

Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



Untitled, Discovery Kids

May 4, 2025
New Member Sunday

† 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

Friends and Strangers

William Jeffrey

†WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

One: We come to God hurried, busy and distracted.

Many: We come to God quiet and curious like a child.

One: No matter how we come, God welcomes us with open arms

Many: Let us come to worship just as we are, beloved and wholly loved.

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The Peace of God be With You

Many: And also with you.

†HYMN OF RESPONSE Hymn #461 *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service*

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children are invited to join Ryan for a lesson at the chancel and then head 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

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 30

Reader: Joyce Davis

I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

O Lord my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.

O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol,
restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones,
and give thanks to his holy name.

For his anger is but for a moment;
his favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.

As for me, I said in my prosperity,
“I shall never be moved.”

By your favor, O Lord,
you had established me as a strong mountain;
you hid your face;
I was dismayed.

To you, O Lord, I cried,
and to the Lord I made supplication:

“What profit is there in my death,
if I go down to the Pit?

Will the dust praise you?

Will it tell of your faithfulness?

Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me!

O Lord, be my helper!”

You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have taken off my sackcloth
and clothed me with joy,

so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.

O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

SECOND LESSON: John 21:1-19

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

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.

CELEBRATION OF NEW MEMBERS

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Shelia Christian, Mary Harding, J Kipp Lanning, Louis Malabas III, Dan Russo, Deb Norman
Marcy Patton, Earline Petersen, Sharon Ping, Tyra Rohlf, Matt Rohlf, Jamie Louise Shipman
Lisa Shoemaker, AJ and Susan Stuart, Janice Szymborski, Don Wigington, Connie Witte

New Member Covenant Promises

Congregation Response:

We welcome you with joy! As partners in the common life of this congregation, we pledge to you our friendship and prayers as we grow together in God's transforming love.

Unison Blessing Prayer:

O God, we praise you for calling us to both seek and serve you, and for gathering us into this church. Together may we grow in your Spirit, building one another up in love and ministering to the world as followers of Jesus. Amen.

(Please greet our new members in the narthex following worship today)

HYMN

All Are Welcome (vs. 1)

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

The Social Justice and Outreach Board has designated Monarch Joint Venture for the May Box donations.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Gracious God, we offer these gifts with open hearts, trusting that you will use them to bring hope, healing, and justice to your world. Bless our giving and our living, that both may reflect your boundless love.

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

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* (vs. 1, 4)

†COUNTRYSIDE BLESSING

Joyce Davis

POSTLUDE

My Little Suede Shoes

Charlie Parker

C4 Choir - Adam Witte, director
Matt Wallace, saxophone - Alex Ritter, organ and piano
Carlos Figueroa, drums - Steve Gomez, bass

Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by Joe Roy
in honor of Vicki Roy's 70th birthday.

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:

Cyndi (John) Kugler has moved from Ovation to Angel's Touch, a residential home setting where she will receive more direct care. Please keep their family in your prayers during this time of transition.

Margie (Glenn) Phillips will have surgery next Wednesday, May 7 to repair her ACL & meniscus tears. Please pray for the surgery and recovery.

Pastor Jenny and Shannon Shultz-Thomas ask for prayers for Shannon's family as her father, Larry Thomas, undergoes surgery for cancer. Please pray for their family as they gather to support him and discuss next steps.

Countryside Community Church

Welcome New Members!



Judy Dappen

Former Nurse, middle school teacher, and church education director. Currently volunteer, avid book reader and club member. Married with three grandchildren.



Dan Russo

Mail carrier, married to Louis, two adult children, loves cooking & baking, travel, hiking, photography, music, working in the yard and landscape, stained glass.



Louis Malabas III

Married to Daniel Russo, loves hiking, travel, photo editing, and making video content. Really digs gardening, especially vegetables. Currently working as patient service rep.



Earline Peterson

Omaha native, completed university and career in the Twin Cities of Minnesota. Returned to care for family. Enjoys being outdoors cycling and hiking.



Jamie Louise Shipman

A proud parent, grandparent, and author, she's a lifelong learner with a ministry degree, a deep love for God, and a long history of advocacy in the LGBT community. She's all about good books, helping others, and finding joy wherever she can.



Don Wigington

Don Wigington is a proud dad and grandpa, recently retired from Airlite Plastics. A widower after 42 wonderful years of marriage, he's now filling his days with travel, bowling, puzzles, and good times with friends.



Jason Kipp Lanning

Engaged to Paige Lewis, he loves biking, music, wine, and travel. Weekends often mean camping with his dog Seamus, skiing, or photography. A dad to Declan and Rylen, he's a marriage and sex therapist at Our Spoken Love, grounded in dignity, compassion, and helping people feel seen.



Mary Harding

Semi-retired, serving 4th term on board of Nebraska Public Power District. Environmental advocate, loves to travel, sew & garden. Time with her family feeds her soul.



