

Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



Beloved Is Where We Begin © Jan Richardson. janrichardson.com

July 6, 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)

Violet R. - Ryan Hunter

PRELUDE

Corcovado

Antônio Carlos Jobim

†WELCOME

Dan Loven-Crum

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Denny Clark

One: God calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Many: Together, we are one in God's love.

One: God calls us to share our burdens and celebrate our joys.

Many: Together, we are one in God's love.

One: Let us worship together as neighbors, as friends, as one in God's love.

†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 #433 *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

CHILDREN'S TIME

Heather Moran

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: Leviticus 19: 33-34

Reader: Jody Sanders

"When the stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the stranger. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the stranger as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God."

MUSICAL REFLECTION

A Place Called Home

Sibelius / arr. Michael Joncas

Alex Ritter, piano - Adam Witte, baritone

MESSAGE

Honored Creation

Imam Ibrahim Ashour

Responding to the Word

PRAYER

Dan Loven-Crum

Eternal Spirit, Source of all that is and shall be, may we honor your presence by how we live. May love and justice flourish on earth as they are dreamed in heaven. Give us what we need for this day—food, hope, and compassion. Forgive us when we hurt one another, as we seek to forgive with grace and courage. Lead us away from fear and hatred, and guide us always toward peace. For the world is yours— And so are we. Amen.

SHARING OUR GIFTS

The Social Justice and Outreach Board has designated OmahaForUs for the July Box donations.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

God, we come offering our gifts as an act of service. Call us now to serve as an act of giving. Receive the gifts of our hands and our hearts and use them to restore neighborly love, kindness and compassion among your people. Amen.

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

Anyone is welcome to join Rev. Dr. Norman 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

Improvisation

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, gracious God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us your presence. 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 #688 *When, in Awe of God's Creation* (vs. 1-3)

†COUNTRYSIDE BLESSING

Denny Clark

POSTLUDE

Yes and No

Wayne Shorter

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

Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by Kim and Ed Schwartz
in celebration of our Tri-Faith partners.

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 the church office at 402.391.0350 or email office@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:

Prayers for **Johnna Roberts** as she goes into surgery on July 7 for her shoulder replacement. We ask for guidance for her doctors and a speedy recovery for Johnna.

Margaret (Tim Ekberg) Hayford has requested prayers for her brother, whose lung cancer has spread to his brain, and for her sister who was just diagnosed with breast cancer. Prayers for fortitude, discernment and peace for Margaret's brother and sister, and the family while on this journey.

Linda Grubb is requesting prayers for Curtis, who had surgery for a collapsed lung on Wednesday. We ask for complete healing in Curtis' body.

Prayers for **Jenny and Shannon Shultz-Thomas** and Quinn and Sage as they travel during Jenny's July sabbatical. May this be a time of renewal for their bodies, minds, and spirits.

Gracious God, we hold in our hearts those among us who carry silent burdens—those who may not speak their needs aloud but are deeply struggling. We lift them to you now, trusting in your love and asking you to move tenderly on their behalf.

Loving Our Neighbor (when the world seeks to divide us)



Imam Ibrahim Muhammed Ashour

Imam Ibrahim served as Imam at Masjid al-Noor in Maadi Cairo, and during this time, he served for many years as a lecturer of Islamic studies in English at Al-Ruwaq Al-Azhari, Al-Azhar Mosque. He was regularly invited as a commentator and hosted religious programming on the Nile Family TV channel in Cairo, both in English and in Arabic.

Imam Ibrahim graduated from the esteemed and renowned Al-Azhar University, with a focus in English Literature and Linguistics. In addition, he recently obtained a Masters Degree in Linguistics, specializing in English from Ain Shams University.

The American Muslim Institute (AMI) is a local, non-denominational Muslim community and one of the three faith partners in the Tri-Faith Initiative. As a vibrant and inclusive organization, AMI is dedicated to building a Masjid and Islamic cultural center in Omaha that fosters learning, celebrates diversity, and welcomes all Muslims for worship, leadership, and community life—regardless of gender, race, creed, or national origin.

July Events

July 6

Guest Speaker, Imam Ibrahim Ashour

July 6

Blood Drive, 8 am - 1:30 pm

July 12

Pride Parade and Festival, 9:30 am - 10 pm

July 13

Pride Sunday and lunch,
Guest Speaker Rev. Juniper Meadows

July 16

Family Movie Night, 6-7 pm

July 20

Guest Speaker Rabbi Ben Sharff

July 27

Guest Speaker Dr. Leah Georges