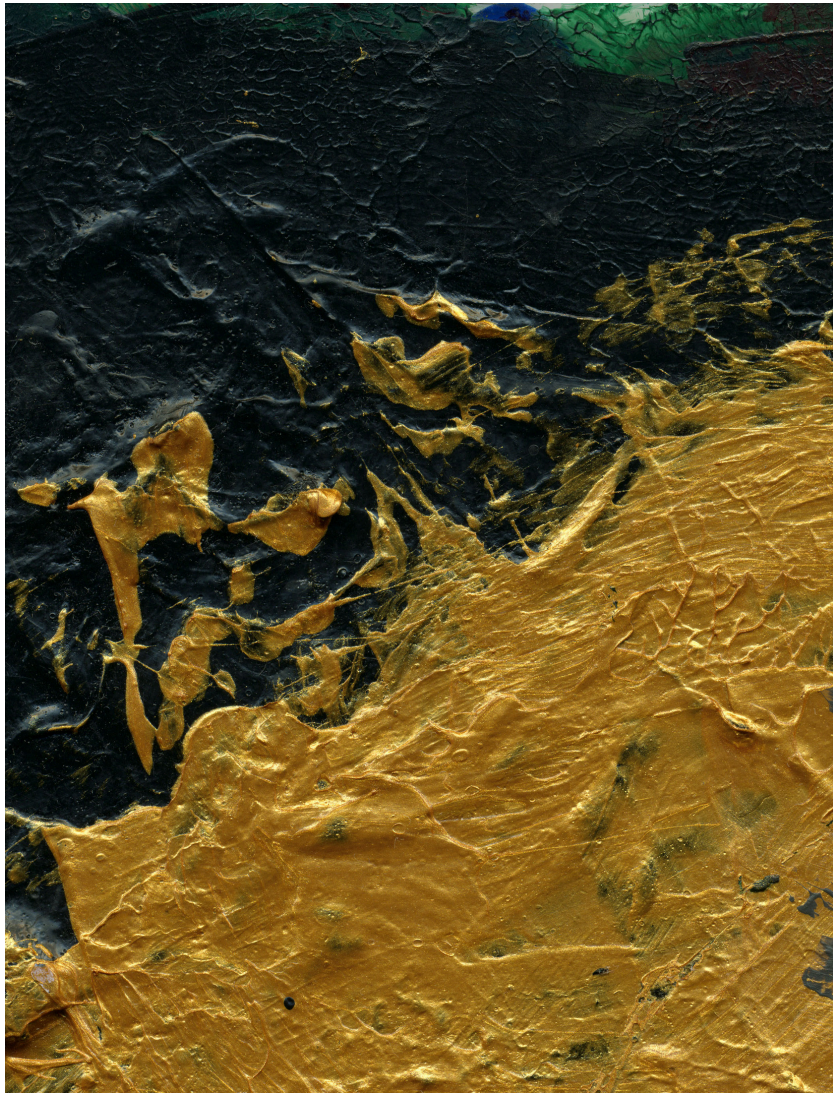


# Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



*He Has Given Us Light* by Jan Richardson

**January 26, 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**

*For Everyone Born, A Place at the Table (vs. 1-3)*

**†CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

One: Come, people of faith, to witness the Spirit's power at work.

**Many: We are called to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.**

One: Let us confess the ways we have been complicit in systems of oppression.

**Many: With open hearts, we repent and commit to transformation, guided by the Spirit.**

One: Jesus proclaims good news to the poor, release to the captive, and freedom to the oppressed.

**Many: We will stand with the marginalized, speaking truth and challenging injustice.**

One: The Spirit sends us to build a world of love, equity, and belonging for all.

