

Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



The Way of Blessing Shall Become Our Own, Jan Richardson

Sunday, May 18, 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

Oh, Happy Morning
Countryside Community Church Handbell Choir

Cathy Moglebust

†WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

One: Come, people of God, bringing the gifts you have been given—gifts to speak with grace, to serve with love, and to build one another up.

Many: Let us worship the One who calls us to live fully, serve faithfully, and walk together in the strength God provides.

All: Let us worship as one people, one voice, one church. Amen!

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

Maggie Jones

One: The Peace of God be With You

Many: And also with you.

†HYMN OF RESPONSE

All Are Welcome (vs. 1)

CHILDREN'S TIME

Alleluia, Allelu

Children are invited to join Shannon at the chancel to sing, and then exit with Heather to Discovery Kids classes. Nursery is available for children 0-4 years.

SUNG RESPONSE

Go Now in Peace X 2

Go now in peace, go now in peace,
may the love of God surround you
everywhere, everywhere
you may go.

Hearing the Word

LESSON: 1 Peter 4:10-11

Reader: Molly Anderson

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

MUSICAL REFLECTION

When Morning Gilds the Skies

arr. James Biery

REFLECTIONS ON SHARED MINISTRY

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

Responding to the Word

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

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 Monarch Joint Venture for the May Box donations.

VIDEO from *Hands Together*, Immigrant Welcoming Team

Ann Naylor

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Giver of every good gift, we offer ourselves and our service in gratitude and love. May all we do be a reflection of Your grace at work in us and through us. Amen.

LITANY OF BLESSING & RELEASE (for Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones)

Jenny:

Our church community is always changing. People come and go. Babies are born, children grow, loved ones pass, and new relationships form. Some arrive; others move on to new places and opportunities. These moments of transition matter. Today, we mark one such moment—bidding farewell to our Minister for Congregational Care, Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones. We release her from her ministry at Countryside—from funerals, hospital visits, and pastoral care. We will miss her deeply, but we commit to giving Sarah the year of distance she needs to build new relationships in her role as Interim Minister at First Central Congregational Church.

Sarah:

I am deeply grateful for the time we've shared. Thank you for welcoming me, trusting me, and allowing me to walk alongside you in moments of joy and sorrow. I carry with me the lessons learned and the relationships formed during this past year.

Congregation:

We give thanks for your ministry among us, Sarah. Your compassion and presence have enriched our community. We release you from your responsibilities here, with gratitude and love, and we bless you as you journey forward in your new role.

Jenny:

As we part ways, we trust in God's guidance for both Sarah and our congregation. May we continue to grow in faith and love, embracing the future with hope.

All:

O God, we thank you for the shared experiences and mutual growth. Bless Sarah in her future endeavors, and bless us as we continue our ministry. May your Spirit guide us all in the paths ahead. Amen.

Presentation of Gift on behalf of Countryside

SONG OF BLESSING

The Prayer

Adam Witte, Shannon Shultz-Thomas

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.

HEALING PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Anyone is welcome to join Rev. Norm Pavey in the prayer corner in the rear of the sanctuary. You are invited to share a prayer request for yourself or others, and receive a prayer of blessing or anointing with oil as a reminder that God's presence with you.

COMMUNION MEDITATION

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

†SENDING HYMN

Hymn #453 Called as Partners in Christ's Service

†BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

POSTLUDE

Countryside Community Church Choir and Countryside Handbell Choir - Adam Witte, director
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:

Jodie Nichols asks for prayers following an eye surgery to hopefully restore full vision to her left eye. Let us pray for the surgery to have been successful and for her full healing.

Please keep the family of **Bill O'Dell** in your prayers. Bill passed away recently. A private service will be held at a later date.

Judy Tlustos, one of our office volunteers, shared that her sister passed away last week. Please keep her in your prayers during her time of grief.