

Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



Well Blessed © Jan Richardson, janrichardsonimages.com

August 24, 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

Butterfly

Herbie Hancock

†WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

One: Come, all who are burdened—carrying pain, weariness, or injustice.

Many: We come to this sacred space, longing for renewal and release.

One: Here, Christ calls us by name, restoring what has been diminished.

Many: Let us worship the One whose love liberates and makes us whole. 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 #709 *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

CHILDREN'S TIME

Heather Moran

Children are invited to join Heather 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: Hebrews 12:18–29

Reader: Joyce Davis

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.” Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”) But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.” This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

arr. Mary McDonald

SECOND LESSON: Luke 13:10–17

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day.” But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?” When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

MESSAGE

Unshakable: Rising to Collective Liberation

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.

MUSIC REFLECTION

Improvisation

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)

Liberating God, you see us in our struggle and call us by name.
You lift the lowly and make room for the broken to belong.
Receive these gifts as acts of faith and gratitude.
May they help bend the world toward healing and hope. Amen.

Sending

†SENDING HYMN

Hymn #475 *The Church of Christ in Every Age*

†BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

POSTLUDE

Alone Together

Arthur Schwartz / Howard Dietz

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 Amy and David Worth.

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.

Renee Besancon requests prayers for a friend and co-worker, Suzi Angier, and her extended family. Her brother-in-law Doug is having triple bypass surgery at UNMC on August 27. Her stepfather Gib will receive radiation and then surgery for rectal cancer in September at Mayo Clinic. Her husband Kyle is now at home and recovering from a blood infection. Obviously, she's going through a lot, and is also coping with aging parents, working full time and being a mama to a 7th grader.

On the Cover

This week's cover art, Jan Richardson's *Well Blessed*, invites us to reflect on resilience, grace and the collective flow of blessing. We often feature Jan Richardson's work on our bulletins, bringing her meditative, spiritual vision into our weekly worship.

Gold shimmers across the canvas like the steadfast ground of blessing. On the right, a silver-white column rises, luminous and unbroken, suggesting the presence of something unshakable. Across the surface, turquoise and gold lines flow in irregular, wave-like curves—movement that feels like water crossing desert stone, like community carried together. *Well Blessed* gathers these elements into a vision of resilience and grace: a reminder that blessing flows, strength endures, and liberation rises when we rise together.

About the Artist: Jan Richardson is an artist, poet and ordained minister whose work explores the sacred in everyday life. She blends color, form, and text to create contemplative spaces for reflection and renewal. Her paintings often evoke themes of spiritual journey, hope, and communal care.