**Many: By God's grace, we dedicate ourselves to this holy and urgent work.**

**Presentation of the Antiracist Covenant**

Natalie Mason, Sharon Royers  
Antiracist Designation Team Members

**†PASSING THE PEACE**

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

One: The Peace of God be With You

**Many: And also with you.**

**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 19**

Reader: Jodie Nichols

The heavens are constantly declaring the glory of God, and the skies themselves proclaim the incredible work of His hands. Each day pours forth speech, and each night reveals knowledge about Him, without the need for words. Though there is no speech and their voice is not heard, their message goes out across the entire earth, reaching to the farthest corners of the world. In the heavens, God has set a tent for the sun, which rises with the strength and joy of a bridegroom emerging from his wedding canopy. Like a strong man, it runs its course with energy and purpose, from one end of the heavens to the other, never failing in its path, and nothing is hidden from its heat. The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul, and His decrees are dependable, giving wisdom to the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right and bring joy to the heart, while His commandments are clear, enlightening the eyes and bringing understanding. The fear of the Lord is pure, lasting forever, and His ordinances are true and righteous in every way. They are more valuable than gold, even much fine gold, and sweeter than honey, even the drippings from the honeycomb.

Moreover, His teachings warn His servant, and in keeping them, there is great reward. Yet, who can truly detect their own mistakes? Only God can cleanse me from my hidden faults, and I ask Him to protect me from the arrogance and pride of the wicked, that they may not have dominion over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.

May the words that come from my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to You, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

**MUSIC REFLECTION***Let Me Listen*

Dan Forrest

C4 Choir

Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

to set free those who are oppressed,

to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

**MESSAGE**

*Unrolling the Scroll: A Call to Liberation*

*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**

*Commonwealth Is God's Commandment*

Mary Louise Bringle

## 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)

**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

### 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 bread 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

*Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race*

## †BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Go forth with the dream of justice, echoing the words of Dr. King:

May the valleys be lifted, the mountains made low, and the crooked paths made straight.

Let freedom ring in every heart, every home, and every land.

And may we not rest until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

Go in peace to love and serve. Amen.

C4 Choir: Adam Witte, conductor - Alex Ritter, 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*

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

Please keep in your prayers the family of Alice Ramos, a 4-year-old for whom **Marcia Blum** asked us to pray. Alice passed away this week. Marcia's son is friends with the family.

**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, Robert** and their families in your prayers.

**Tim and Marcia Kerrigan** ask for prayers. Their godson Freddie is almost 2 years old and has terminal cancer. Please pray for Freddie's comfort and joy and for his family for strength and God's grace as they travel this almost unimaginable journey.

**Linda Lovgren** shared that her husband, **Bob**, spent some time at Methodist Hospital and has now returned to Country House in the Memory Care unit, but he has also now moved into hospice care. Please keep Bob and Linda in your prayers during this tender time of transition.

## Countryside Community Church

### Antiracist Covenant

*Countryside Community Church pledges to continue the ongoing work of antiracism. We, collectively and individually, commit to actively understand, identify, and dismantle racism, including in ourselves, both conscious and unconscious. We are inspired by the example of Jesus, grounded by the Holy Spirit, to be engaged in self-reflection, grow in awareness of systems of power and oppression, and challenge the status quo of white privilege and systemic racism so that all may experience love, safety, belonging, dignity, and equity.*

#### **We ACKNOWLEDGE:**

- our lack of awareness regarding the complicity of the Christian Church's historic role in supporting and profiting from the subjugation and genocide of enslaved peoples, indigenous peoples, and all other marginalized groups.
- the effects of white supremacy, white exceptionalism, and white privilege present in the Church and community that have condoned people being treated as less than, inferior, or unworthy rather than as beloved children of God, made in the image of the Divine.
- we have participated in the normalization of unjust systems including healthcare, justice, policing, housing, and education.
- Nebraska's segregated communities have facilitated our complicity and allowed for systemic racism to continue.

#### **We promise to TRANSFORM** our hearts and minds by:

- not being silent or complicit but rather having the moral courage to publicly stand with people of color, the marginalized, and the oppressed.
- re-examining and deepening our understanding of systemic racism and its lasting damage to others and ourselves.
- engaging ourselves and our communities in critical discourse that propels us forward.

#### **We commit to the following ACTION:**

- Devise and implement standards, policies and programs that make our commitment to diversity and inclusion a visible reality.
- Stand up and speak out against everyday micro and macro acts of oppression, aggression, bigotry, and hate speech in all aspects of our common life.
- Educate ourselves and share with others the many places where our privilege blinds us and prevents us from showing compassion to others.
- Collaborate with community organizations to promote equity for all people.

## 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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