Deb Norman

Originally from Delaware, she's lived coast to coast and is a proud mom of two (plus a cat). Parenting a child with a disability has shaped her heart. A Master Naturalist shifting from UNO to UNMC, she unwinds with nature—and bear cams.



Marcy Patton

Married to Joel, she's part of a big blended family: 6 kids and 10 grandkids. After 42 years at CHI Immanuel, she retired in 2016. She's into reading, pickleball, MahJongg, and hanging out with her horse, Joey. She's excited to be at Countryside!



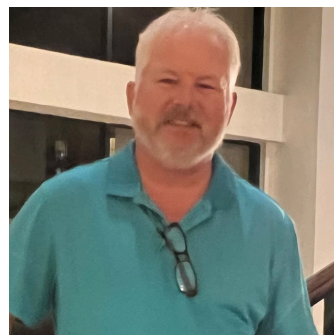
Lisa Shoemaker

After decades in N. Texas, I moved to Omaha to be near family—and yes, I finally own real winter gear. My Frenchie, Ginger, runs the house. I love walks, knitting, needlepoint, new restaurants, and great vacations. Retirement's on the horizon, and I'm counting down!



Susan Stuart, AJ Stuart

A native Omahan, Susan works at Farm Credit Services of America. She loves being involved in the local community and supporting social justice initiatives. AJ is a native Nebraskan. A Buena Vista grad, he works in software technology and enjoys golfing, woodworking, and watching sports.



Matt Rohlfs

I grew up in Bellevue and now live in Papillion with my family. I'm a proud girl dad to three daughters and a new son-in-law. As the master electrician for the city of Omaha, I enjoy watching the Huskers and Chiefs and spending time at our cabin on Sherman Lake.



Tyra Rohlfs

Originally from Loup City, NE, I've lived in the Omaha area for the past 30 years. My husband, Matt, and I have three daughters and a son-in-law. I'm a hospice social worker for Gentiva Hospice, and I enjoy traveling and reading.



Connie Witte

After a retail career and Virginia Beach chapter with her late husband Greg, Connie's now soaking up family time—splitting days between San Diego grandkids and Omaha, where she cheers on her son Adam (yes, that Adam) at Countryside.

NOT PICTURED

- Paige Lewis
- Shelia Christian
- Sharon Ping

NOT PICTURED (but with words!)

- Janice Szymborski: Milwaukee-born, double retiree, California-kid mom, now cruising through life with hikes, books, and road trip playlists.

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis *Reclaiming the Faith Voice*



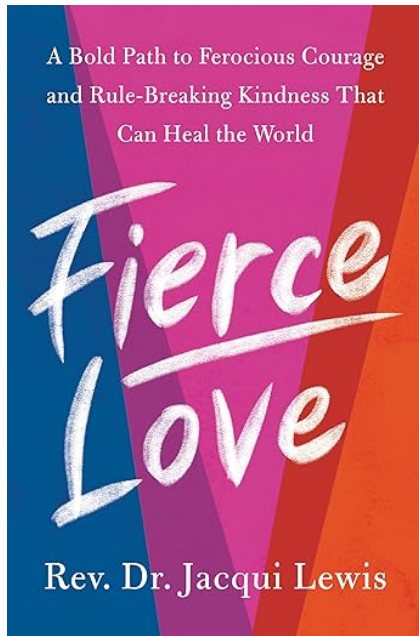
The Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis is an author, preacher, public theologian, and activist whose work centers on creating an antiracist, just, and fully welcoming society. She serves as the Senior Minister for Public Theology and Transformation at Middle Collegiate Church in New York City, where she made history as the first African American and first woman to lead the Collegiate Church, a congregation that has been serving the community since 1628. Dr. Lewis is a powerful voice for justice, advocating for racial equality, economic justice, gun control, and equal rights for all sexual orientations and genders.

Dr. Lewis holds an M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. in Psychology and Religion from Drew University. She is a womanist theologian, committed to transforming lives through faith and public action. Along with her spouse, The Rev. John Janka, she co-founded The Middle Project, which trains leaders to create a more just society. She is also the co-founder of the Revolutionary Love Conference, an initiative that equips people to practice love as a transformative tool for justice.

Her activism has led her to preach at significant national events such as the Festival of Homiletics, the Wild Goose Festival, and The Children's Defense Fund's Haley Farm. She was also a featured speaker on the Together national tour with best-selling author Glennon Doyle. Dr. Lewis is a sought-after voice in the public square, regularly engaging in national conversations about justice, faith, and democracy.

Dr. Lewis' books include *Fierce Love: A Bold Path to Ferocious Courage and Rule-Breaking Kindness That Can Heal the World* and *You Are So Wonderful!*, a children's book that celebrates diversity and the beauty of every human being. Her forthcoming book, *Just Love Story Bible for Children*, will be released this summer.

