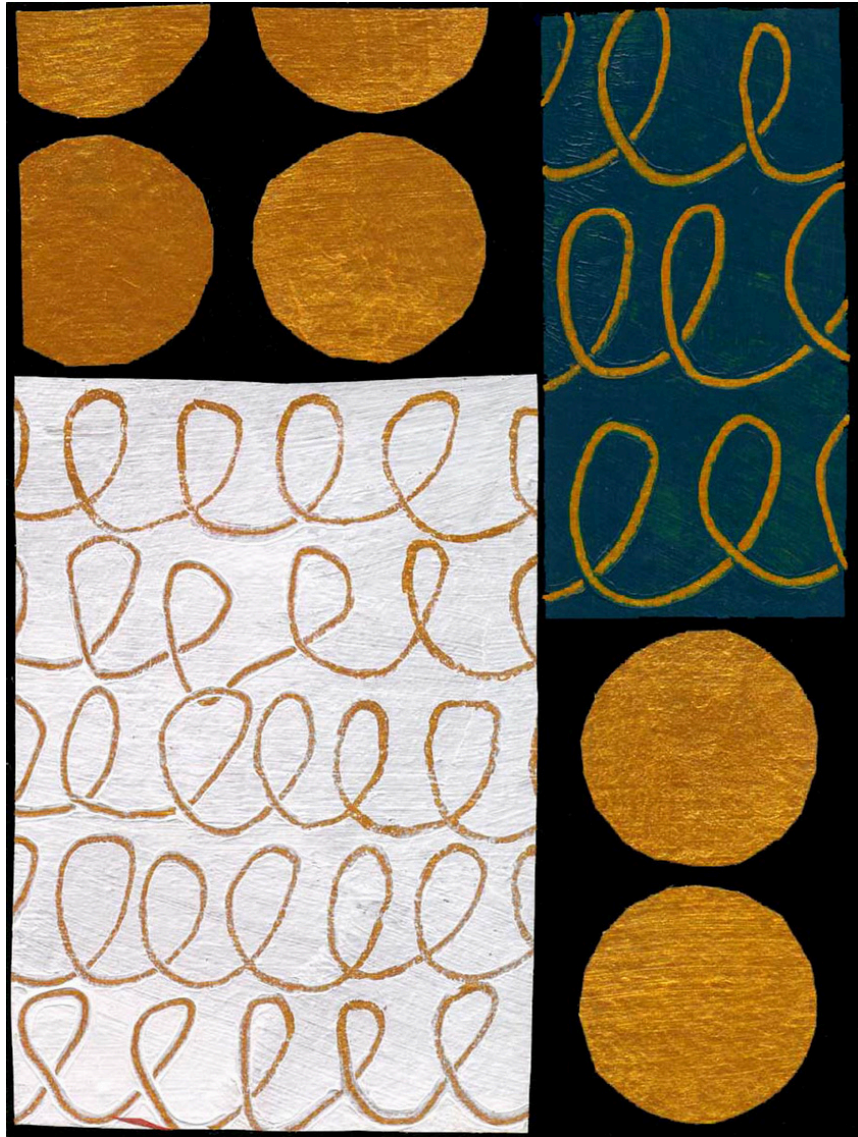


Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



Taxing Question © Jan Richardson, janrichardsonimages.com

September 21, 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

Nostalgia in Times Square

Charles Mingus

WELCOME & †CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

One: Come, people of God, bring your weary imaginations and your stubborn hopes.

Many: We come, longing for a story bigger than Mammon's grip.

One: Here, love is not a slogan, but a power that sets captives free.

Many: Here, we imagine more together – God's justice, God's joy, God's new day.

†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 #382 *We Give Thee But Thine Own* (vs. 1-2)

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: Jeremiah 8:18-22, 9:1

Reader: Sheila Christian

My joy is gone; grief is upon me;
my heart is sick.

Listen! The cry of the daughter of my people
from far and wide in the land:

“Is the Lord not in Zion?
Is her King not in her?”

(“Why have they provoked me to anger with their images,
with their foreign idols?”)

“The harvest is past, the summer is ended,
and we are not saved.”

For the brokenness of the daughter of my people I am broken,
I mourn, and horror has seized me.

Is there no balm in Gilead?
Is there no physician there?

Why then has the health of the daughter of my people
not been restored?

O that my head were a spring of water
and my eyes a fountain of tears,
so that I might weep day and night
for the slain of the daughter of my people!

MUSICAL REFLECTION

O Jesus, I Have Promised
Countryside Choir

Bode arr. Timothy Shaw

SECOND LESSON: Luke 16:1-13

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly,

and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

MESSAGE

Imagine More: Breaking Mammon's Grip

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

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

Dan Loven-Crum

The Social Justice and Outreach Board has designated Project Everlast for the September Box donations. This organization is committed to supporting young adults without family support, helping them transition to adulthood.

Fingerprints will collect over the counter medicines: pain relievers, cold and flu remedies, cough syrup, allergy medicine, antacids, and children's fever reducers in September.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

God of abundance, receive these gifts—and the imaginations that shaped them.

Turn our resources into mercy, our plans into justice, our power into love.

Loosen Mammon's grip so we become shrewd-for-good and boldly generous.

Grow your kin-dom through what we give today, for the sake of our neighbors. 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**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 #595 *Be Thou My Vision*

†BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Go now, not as servants of Mammon but as children of God.

Let your money serve mercy, your choices serve love,
and your life shine with generosity.

POSTLUDE

Nardis

Miles Davis

Countryside Choir - Adam Witte, director - Diane Hill, organ and piano
Matt Wallace, saxophone - Rick Avard, piano - Carlos Figueroa, drums - Mike Daly, bass

Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by Trisha Hoffman-Ahrens

in honor of her grandchildren, Maren Mae, who celebrates her second birthday on September 26 and her baby sister, Corinne Fey, born on September 9, 2025. Happy Birthdays!

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 the Wednesday Wonders (Grades K-5) and the gifts of creativity they've shared. Inspired by Kusama, Matisse, Pollock, Warhol, and Van Gogh, their art (displayed in the Narthex) reflects God's vibrant love and wonder. Bless these young kids as they continue to see the world with fresh eyes and joyful hearts on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

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

Molly Anderson asks for prayers for a swift and complete healing for her older sister, Kate, who fell at her home and broke her hip. She is recuperating well and will move to the care center at her senior living facility for physical therapy, until she can move back into her apartment.

Laurie Sample who is back home at Remington Heights following a brief hospitalization but experienced more health issues and was taken to the emergency room. Her health care team will continue tests.

Nancy Deetz is doing okay and would like prayers as she transitions to assisted living this week.

Prayers for **Doug Bloomquist's** daughter and her family following the death of her husband Frank Fong. A celebration of Life will be held for Frank on Saturday, September 27, 2025, from 3pm-7pm at the Thomson Alumni Center –UNO. See the C10 weekly newsletter for the RSVP link.