

Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



Prophecy by Hannah Garrity ~ Oil paint, charcoal and copper leaf on canvas ~ sanctifiedarts.com

December 22, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Advent

† 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

Angels from the Realms of Glory
Countryside Handbell Choir

Henry Smart arr. Jason Krug

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

†GATHERING SONG

Hymn # 119 (vs. 6) *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

†CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

The Samland Family

- Lighting the Advent candle of LOVE -

One: In loneliness and longing, we light this candle for Love.

Love that reaches out to us, holds us close, and never lets us go.

Love that bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Many: We come as a weary world, and yet we rejoice as we continue to sing stories of hope!

One: Come, let us celebrate the love that came down, that love is available to us even now.

Many: We rejoice, for God's love never fails, and in it, we are made whole.

†PASSING THE PEACE

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

One: The Peace of God be With You

Many: And also with you.

†HYMN OF RESPONSE

Hymn #128 (vs. 4), *One Candle Is Lit*

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: Isaiah 11:1-10

Reader: Judy Waible

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Of The Father's Love Begotten
Countryside Community Church Choir (C4)

Franklin D. Ashdown

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,

for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name;

indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones

and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things

and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his child Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

MESSAGE

We Sing Songs of Hope

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

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

The Social Justice and Outreach Board has designated Food Bank for the Heartland for the December Box donations.

MISSION MOMENT

Jeremy Wadhams

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

God, as we lift our voices, singing songs of hope, we also lift our hands, offering back to you the gifts we have been freely given. Receive now these offerings and bless them abundantly, so that others might receive the full blessing of your grace and peace. Amen.

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

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

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 #125 *Come, O Long-Expected Jesus*

†BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

POSTLUDE

I'll Be Home For Christmas

Kim Gannon / Walter Kent

Adam Witte - director, C4 Choir and Handbell Choir
Julia Olynyk, vocals - Doyle Tipler, trumpet
Alex Ritter, organ and piano - Mike DeLuca, drums - Steve Gomez, bass

Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by Cathy and Rick MacInnes
in loving memory of Charles "Mac" MacInnes.

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

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

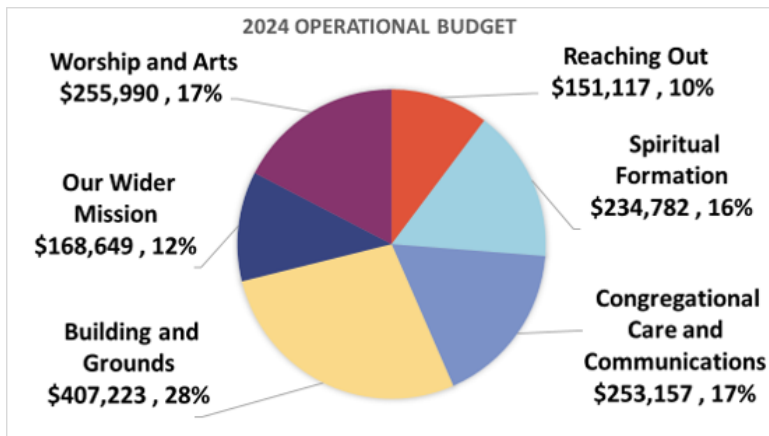
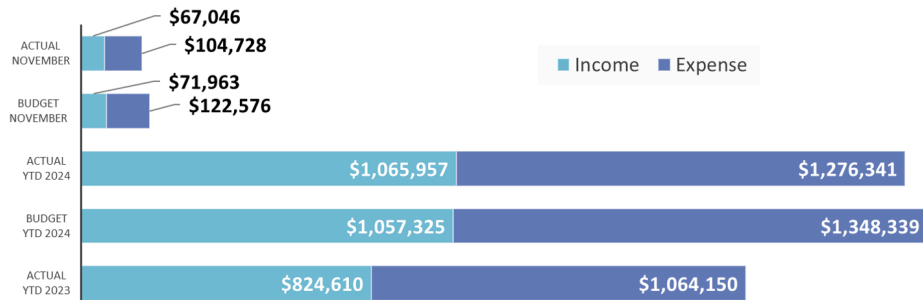
Molly (Mitch) Anderson asks for prayers as she just learned that her sister, Margaret Riley, who lives in Durham, North Carolina, has been diagnosed with an untreatable form of cancer and has been given just a limited time to live.

Jim Gilbert is a patient at Nebraska Medicine and appreciates our ongoing prayers. He has not been feeling well, and the medical team is continuing to do tests to diagnose what is wrong and provide proper treatment.

Our Church by the Numbers

The Board of Finance and Operations met on Tuesday and reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the month of November. The member revenue year-to-date is slightly above budget and expenses are continuing below the forecast. However, the current year budget had a \$315,116 shortfall covered by reserves and designated funds. As we near the end of the year, consider a year end gift to Countryside. Visit countrysideucc.org/give.

Budget vs. actual for November & year-to-date



Stewardship Update

As of Thursday, December 19, 2024
Out of 464 Households, 45% have turned in a pledge.

\$ 986,158 Member pledges
\$ 100,000 Countryside Charitable Foundation Grant
\$1,086,158 Monies Raised

To Make a Pledge



countrysideucc.org/imaginemore

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

How does a weary world rejoice?

We make room

There is Room

We've been singing a sad song
for quite some time,
the melody syncing with our heartbeats,
the lyrics stamped to the front of our minds.
You say, *sad songs are honest*.
It's hard to disagree,
for sad songs tap us on the shoulder.
Sad songs remind us
of the 100 different corners
heartbreak could be behind.

But I don't have it in me
to sing a sad song forever.

So despite the news,
despite the aches in my body,
despite the phone call last night
that says she's waiting for the test results,
despite yesterday's shooting,
despite the unknown and unchanged,
I am going to sing a song of hope.

Like a canary in a snowstorm,
I don't need another song of what is;
I need a song of what could be.
So sing with me.
Our voices may get drowned out by the wind,
but surely someone will ask:
Was that a flash of yellow in the snow?
Was that the sound of hope?



How does a weary world rejoice?

Advent at Countryside Worship

Join us this Advent at Countryside as we journey through ***How Does a Weary World Rejoice?*** Discover hope and joy as we await the light of Christmas together!

Today, 10am *We Sing Stories of Hope* Luke 1:46-55. *Of The Father's Love Begotten*, C4 & Handbell Choir

Christmas Eve Services

Experience the wonder of Christmas Eve at Countryside! Families are invited to a joyful family-oriented service at 5. A candlelight service follows at 7 pm, featuring the C4 Choir. Join us to celebrate the light and hope of Christmas!

Tuesday, Dec. 24, 5pm

Children & Families Service

Children's Choir. The service features the Christmas Story, with Carols and Costumes.

Tuesday, Dec. 24, 7pm

Candlelight Service

Music: *O Holy Night*, C4 Choir.

Countryside Christmas Offering



FOODBANK
FOR THE HEARTLAND