With her powerful blend of faith, activism, and hope, Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis continues to inspire individuals and communities to live out their call to love and justice.



A healing antidote to our divisive culture, full of evocative storytelling, spiritual wisdom, and nine essential daily practices—by the first female, Black senior minister at the historic Collegiate Churches of New York

"Fierce Love teaches us that with spiritual faith we can transcend the darkest moments and come through stronger."—Gabrielle Bernstein, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Universe Has Your Back*



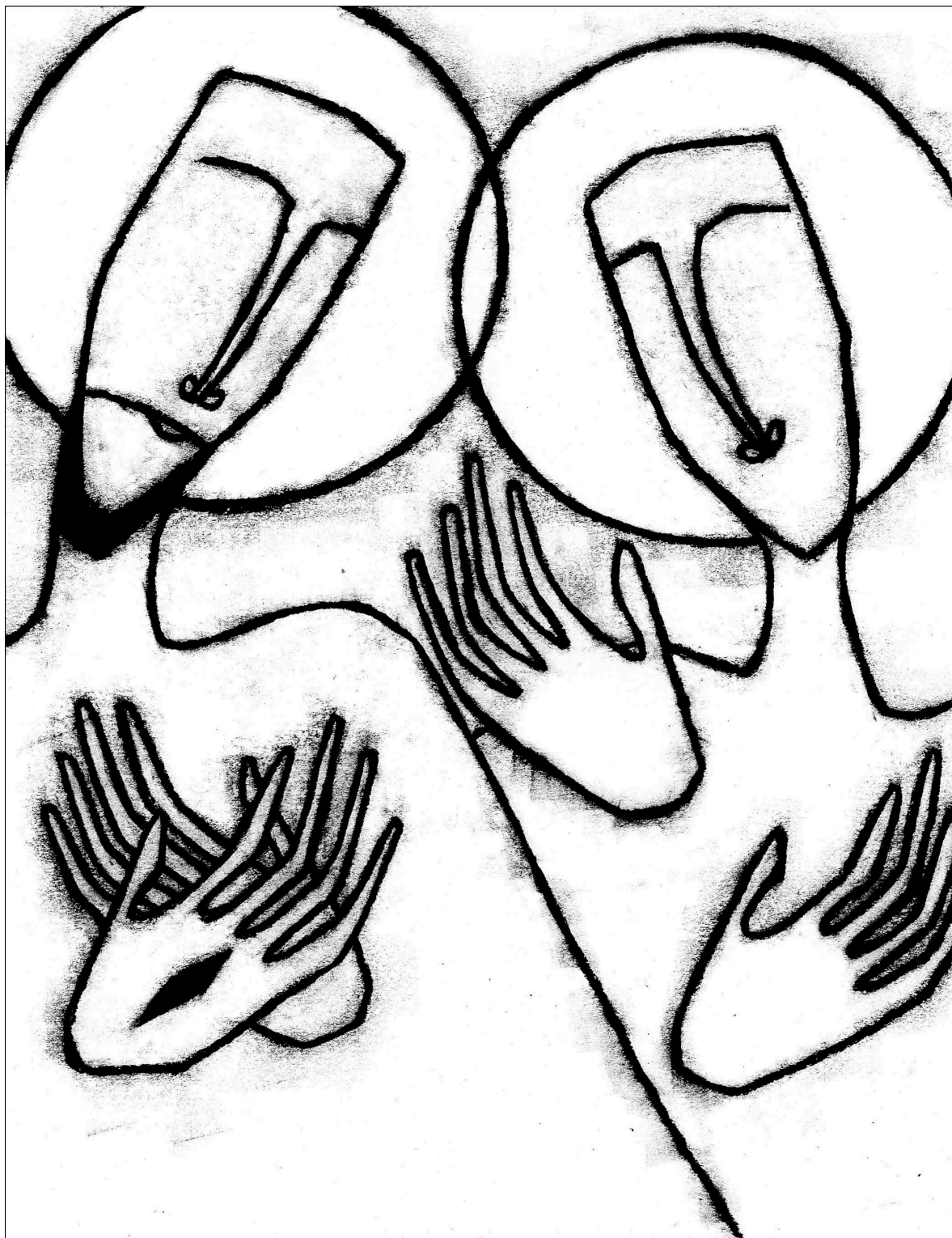
To order
Fierce Love
scan the QR
code.



In a bold and inspiring new storybook Bible for children, Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis and Rev. Dr. Shannon Daley-Harris join a long line of sacred storytellers and question-askers. For thousands of years, people have told stories, sung songs, asked hard questions, and shared experiences to learn about God and how to live as God's people. The big message of the Bible is that God loves us and created us to love God and each other, to do justice, and to love kindness.



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In the Garden of Resurrection, Jan Richardson,