

Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



Clear Vision | Graphic image | By Lauren Wright Pittman | sanctifiedart.com

October 6, 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 (9:55)

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz Thomas

†GATHERING SONG

Hymn #284 *Gather Us In* (vs. 1-3)

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: What does the Lord require of you?

Many: **To do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with our God.**

One: What does God command of us?

Many: **To love God with all our heart,
and all our soul,
and all our mind,
and all our strength,
and to love our neighbor as ourselves.**

One: God does not call us to ease or to comfort.

But to presence, and abundance,
and grace in our struggle.

Many: **Let us worship the God who believes in us,
and trusts in us, and abides with us.**

**Let us worship the God who will ask much of us,
but will be beside us every step of the way. Amen.**

†PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of God be With You

Many: And also with you.

†HYMN OF RESPONSE

All Are Welcome vs. 1

Hearing the Word

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.

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 82:1-8

Reader: Natalie Mason

One: God has taken his place in the divine council;
in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:

**Many: "How long will you judge unjustly
and show partiality to the wicked? Selah**

One: Give justice to the weak and the orphan;
maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.

**Many: Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked."**

One: They have neither knowledge nor understanding;
they walk around in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

**Many: I say, "You are gods,
children of the Most High, all of you;**

One: Nevertheless, you shall die like mortals
and fall like any prince."

**Many: Rise up, O God, judge the earth,
for all the nations belong to you!**

†CONGREGATIONAL SONG Hymn #486 *Who Is My Mother, Who Is My Brother?*

SECOND LESSON: Luke 10:25-37

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

MESSAGE

Who is My Neighbor?

Rev. Jim Wallis

Responding to the Word

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

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 REFLECTION

O Love

Elaine Hagenberg

MISSION MOMENT

Tim Kerrigan, Stewardship Team

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

Our Countryside youth have designated Nebraska Miss Amazing as the recipient of the October Box donations.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Loving and merciful God, As we bring these gifts before you, we remember the story of the Good Samaritan. Just as he showed compassion and generosity to his neighbor, may we, too, live out your command to love others as we love ourselves. May our offerings reflect your boundless grace and be used to bind up the wounds of those in need, to restore hope where it has been lost, and to bring justice where it has been denied. 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

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God, we give you thanks for this meal that nourishes us, body and soul. May it sustain us as we confront evil that keeps us from living the lives you intended for us and for all your creatures and creations. Until every life can be lived abundantly, be our guide, be our hope, be our comforter.

Amen.

C4 Choir, Adam Witte, director - Alex Ritter, organ and piano

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

CONCERNS

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

Bob (Trish) Newell received a clean PET scan showing no visible signs of cancer. The treatments have been effective and will continue. Recently, he has been hospitalized for complications and is receiving care. Please keep him in prayer for strength and healing from the complications.

JOYS

Please join in celebrating these joys with prayers of praise:

Johnna Roberts (Greg Atkinson) wrote to express her gratitude for the support she received when she had shoulder surgery. She is recovering well, though she still has a lot of PT to go to get her range of motion almost back to normal. She and Greg appreciate the prayers and positive thoughts for her surgery and recovery, and the delicious meals.

Introducing Countryside's A2A Designation Team: Working Towards Full Accessibility and Inclusion

At Countryside, we believe that accessibility and inclusion are key aspects of creating a welcoming and supportive environment for all. That's why we've formed the A2A (Accessible to All) Team, dedicated to increasing awareness and ensuring dignity for people of all abilities. October and November are the months of Countryside's focus on Disability Awareness. We invite you to celebrate **UCC All Access Sunday on Oct. 13, 2024**. The worship service will focus on the Christ-based teachings of inclusivity, learning of ability needs and accomplishments.

Who Are We?

The A2A Team is committed to making Countryside a place where everyone, regardless of ability, can fully participate in the life of the church. Our mission is to identify and address barriers that prevent full accessibility, and to implement solutions that create an inclusive community for all.

What Have We Accomplished?

We've taken important first steps toward creating an environment that aligns with the varied needs of our congregants and visitors. Some of our tangible accomplishments include the creation of an Accessibility Center in the Narthex, the installation of handicap-accessible restroom doors, vision enhancements, and safety features around our campus. However, we recognize that more significant projects, such as large-scale enhancements and remodeling, are still ahead.

How Does This Affect Me?

When we consider the needs of those with mobility, vision, hearing and neurological challenges, we realize that nearly all of us are directly or indirectly affected, whether through our own experiences, our loved ones, or as caregivers. By creating a more accessible church, we make room for everyone to be fully part of our community.

How Can I Help?

We invite you to join us on this journey! Consider joining the A2A Team to get involved in learning, serving and supporting the ongoing work of accessibility. Above all, we ask that you continue to embody the patient, welcoming culture that Countryside is known for.

All Church Read: *My Body Is Not a Prayer Request* by Amy Kenny

As part of our dedication to disability justice, we are launching an All Church Read of *My Body Is Not a Prayer Request: Disability Justice in the Church* by Amy Kenny. This insightful and challenging book encourages churches to foster more inclusive and accessible communities for people of all abilities.

- Join us for an Adult Education Session on Sunday, Oct. 27, from 11:15-12:15, following the morning service.
- Dive deeper into the study by attending the Wednesday evening Book Study, from October 30 to November 20.
- Village Houses and other small groups are encouraged to participate in the All Church Read within their groups.

Books will be available for purchase at the A2A Table in the Narthex on All Access Sunday, Oct. 13, thanks to The Bookworm bookstore. You can also purchase it on Amazon. For more information, email Janelle Baber at jbaber@cox.net or text her at 402-669-4667.

Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024

Guest Preacher Rev. Jim Wallis

Rev. Jim Wallis is a prominent theologian, social justice advocate and thought leader whose work has long connected faith with public engagement. He is the founder of Sojourners, an international network of Christians committed to social justice, peacemaking, and environmental stewardship. His visionary leadership has positioned him as a trusted



voice on the intersection of religion and politics, as well as a leading figure in the fight for justice and reconciliation in America and beyond.

Rev. Wallis has spent decades advocating for a faith that moves beyond the confines of individual piety to address the systemic challenges of poverty, racism, and inequality. As a public theologian, his work has been instrumental in reshaping how Christians, particularly evangelicals, engage with political issues. He has served as a spiritual advisor to national leaders, including President Obama, and has participated in numerous initiatives aimed at bridging divides across racial, economic and ideological lines. Wallis is a frequent commentator on ethics and policy, and his work has appeared in publications ranging from *The New York Times* to *TIME* magazine.

Currently, Rev. Wallis is the inaugural Chair in Faith and Justice at Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy, where he directs the Center on Faith and Justice. In this role, he fosters dialogue on the role of faith in addressing pressing social challenges and encourages future leaders to engage with the moral and ethical dimensions of public policy.

Rev. Wallis is also a bestselling author. His books, including *God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It* and *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America*, have helped mobilize communities of faith to become agents of social change. His latest work, *The False White Gospel*, challenges harmful narratives within Christianity that perpetuate division and injustice, urging believers to reclaim the true essence of the Gospel message.

Rev. Wallis today will present *Who is My Neighbor?*, and lead a sermon talkback after the service, offering an opportunity for deeper discussion and reflection. Join us as we engage with Rev. Wallis's insights on how we can collectively work towards a more just and compassionate world.