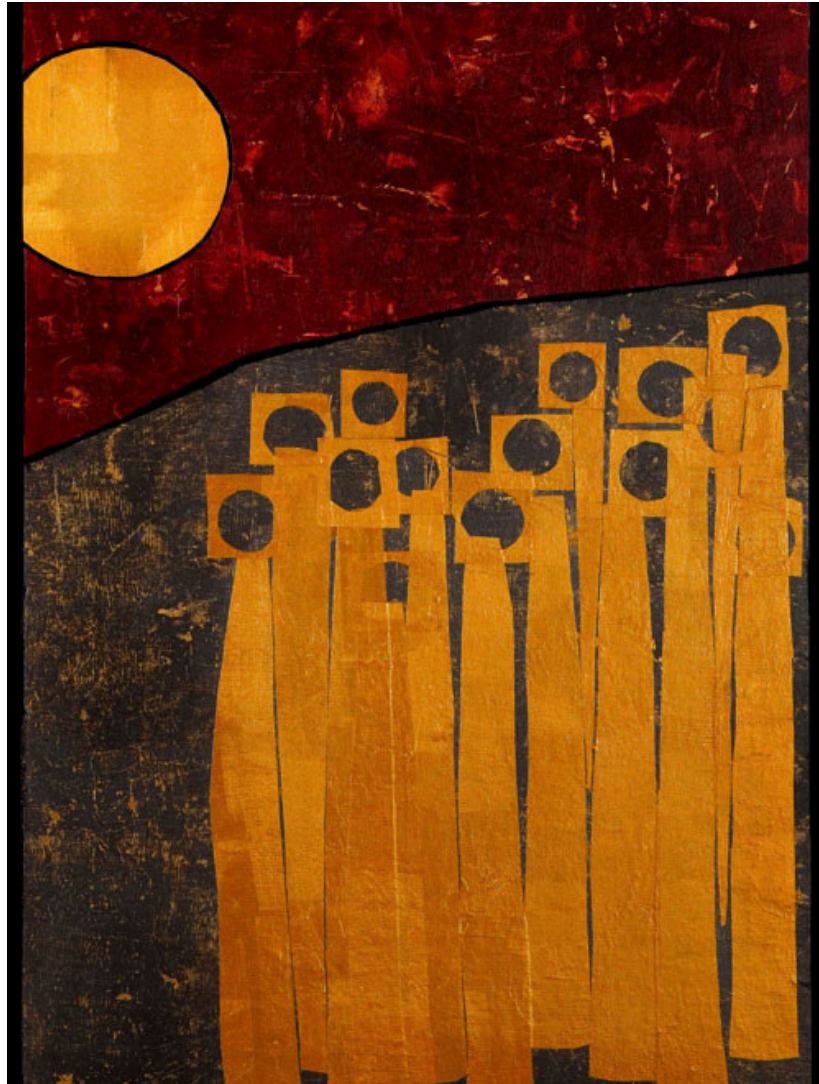


Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



A Gathering of Spirits, Jan Richardson

November 3, 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

CALL TO WORSHIP IN MUSIC

Shall We Gather at the River

OPENING PRAYER

God of the Living: A Blessing

Jan Richardson

†PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of God be With You

Many: And also with you.

†SUNG RESPONSE

All Are Welcome vs. 1

CHILDREN'S MOMENT & DISCOVERY KIDS

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

Children are invited to the chancel for a lesson and then head to Discovery Kids classes. Nursery care is available for children 0-4 years.

Hearing the Word

LESSON: Mark 12:28-34

Reader: Trisha Hoffman-Ahrens

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself'—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

HOMILY

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Responding to the Word

PASTORAL PRAYER & INVOCATION

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

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

Countryside has designated Omaha ForUs: Trans Stichin' as the recipient of the November Box donations.

Following the Stewardship moment, the congregation is invited to come forward and place your gifts and pledges in the basket on the alter.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

John Kampfe

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

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 our walls. Amen.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Revs. Jenny Shultz-Thomas & Sarah Rentzel Jones

Invitation to Observe All Saints Day

In early Christian tradition, saints' days began as a way to mark the anniversary of a martyr's death. All Saints' Day has a rather different focus in the Reformed tradition. While we may give thanks for the lives of particular luminaries of ages past, the emphasis is on the ongoing sanctification of the whole people of God. Rather than putting saints on pedestals as holy people set apart in glory, we give glory to God for the ordinary, holy lives of the believers in this and every age.

Let us remember together our loved ones who are with us always, in life, in death, in life beyond death:

Reading of Names**Ringing of the Bell****Silent Meditation****Prayer:***For Those Who Walked with Us*

Jan Richardson

For those
who walked with us,
this is a prayer.

