

Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



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August 17, 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)

Adam Witte

PRELUDE *What the World Needs Now is Love* Burt Bacharach / Hal David

WELCOME & †CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

One: By faith, we gather—assured of things hoped for.

Many: By faith, we stand—rooted in the promises of God.

One: By faith, we stay—where love can find us and hope can grow.

Many: Come, let us worship the One who calls us to go, and to remain. 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: *O Thou Who the Shepherd of Israel Art* (vs. 1, 2, 5)

CHILDREN'S TIME

Blessing of the Backpacks

Heather Moran

Children are invited to come forward bringing their backpacks for a special blessing 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: Psalm 80:1–2, 8–19

Reader: Mark Ware

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us! You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land. The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches; it sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the River. Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit? The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it. Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven and see; have regard for this vine, the stock that your right hand planted. It has been burned with fire; it has been cut down; may they perish at the rebuke of your countenance. But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Faith Is the Brightest Evidence

Isaac Watts

SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 11:1–3, 8–16

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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.

SHARING OUR GIFTS

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 promise, we bring these gifts in faith— faith that moves when You call, faith that stays where Your love can find us. Use them to grow hope, justice, and peace, until Your kingdom comes. Amen.

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

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.

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 #695 God of the Fertile Fields

†BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

POSTLUDE

The Chicken

Jaco Pastorius

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 Charles Jansen
in memory of Marilyn Jansen.

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 is recovering and will start chemo soon for breast cancer. Prayers also for her brother who is stable and continues treatment for his lung cancer.

Jan (and Mike) Brown had knee surgery on August 7. Recovery is going well but slowly. Prayers for Mike as he cares for her.

Johnna Roberts asks for continued prayers for her husband, **Greg Atkinson**. He continues to recover from a fall and has now been admitted to Brookestone Meadows until the breaks have healed.