

Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



Wisdom's Path, Jan Richardson

June 22, 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)

Dan Loven-Crum

PRELUDE

Angel Eyes

Matt Dennis / Earl K. Brent

†WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

One: She calls from the halls and the walls, echoing through creation.

Many: She speaks in the silence, and stirs in the depths of our hearts.

One: She cries out even in the shadows, when truth feels far away.

Many: May Wisdom be the voice we trust and the song we carry.

One: May Wisdom guide our steps, shape our witness, and send us out.

All: Amen.

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The Peace of God be With You

Many: And also with you.

Peace I leave with you:
my peace I give you. I do not
give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be
troubled and do not be afraid.
John 14:27

†HYMN OF RESPONSE

Hymn #696 *For Beauty of Meadows*

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children are invited to come forward for a lesson at the chancel. Nursery care 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: Proverbs 8: 1-36

Reader: Becky Knightly

Does not Wisdom call, and does not Understanding raise her voice?
On the heights beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand;
by the gates in front of the town, at the entrance she cries out:
"To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all who live.
O simple ones, learn prudence; acquire intelligence, you who lack it.
Hear, for I will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right.
My mouth will utter truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips.
All the words of my mouth are righteous; nothing twisted or crooked is in them.
They are straight to those who understand, and right to those who find knowledge.
Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold;
for Wisdom is better than jewels, and nothing you desire compares with her.
I, Wisdom, live with prudence, and I attain knowledge and discretion.
The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil; I hate pride, arrogance, and perverted speech.
I have good advice and sound wisdom; I have insight and I have strength.
By me kings reign and rulers decree what is just; by me nobles govern rightly.
I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently will find me.
Riches and honor are with me, enduring wealth and prosperity.
My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver.
I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice,
granting wealth to those who love me and filling their treasuries.
The Lord created me at the beginning, the first of his acts long ago.
Ages ago I was set up, before the earth was formed or shaped.
When there were no depths, I was brought forth; before mountains or hills, I was there.
When God established the heavens, I was there, drawing the circle on the deep.
When the skies were made firm, when the fountains of the deep burst forth,
when the sea was assigned its limit and the foundations of the earth were marked out—
I was beside him, like a master worker, daily his delight, rejoicing always before him,
rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.
And now, my children, listen to me: happy are those who keep my ways.
Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it.
Happy is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates,
waiting beside my doors. For whoever finds me finds life
and obtains favor from the Lord; but those who miss me injure themselves—
all who hate me love death."

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Holy Wisdom

Herold arr. Richard Proulx

Adam Witte, baritone - Alex Ritter, organ

SECOND LESSON:

Poem: *When I Am Among the Trees*
by Mary Oliver

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

When I am among the trees,
especially the willows and the honey locust,
equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,
they give off such hints of gladness.
I would almost say that they save me, and daily.

...

The light flows from their branches.
And they call again, "It's simple," they say,
"and you too have come
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled
with light, and to shine."

MESSAGE

Let the Story Begin With Us

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

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

Improvisation

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Dan Loven-Crum

The Social Justice and Outreach Board has designated the Center for Immigrant and Refugee Advancement for the June Box donations.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Holy Wisdom, who called us from the beginning,

We offer our gifts and our lives back to you.

Tune our hearts to your truth in a world of noise.

Let the stories we live speak love and justice,

And may our lives become the peace we preach. Amen.

Sending

†SENDING HYMN

Hymn #695 God of the Fertile Fields

†BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

POSTLUDE

Dolphin Dance

Herbie Hancock

Matt Wallace, saxophone - Alex Ritter, organ and piano - Adam Witte, vocals
Carlos Figueroa, drums - Mike Daly, bass

Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by Marj Sambasile
in memory of her husband Sam's one hundredth 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 am 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. Charlene Wozny, Interim Minister of Congregational Care, at 402.884.8025 or email charlenew@countrysideucc.org.

Prayers of Gratitude for the following Joys:

Gracious God, we give thanks for the joys that fill our lives and our community. We celebrate milestones reached, healing begun, new life welcomed, and love shared. Thank you for laughter, renewal, and the moments that remind us of your goodness. With grateful hearts, we lift our joy to you.

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

Larry (Mary) Brown had a bad fall Monday (June 8) night and broke two vertebrae in his neck. He had surgery at the Med Center to stabilize his neck and moved to rehab on Sat (June 14). He is doing well and expects to remain there for 14-28 days.

Kathleen (Todd) Samland's father, Bill Deany, passed away last week in Lincoln, NE. The funeral was held on Tuesday, June 17. Please pray for peace and strength for Kathleen, Todd, Rachel and Hannah as they grieve the loss of a father and grandfather.

Tom (Jill) Eilers will have knee surgery on Tuesday, June 24. Please pray for a speedy recovery for Tom and guidance for his doctors.