For those
who have gone ahead,
this is a blessing.

For those
who touched and tended us,
who lingered with us
while they lived,
this is a thanksgiving.

For those
who journey still with us
in the shadows of awareness,
in the crevices of memory,
in the landscape of our dreams,
this is a benediction.

MUSICAL RESPONSE*Shall We Gather at the River*

Anna Laura Page

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

COMMUNION PRAYER

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

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.

†SENDING HYMN

For All the Saints (vs. 1-3)

†COUNTRYSIDE BLESSING

POSTLUDE

C4 Choir, Adam Witte, director - Diane Hill, 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:

Please keep **Tom (Ann) Scates** in your prayers, as his brother, Harry, died early on the morning of Sunday, October 27.

Dan (Mike) Loven-Crum's mother took a fall a few weeks ago and had successful surgery to repair her injuries; she is now in rehab and planning to move to a longer-term facility. Please keep Dan, his siblings, and his mother in your prayers for healing and for all the right doors to open so that his mother can live in a place that feels safe and comfortable.

Please keep **Sharon & Rick Royers** in your prayers as they accompany their brother-in-law, Geoff Clouthier, and his wife, Deb, as Geoff has surgery for esophageal cancer on November 1. Please pray for Geoff's recovery, future treatment, and traveling mercies for Sharon and Rick.

Please join in celebrating these joys with prayers of praise:

Melissa and Jared Sharman welcomed a baby boy, Graham Oliver, on October 23. Please join in celebrating this new birth!

God of the Living: A Blessing Jan Richardson

When the wall between the worlds
is too firm, too close.

When it seems all solidity and sharp edges.

When every morning you wake as if
flattened against it,

its forbidding presence fairly pressing the breath from you all over again.

Then may you be given
a glimpse

of how weak the wall and how strong what stirs on the other side,

breathing with you and blessing you

still, forever bound to you

but freeing you into this living,

into this world so much wider

than you ever knew.

In Loving Memory

Barbara Barchus

January 30, 1932 - January 8, 2023

Benne Rae Beins

January 28, 1937 - December 23, 2023

Rodge Bickerstaff

April 11, 1941 - March 15, 2023

Virginia Bigelow

July 7, 1934 - April 13, 2023

Susan Carne

May 7, 1951 - March 6, 2023

Louie Connaghan

June 15, 1968 - October 13, 2024

Jane Dalen

January 28, 1948 - March 12, 2024

Joan Denton

May 31, 1932 - August 8, 2023

Gloria Dinsdale

December 19, 1926 - August 1, 2024

John Foley

December 10, 1957 - October 4, 2024

Shirley Evans Gilmore

June 25, 1929 - May 31, 2024

Gabriel Gomez

January 6, 1931 - August 17, 2024

Jerry Gray

June 26, 1938 - April 29, 2024

Raymond Huelskamp

March 13, 1927 - February 24, 2024

Jim Jacobs

November 9, 1950 - October 10, 2024

Kari Johnson

October 22, 1943 - December 27, 2023

Doug Krenzer

June 11, 1971 - May 15, 2023

Mary Lueder

April 13, 1928 - December 14, 2023

Laura Luger

February 14, 1960 - March 1, 2024

Buzz Madson

May 8, 1944 - June 5, 2023

Todd Pettigrew

March 23, 1972 - February 24, 2023

Jo Poole

August 5, 1930 - April 18, 2023

Joe Roy

May 27, 1937 - July 5, 2024

Carole Roy

March 15, 1937 - November 19, 2023

Bev Sarton

March 20, 1936 - August 22, 2024

Andy Smith

April 7, 1939 - March 2, 2023

Tony Snyder

April 12, 1924 - January 2, 2023

Beth Stenger

March 27, 1960 - June 23, 2024

Mary Vanderpool

March 29, 1933 - November 27, 2023

Tom Rogers

August 5, 1953 - February 8, 2024

Pat Walstrom

August 31, 1929 - March 21, 2023

Lou Way

June 17, 1929 - June 10, 2023

Helen Wengert

January 15, 1931 - July 13, 2024

Maxine Zerbe

December 2, 1928 - September 12, 2024



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.

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.

Celebrate Beauty, Cultivate Hope

Together, we bring beauty to life through new worship experiences. Supporting the *Imagine More* campaign at Countryside helps cultivate hope and celebrate the beauty of community!

Give and Give More: Fueling Dreams for a Brighter Tomorrow

Your gifts empower growth and transformation at Countryside. Be part of our *Imagine More* campaign and help us build a brighter future together! 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!

