

Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



Where Light Plays II © Jean Mason, jeanmason.com

August 10, 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

†WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

One: Come, all who are weary from running life's race—

Many: those barely hanging on, and those burning with hope.

One: Bring your grit and your grace, your joy and your sorrow.

Many: For here, in the presence of God, we are met with mercy,

One: surrounded by a cloud of witnesses, and strengthened to rise again.

Many: Let us worship the One who runs beside us and calls us beloved.

†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

They Did Not Build In Vain

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: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Reader: Connie Johnk

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Cloud Of Witnesses

Mark Schultz

SECOND LESSON: Luke 12:32-34

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

MESSAGE

Where Grit Meets Grace

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Responding to the Word

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.

†HYMN OF RESPONSE

Hymn #618 *How Firm A Foundation* (vs. 1-3)

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Dan Loven-Crum

The Social Justice and Outreach Board has designated CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for Douglas County for the August Box donations.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

God of grit and grace, we offer these gifts with blistered hands and open hearts.
Let them nourish hope, ignite joy, and help your weary ones rise—together. Amen.

Sending

†SENDING HYMN

Hymn #618 *How Firm A Foundation* (vs. 5)

†BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

POSTLUDE

Adam Witte, vocals - 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 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:

We give thanks for this week—may our joy honor creation and strengthen our care for one another.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the trans individuals in our midst, in our community and in our world. Our lives are enriched by their presence. We pray that they know they are loved, and we pray for their safety in this time of unrest. May they always find welcome and care inside our doors.

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

Please pray for **Margaret (Tim Ekberg) Hayford's** sister who had surgery Thursday, as part of her treatment plan for breast cancer. Also, prayers for her brother whose lung cancer has metastasized to his brain.

Jan (and Mike) Brown had knee surgery on August 7. Prayers for her recovery and for Mike as he cares for her.

Johnna Roberts asks for prayers for her husband, **Greg Atkinson**. Greg fell and has two breaks on his right arm. He also hit a table and tore his left arm, resulting in 23 stitches. Greg is currently at Lakeside and will then go to a physical therapy rehab facility.

Countryside's *The Art of Home* Project

The Art of Home celebrates the creativity of local and regional artists by featuring their work on Countryside's Sunday bulletin covers, service slides, YouTube tiles, and social media. Each piece reflects the spirit of our community—rooted in this place, shaped by the people who call it home, and open to the beauty that surrounds us. Through this ongoing project, we honor the gifts of local artistry while weaving them into our shared experience of worship and belonging.

If you know a local artist whose work would resonate with our community, please let us know — we'd love to consider their art for future bulletins!

On the Cover



This Sunday's bulletin features *Where Light Plays II*, the second work by Jean Mason—founder of Urban Sketchers Omaha—to appear on our cover. On July 19, Jean and fellow sketchers spent the day at Countryside, capturing scenes in pencil, paint and ink. The inspiration for this piece came from the rock crystal panels in our nursery, whose textures and shifting light she translated into a luminous, layered composition.

Jean's art has appeared in galleries from New York City to Santa Fe, Tampa to New Orleans, and even on the cover of an Italian jazz magazine. Locally, she serves as a docent at the Joslyn Art Museum and previously held the same role at the Blanton Museum of Art in Austin, an institution known for its social justice and mindfulness initiatives.

A lifelong artist, Jean works in oils, acrylics, watercolor and gouache, and in recent years has embraced urban sketching and travel journaling. She earned degrees in Studio Art and Art Education from the University of Kansas and has worn many creative hats—as an art teacher, therapist, and workshop facilitator for learners of all ages. Her talents extend beyond the visual arts: she teaches ukulele, as well as ceramics and hand-building. Jean currently works out of her studio at Hot Shops in downtown Omaha.

