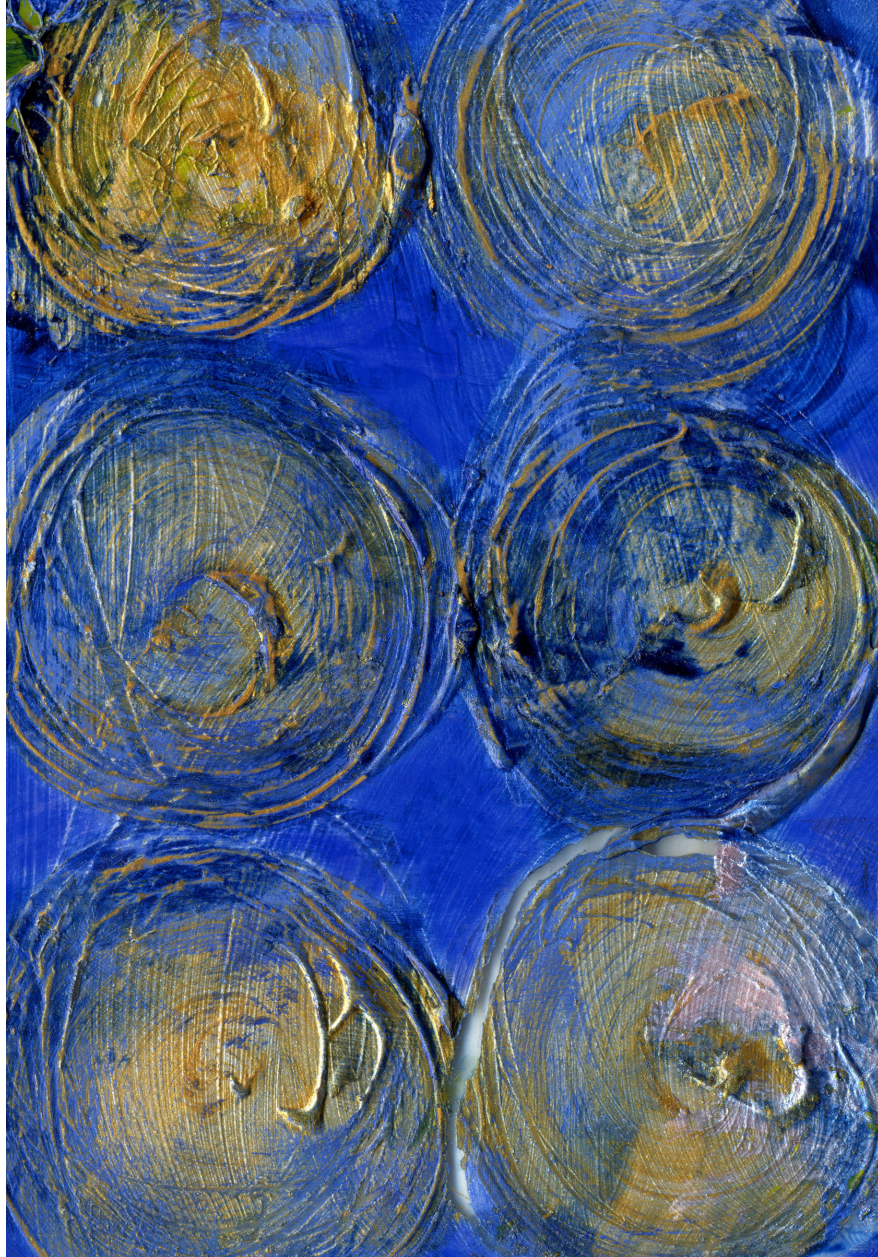


Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



Remembering is What We Do Together © Jan Richardson,
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August 31, 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 to the table—there is room for all.

Many: Come with your stories of joy and of struggle.

One: Here the humble are lifted and the weary find rest.

Many: Let us worship God, who makes space for everyone.

†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 #25 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* (vs. 1, 3, 4)

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 13:1–8, 15–16

Reader: Marcia Blum

Let mutual affection continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. By him, therefore, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not neglect to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Entertain The Angels
Countryside Choir

Heather Sorenson

SECOND LESSON: Luke 14:1, 7–14

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

MESSAGE

Make Room to Rise

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 #499 *When Love Is Found* (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 great gifts and abundant blessings we offer back to you a portion of our own--blessings and grace—that you might take and make plentiful the spirit that nourishes, the faith that sustains and the beauty that celebrates each of your beloved.

Sending

†SENDING HYMN

Hymn #461 *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service*

†BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

POSTLUDE

Countryside Choir - Adam Witte, director
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.

We give thanks for the beautiful autumn-like weather that brings with it the hope for change and renewal.

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.

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 seventh grader.

Laurie Sample who was admitted to Methodist Hospital Tuesday afternoon.

Blessing

Now
more than ever
let us be the ones
who will not turn away.
Let us be the ones
who will go
farther into the wreck
and deeper into the rubble.
Let us be the ones
who will enter into the places
of devastation beyond belief
and despair beyond our imagining.

And there let us listen
for the Spirit that brooded
over the formless darkness,
and there let us look again
for the God who gathered up the chaos
and began to create.
Let us be the ones
who will give ourselves
to the work of making again
and to the endless beginning
of creation.

Jan Richardson
from *In the Sanctuary of Women*

