to Discovery Kids classes, Nursery is available for children 0-4 years.)

Hearing the Word

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 19:7-14

Reader: Connie Johnk

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. But who can detect one's own errors? Clear me from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless and innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Stand Up For Something

Diane Warren / Lonnie Lynn

SECOND LESSON: James 5:13-20

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up, and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

MESSAGE

The Church in Action

Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson

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.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Here I Am, Lord

Dan Schutte arr. Craig Courtney

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

The Social Justice and Outreach Board has designated Youth Emergency Services (YES) for the September Box donations.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Holy God, we are thankful for the gifts you have given us and humbled by the opportunity to share with others. Receive now the gratitude from our hearts and the resources from our lives. Use these gifts to bring healing to the broken, justice to the oppressed, and freedom to all. Amen.

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

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.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

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

Hymn #609 (vs. 1-4), *Take My Life*

†BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata

John Weaver

C4 Choir - Adam Witte, director
Julia Olynyk, vocals - Matt Wallace, sax - Alex Ritter, organ / piano
Carlos Figueroa, drums - Steve Gomez, bass

Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by the Sanctuary Arts Committee.

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

JOYS

Please lift these joys with prayers of celebration and praise!

Jan and Mike Brown extend their gratitude to everyone in the congregation who prayed for them as they awaited test results for Mike's annual labs to monitor his health. Mike's tests are clear, which means his multiple myeloma is still responding to the clinical trial medication.

CONCERNS

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

Sharon (Rick) Royers shared a thank you note from her sister and brother-in-law, Deb & Geoff Clouthier, who have been in our prayers for many months. It says, "To our 'unmet' faith family friends at Countryside Community Church, Geoff and I have been richly blessed by your cards, prayers, and thoughtfulness! They do make a difference and uplift our spirits as we go through this journey. Geoff will be having surgery October 16. Pray for a successful surgery and recovery."

Guest Preacher, September 29, 2024



Historic UCC General Minister and President Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson



Countryside welcomes United Church of Christ (UCC) General Minister and President Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson as our Guest Preacher. Rev. Dr. Thompson will provide our sermon today, Sunday, Sept. 29.

“We are deeply honored to welcome Rev. Dr. Thompson to our pulpit. Her groundbreaking leadership and tireless dedication to justice and equity serve as an inspiration to us all,” said Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas. “Her presence reminds us of the transformative power of faith and the importance of inclusive leadership in the church and beyond.”

Rev. Thompson is the first woman and first woman of African descent to serve as leader of the denomination. Prior to this call, Rev. Thompson served in the national setting of the UCC for 14 years – two years as

Minister for Racial Justice, eight years as Minister for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations and four years as the Associate General Minister (AGM) for Wider Church Ministries and Co-Executive for Global Ministries. She was elected as AGM in 2019. Her passion for justice and equity moved her work on behalf of the UCC into a global context, affording the opportunity to participate globally in efforts to reduce the marginalization experienced by African descendant peoples and other communities globally.

Before joining the national staff, Rev. Thompson served in the Florida Conference United Church of

Christ as Pastor and on the Conference staff as the Minister for Disaster Response and Recovery. She also worked in the nonprofit arena for over 10 years in senior leaderships positions.

Rev. Thompson earned a bachelor of arts from Brooklyn College in New York, a master’s in public administration from North Carolina Central University in Durham, NC, and a masters of divinity from Union Theological Seminary in New York. She also studied public policy at Duke University and earned her Doctorate in Ministry at Seattle University. She was awarded an honorary doctorate from Heidelberg University.



Faith and Democracy 2024: What's at Stake?

Join us for an urgent and timely conversation about the fusion of faith, politics, and power in today's America.

Friday, October 4, 2024 | 7 PM Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis and Rev. Jim Wallis

Saturday, October 5, 2024 | 8 AM – 12 PM Keynote Speaker Dr. Samuel L. Perry; Panel Discussion with Dr. Samuel L. Perry, Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis & Rev. Jim Wallis; Breakout Sessions exploring white Christian nationalism's impact on Education, Reproductive Rights, Housing and Climate.

Countryside Community Church, the Christian Partner of the Tri-Faith Initiative

13130 Faith Plaza, Omaha, NE 68144

Register for this free event at
faithanddemocracy2024.com
or scan the QR code at right.



Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, a fierce advocate for justice and inclusion, will expose the dangers of nationalism intertwined with Christian identity and call on us to resist ideologies that distort the teachings of love, equality and compassion that lie at the heart of Christianity.

Rev. Jim Wallis, author of *The False White Gospel*, will reveal how white Christian nationalism undermines the core values of faith, promoting racism and power-seeking instead of justice and equality. His message: reject this harmful ideology and fight for inclusion and racial justice.

Dr. Samuel L. Perry, leading scholar and author of *Ties That Divide*, will take us deep into the latest research on white Christian nationalism and its dangerous impact on the 2024 election. Understand how this ideology fuels division and what we can do to address it at the local, national, and personal levels.

This is not just a conversation—it's a call to action. Explore how faith, politics and identity collide in America, and learn how we can reclaim democracy for all people. Register now for an event that promises to challenge, inspire, and equip you for the work ahead.