

# Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



*For Love* by Jan Richardson

**January 19, 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**

*Toccata on "Lift Every Voice and Sing"*

Mark Miller

**WELCOME**

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

**†GATHERING SONG**

*Hymn #517 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

**†CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

One: You have heard it said, "Love your neighbor and hate your enemy."

**Many: But Jesus calls us to a greater love—one that transforms the world.**

One: Love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you, and walk in God's way.

**Many: We come to follow Christ, trusting in the power of God's love to make all things possible.**

**†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:** Psalm 119: 33-40

Reader: Becky Knightly

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,  
and I will observe it to the end.

Give me understanding, that I may keep your law  
and observe it with my whole heart.

Lead me in the path of your commandments,  
for I delight in it.

Turn my heart to your decrees  
and not to selfish gain.

Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;  
be gracious to me according to your word.

Confirm to your servant your promise,  
which is for those who fear you.

Turn away the disgrace that I dread,  
for your ordinances are good.

See, I have longed for your precepts;  
in your righteousness be gracious to me

**MUSICAL REFLECTION**

*The Servant Song*

Richard Gillard arr. Fetteke

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you: Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also, and if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, give your coat as well, and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to the one who asks of you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven, for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

**MESSAGE**

*The Impossible Call: Loving as God Loves*

## *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**

*Wave*

Antônio Carlos Jobim

**SHARING OUR GIFTS**

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

The Social Justice and Outreach Board has designated Heartland Family Service for the January Box donations.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)**

**Loving God, we offer these gifts as a reflection of your abundant love and our commitment to be vessels of your peace and justice in the world. Bless them to further your work of transformation and grace in our community and beyond. 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**

*There Is No Greater Love*

Marty Symes / Isham Jones

### **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**

*Lord, Make us Servants of Your Peace (vs. 1-4)*

### **†BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

### **POSTLUDE**

*Solar*

Miles Davis

C4 Choir - Adam Witte, director  
Matt Wallace, saxophone - Alex Ritter, organ and piano  
Carlos Figueroa, 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:***

**Sarah (Donald) Bend** asks for prayers as she travels to the Los Angeles area to help her cousin and her cousin's husband who have been evacuated and don't know the status of their home. Sarah asks that all her actions be done with love and guided by God, and that she can be of service to her cousin, her cousin's husband and others she encounters in her travels. Let us also pray for Sarah's safety as she offers her help to others.

**Marcia Blum** asks that we pray for Alice Ramos, a 4-year-old girl who entered hospice care after having pneumonia and complications. Marcia's son is friends with the family and asks that we also pray for Alice's parents and two sisters.

**Jeanne Cunningham** passed away on Saturday, January 11. Her memorial service will be held here at Countryside on Saturday, January 25 at 11 a.m. Please keep her children Katie, Libby, and Robert in your prayers, as well as their families.

Please continue to pray for **Jim (Sharon) Gilbert**. He remains at Nebraska Medicine as doctors continue to run tests to better understand why his stomach isn't able to hold food. A feeding tube was inserted last week to give him nourishment.

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!

To register for the Annual Meeting and the lunch, 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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