

Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



Dance Alone / Oil on canvas / Hannah Garrity /
sanctifiedart.org

October 27, 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

Toccata from "Suite Gothique"

Léon Boëllmann

†WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, let us gather in the presence of the Holy One,
who calls us to more than worship alone.

Many: We come with open hearts, ready to listen, ready to act.

One: God does not call us to complacency but to courage—
to stand up for the oppressed, to speak out for the voiceless.

**Many: We seek the strength to act with justice,
to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God.**

One: Let us worship the God who moves us toward compassion,
and sends us forth to create a more just world.

**Many: We worship with our hearts and hands,
for the call to justice is the call to live out God's love. Amen.**

†PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of God be With You

Many: And also with you.

†HYMN OF RESPONSE

We Are Called

CHILDREN'S MOMENT & DISCOVERY KIDS

Children are invited to come forward 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: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Reader: Mark Ware

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

PROPHETIC WITNESS

Rev. Paul Raushenbush

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'

Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II

SECOND LESSON: Micah 6:6-8

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

'With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?'
He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Responding to the Word

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

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 Nebraska Miss Amazing as the recipient of the October Box donations.

IMAGINE MORE

Tim Kerrigan

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Bill & Margie Bolte

MUSICAL REFLECTION

God Be In My Head

John Rutter

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Gracious and Loving God,

We bring before you the gifts of our hands and hearts, trusting in your abundant grace. As we offer these gifts, we dedicate not only our resources but our very lives to the work of justice, peace, and love in this world. May these offerings be used to build bridges where there are divides, to offer hope where there is despair, and to create communities of welcome where all are seen, heard, and valued. In the spirit of generosity, may we be transformed—our giving, a reflection of your boundless mercy, and our lives, an expression of your healing power in the world.

Bless these gifts, we pray, for the building of your kingdom of justice and peace. 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.

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 #526 *The Gift Of Love*

†BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Autumn Leaves

Joseph Kosma / Johnny Mercer

C4 Choir: Adam Witte, director - Tyler Gruttemeyer, vocals - Matt Wallace, sax
Alex Ritter, organ and piano - Mike Deluca, drums - Steve Gomez, bass

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

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

Please lift Carter, son of Tessa Wunderloh, in your prayers. Carter is going through a very tough time and we pray for his healing.

Please keep **Kari Randazzo** in your prayers following the death of her father, Dan Rishel, on Monday, October 21. We have prayed for him throughout the last year as he has had a number of medical procedures, and he was currently healing from a recent surgery. Please pray for Kari, and her daughter, Paisley, during this time of grief.

Special Guest, Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024

Rev. Paul Brandeis Raushenbush

Rev. Paul Brandeis Raushenbush is the President and CEO of Interfaith Alliance and a prominent leader in the interfaith movement. An ordained Baptist minister, Rev. Raushenbush works with leaders and communities nationwide to build alliances among people of diverse faiths and beliefs, championing religious freedom, civil rights, and inclusive democracy. He hosts the weekly podcast and radio show *The State of Belief*, where recent guests have included influential voices like Bishop William Barber and Rabbi Sharon Brous.



Before joining Interfaith Alliance, Rev. Raushenbush served as senior vice president of Auburn Seminary, founding editor of *Beliefnet.com* and founding and executive editor of *HuffPost Religion*, which became the most visited religion website and earned a Webby Award. He has also served as associate dean of religious life at Princeton University and senior advisor at Interfaith America.

A respected voice on religious diversity and civil rights, Rev. Raushenbush regularly provides commentary for major media outlets, including CNN and The New York Times. He has published two books and numerous essays on faith in public life. Rev. Raushenbush lives in New York City with his husband, author Brad Gooch, and their two children.

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.

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 are available for purchase at 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.



And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. – 2 Corinthians 9:8

The Stewardship Committee is thrilled to invite you to join them in Countryside's *Imagine More* stewardship campaign for the upcoming year. Last week we heard from Sharon Royers. In the coming weeks, we will hear from fellow church members about why they give and what Countryside means to them. For more information on *Imagine More*, visit countrysideucc.org/ImagineMore.

What does stewardship mean? It means giving financially to grow our ministry, to participate and volunteer in programs, and to share your talents in whatever way brings joy to you. No matter what you can give, do or share – it makes a difference as we build:

- A Countryside creating a just world of faith for future generations.**
- A Countryside that transforms the world, one person at time.**
- A Countryside creating a vibrant and sustainable community of faith.**
- A Countryside where your voice is heard and matters.**

Building a Community That Cares

At Countryside Community Church, your generosity creates a space where love and connection thrive. Join us in our *Imagine More* campaign and help us build a caring, inclusive community!

Pledge Cards

A stewardship mailing with a letter from Pastor Jenny and a pledge card should have arrived at all Countryside members homes. If you have not received your letter, please let the office know. Pledge cards can be found in the pews, office and Narthex. For more information, visit countrysideucc.org/ImagineMore, or scan the QR code at right!

