

# Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



*Following the Flow* © Jan Richardson, [janrichardsonimages.com](http://janrichardsonimages.com)

## September 7, 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**

*Lady Bird*

Tadd Dameron

**WELCOME & †CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

One: Come, not because it's easy, but because love is worth the cost.

**Many: Come, not to escape the world, but to be transformed for it.**

One: Come, bringing your questions, your burdens, your hopes.

**Many: Come, for Christ calls us to freedom, and in Christ we are enough.**

**†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**

*All Are Welcome vs. 1*

**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 18:1-11

Reader: Nancy Cohen

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you, from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

## MUSICAL REFLECTION

*Lord, Here Am I*  
Countryside Choir

Fanny Crosby arr. John Ness Beck

## SECOND LESSON: Luke 14:25-33

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

## MESSAGE

*Counting the Cost*

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)**

**Take our lives, O God, and shape them in Your hands.**

**Take our gifts, and use them for love and justice.**

**Take our fears, and free us for faithfulness.**

**Take our church, and make us vessels of Your peace.**

## **SERVICE OF COMMUNION**

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

### **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

*Estate*

Bruno Martino / Bruno Breggetti

## 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 #609 Take My Life, And Let It Be*

### †COUNTRYSIDE BLESSING

Cohen

Nancy

### POSTLUDE

*Red Clay*

Freddie Hubbard

Countryside Choir - Adam Witte, director - Matt Wallace, saxophone  
Alex Ritter, organ and piano - Carlos Figueroa, drums - Steve Gomez, bass

## *Gratitude Luncheon*

### You're Invited!

The Stewardship Committee warmly invites the congregation to a special **Gratitude Luncheon** on Sunday, Oct. 12, from 11:15 am–12:30 pm in Marys' Hall. This gathering is our way of saying thank you for the many ways you help make Countryside a vibrant and welcoming community.

Together, we'll share a meal, celebrate the spirit of generosity that flows through our church, and look ahead with hope as we continue to **Imagine More** for the future of Countryside. Join us for this time of fellowship, appreciation and inspiration. Everyone is welcome—we would love to see you there!



Scan the QR code to register.

# 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](mailto: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:**

**Jan (and Mike) Brown:** Recovery from knee surgery continues to go well although 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 doing well following triple bypass surgery at UNMC. 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.

**Merv and Kris Olberding** asks for prayers for their son Connor and his wife Lizzie Johnson who are moving to Kyiv Ukraine next week. Lizzie is a Foreign Correspondent to Ukraine for the Washington Post. As of this time, it is a 4 year assignment.

**Laurie Sample** who is back home following a brief hospitalization.

Prayers for **Doug Bloomquist's** daughter and her family following the death of her husband **Frank Fong**.