

# Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



*Where Love Meets Us and Makes Us Anew* by Jan Richardson

**February 2, 2025**

† 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 #517 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

**†CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

One: Maya Angelous reminds us that "Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope."

**Many: May we never tire of seeking this love; may we always hold onto the HOPE we share in Christ.**

One: Because God's love never fails!

**Many: God's love never fails! Thanks be to God! 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)*

**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:** Jeremiah 1:4-10

Reader: Connie Johnk Ware

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,  
“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
and before you were born I consecrated you;  
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.”

But the Lord said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy,’  
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,  
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

Do not be afraid of them,  
for I am with you to deliver you,  
says the Lord.”

Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me,

“Now I have put my words in your mouth.

See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,  
to pluck up and to pull down,  
to destroy and to overthrow,  
to build and to plant.”

**MUSICAL REFLECTION**

*Christ Has Broken Down the Wall*

Mark Miller

**SECOND LESSON:** 1 Corinthians 13:1-14:1a

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

If I speak in the tongues of humans 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; it keeps no record of wrongs; 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 only a reflection, as in a mirror, 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 remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love. Pursue love--

Words of hope for a hopeful people.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **MESSAGE**

*The Irony of Love*

# *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 REFLECTION**

## **SHARING OUR GIFTS**

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

The Social Justice and Outreach Board has designated Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition (NUIHC) for the February Box donations.

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)**

**Gracious God, You are the source of all that is good, all that is true, and all that endures. Today, we bring our gifts before You—not as empty offerings, but as an expression of the love You have first given us. Bless these gifts and bless our lives, that all we offer may be filled with love. 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

*My One and Only Love*

Guy Wood / Robert Mellin

### 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 #461 *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service* (vs. 1)

### †COUNTRYSIDE BLESSING

Reader: Mark Ware

### POSTLUDE

*My Romance*

Richard Rogers / Lorenz Hart

C4 Choir - Adam Witte, director  
Matt Wallace, saxophone - Alex Ritter, organ and piano  
Greg Ahl, 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 be included on Countryside's Prayer Chain, contact Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones at 402-391-0350, ext. 225 or [sarahrj@countrysideucc.org](mailto:sarahrj@countrysideucc.org)*

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

**Jim Dalen** passed away on January 12. His wife, **Jane**, died last year. They were active members of Countryside when they lived in Omaha and were instrumental in the development of the FAME group that meets each Friday morning.

**Nancy Deetz** has been admitted to Lakeside Hospital with bronchitis and Influenza A. She asks for prayers for her healing and hopes to be discharged soon.

**Don (Louise) Giger** had a stroke on January 24 while he and Louise were visiting their daughter in California. He is now in a rehab facility in Palm Desert, and Louise reports that he is doing much better. Please pray for his continued recovery and for safe travels back to Nebraska for them.

Worship notes:

## LOVE IN ACTION

When disaster strikes, the United Church of Christ responds. Together, we can show God's love in action.

Thank you for standing with California's communities during this time of unreal hardship. Your generosity will make a difference.\*

<https://bit.ly/2025WildfireSupport>

\*100% of your donation will go directly to disaster relief efforts. Every gift matters. Please give today.



"It's easy for all of us to feel powerless in the face of such immense devastation. But there are ways we can meaningfully and appropriately respond now, by giving generously to support recovery needs and by keeping all who are heartbroken and fearful in our steadfast prayers. Our response as the Body of Christ, now and over many months and years to come, can truly have a powerful impact."

- Rev. Shari Prestemon, Acting Associate General Minister, UCC and Co-Executive of Global Ministries

The Global HOPE team is helping to connect Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ staff, churches, and others affected by the wildfires with immediate resources while also preparing to support long-term recovery efforts.

We invite you to support the UCC's recovery efforts by donating to the UCC's California Wildfires 2025 Appeal.

You can also mail a check payable to the United Church of Christ, PO Box 71957, Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note "California Wildfires 2025" in the memo section of your check. Our EIN: 34-1927041

## OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Article 6, Section 6.2.4. of the bylaws, that the Annual Meeting of Countryside Community Church will be held in person in the Sanctuary or by Zoom at 11:45 a.m. on Sunday, February 9, 2025. The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to elect officers and new Board and Committee members, to receive the annual reports of the officers, organizations, departments, boards and committees, and transact business.

Join us for a soup lunch featuring award-winning soups, rolls and dessert immediately after the 10 a.m. service, from 11: a.m. to 11:45 a.m., before the Annual Meeting. Don't miss this time of fellowship and great food!

Annual Report and Nominating Report now available, scan the QR code at right or visit [countrysideucc.org/register](http://countrysideucc.org/register).



Register

For more information about the Annual Meeting, scan the QR code at right or visit [countrysideucc.org/annualmeeting](http://countrysideucc.org/annualmeeting).



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