

# Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



*Braydee's Light*, Braydee Carlson (1994-2018), daughter of Keith and Julie Carlson.

## October 26, 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 & OPENING PRAYER**

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

**†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

**†OPENING HYMN**

*Once to Every Soul and Nation (vs. 1-2)*

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

Joyce Davis

Children are invited to join us 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*

Go now in peace, go now in peace,  
may the love of God surround you  
everywhere, everywhere  
you may go.  
(sing twice)

# Hearing the Word

## FIRST LESSON: 1 Samuel 8:4-22

Reader: Dave Lundblad

Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah and said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations." But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to govern us." Samuel prayed to the Lord, and the Lord said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. Just as they have done to me from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. Now then, listen to their voice; only, you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them."

So Samuel reported all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking him for a king. He said, "These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots, and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his courtiers. He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and his courtiers. He will take your male and female slaves and the best of your cattle and donkeys and put them to his work. He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. And on that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the Lord will not answer you on that day."

But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, "No! We are determined to have a king over us, so that we also may be like other nations and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles." When Samuel heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the Lord. The Lord said to Samuel, "Listen to their voice and set a king over them." Samuel then said to the Israelites, "Each of you return home."

## MUSICAL REFLECTION

*Have Mercy On Me*  
Countryside Choir

Heidi & Dan Goeller

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

*Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name;*

*indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.*

*He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.*

*He has brought down the powerful from their thrones  
and lifted up the lowly;*

*he has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.*

*He has come to the aid of his child Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”*

**MESSAGE**

*No King, but God,  
No Crown, but Love.*

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.**

## SHARING OUR GIFTS

Please find the QR codes at the Spotlight table in the narthex to support our community partners (Asha House) through the Box and (Together) through Fingerprints, as well as make your commitments to Countryside's wider mission.

## Stewardship Moment

Tim Kerrigan, Tyler Gruttemeyer and John Kampfe

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

**No king but You, O God—receive these gifts as seeds of justice.**

**No crown but love—let them grow into hope for all Your people. AMEN.**

## *Sending*

## †SENDING HYMN

*Once to Every Soul and Nation (vs. 3-4)*

## †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](mailto:office@countrysideucc.org).*

### **Prayers of Gratitude for the following Joys:**

We give thanks for the beauty of this October season— for crisp air, golden leaves, and the warmth of community that surrounds us here at Countryside. Fill our hearts with joy for the blessings You have placed among us — friendship, faith, and the shared work of love and justice. May gratitude guide our days and joy light our path as we continue to serve You together.

*(continued on following page)*

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

**Chris Gilmore** asks for prayers for the families of her sister, Mary Ann Olson, who passed away after a long bout of dementia. Mary Ann was a former member of Countryside prior to moving to Colorado. The burial will be in Omaha.

**Margie and Glenn Phillips** ask for prayers for their 8-year-old granddaughter Divina who has neurofibromatosis. A benign plexiform neurofibroma tumor on her neck is affecting her scoliosis, attacking her spine and nerves. Divina's parents are traveling to NYU in New York City to see a surgeon.

**Christine Kasel** asks for prayers for her dear friend of 35 years, Jan Ginavan, who entered hospice care this week.

**Deb Hickman** asks for prayers for her friends of 38 years, Claudia and Steve Swee. Steve was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and two weeks later suffered a debilitating stroke. He is now in palliative Care at Newport House.

**Carol McCann**, who is receiving rehab at Brookestone on 144th and Center.

**Mary Patton**, who is recovering and receiving home care, physical therapy and occupational therapy as she recovers from two surgeries following a riding accident. She will remain homebound for the next 4-6 weeks.

**Molly Anderson** asks for continued prayers for her sister Kate, who is recovering from surgery after another fall. She will remain at the Care Center for another two to three weeks.

**Lillian Chapman** is now in hospice care.

# On the Cover

Throughout October, our bulletin covers have celebrated artists who lived with disability or chronic illness—reminding us that creativity often springs from places of deep resilience and hope. We’ve reflected on the work of Paul Klee and Henri Matisse, and we close the series with a painting by Braydee Carlson (1994–2018), daughter of Countrysiders Keith and Julie Carlson.

Braydee was diagnosed with 1P36 deletion at age 10, a rare chromosomal condition that shaped her life but never dimmed her joy or creativity. She created this artwork at age 15 while a student at Beverage Junior High. Its vibrancy and energy captured so much of who she was that it was later selected for public display in Omaha’s Old Market Passageway and at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

Braydee’s art, like all the works we’ve shared this month, reminds us that beauty can rise from every life and every circumstance. Her colors and spirit invite us to see God’s creative love shining through all people—every story, every gift, every brushstroke.



## *Gratitude for a Culture of Open Minds and Caring*

As we continue our journey toward greater accessibility, the A2A Designation Team is deeply thankful for Countryside’s culture of compassion, inclusion, dignity and support. Time and again, we have witnessed how this congregation approaches challenges—not from a mindset of scarcity, but with a spirit of abundance.

We are especially grateful for the help offered, the ideas explored together, and the careful listening that has shaped our efforts to be more inclusive. It feels like an upward spiral: adaptations foster gratitude, inclusion deepens gratitude, and lives are transformed along the way.

This note is meant to express that gratitude. While the congregation may not always see firsthand the ways accessibility changes lives, the impact is real—and the gratitude is profound.



# ***Thank you to all who have made a financial commitment for 2026 and turned in a Commitment Card!***

If you have not turned made a commitment for 2026, the Stewardship Committee wants to hear from you.

Please fill out a commitment card. Cards are available in the Narthex or scan the QR code to complete a online card.



## **Online Recurring Giving**

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Online recurring giving provides **consistent, reliable financial support** for the church, helping sustain ministries and operations year-round. It also offers members a **convenient, secure way** to live out their generosity regularly.

**If already set up with online recurring giving** through the church, please note Countryside is moving to a new online giving platform this fall and you will be receive an email from the church before the end of October with clear and simple steps to make the transition to the new platform.

**If new to online recurring giving** and would like to set it up, visit <https://my.countrysideucc.org/Give/recurring-giving> or scan the QR Code.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Ryan Rippentrop, Countryside's Office Manager, at [ryanr@countrysideucc.org](mailto:ryanr@countrysideucc.org) or 402-884-8023.



For more information about the 2026 Stewardship Campaign visit [CountrysideUCC.org/imaginemore](https://CountrysideUCC.org/imaginemore)