

Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



The Vase (Die Vase), Paul Klee, oil on jute, 1938.

October 5, 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

Accessibility to All (A2A)

Why we do what we do!

Kyle Bachus

PRELUDE

WELCOME & †CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

One: We come asking God to increase our faith.

Many: But Jesus says: you already have enough.

One: Mustard-seed faith is small but fierce.

Many: So let us show up—ready, steady, faithful. 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

All Are Welcome vs. 1

CHILDREN'S TIME

Heather Moran

Children are invited to join Ann Huxtable-Scates for a story at the chancel and then head to Discovery Kids classes after singing. Nursery is available for children 0-4 years.

God Walks With Me
Countryside Children's Choir

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

LESSON: Deuteronomy 1: 6-8

Reader: Nancy Cohen

The Lord our God spoke to us at Horeb, saying, 'You have stayed long enough at this mountain. Resume your journey, and go into the hill country of the Amorites as well as into the neighboring regions—the Arabah, the hill country, the Shephelah, the Negeb, and the seacoast—the land of the Canaanites and the Lebanon, as far as the great river, the River Euphrates. See, I have set the land before you; go in and take possession of the land that the Lord swore to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give to them and to their descendants after them.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Be Still, My Soul

Sibelius arr. Stephen DiCesare

Joseph O'Connor, tenor; Alex Ritter, piano

LESSONS: Habakkuk 1:2-4

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

O Lord, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?
Or cry to you "Violence!"
and you will not save?
Why do you make me see wrongdoing
and look at trouble?
Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.
So the law becomes slack,
and justice never prevails.
The wicked surround the righteous;
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

Luke 17:5-6

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

MESSAGE

Faith that Moves Mountains

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 Asha House for the October Box donations. It is designed for parents and caregivers to have a safe, comfortable, and loving environment for those under their care.

Fingerprints in October is collecting canned goods like tuna, chicken, soup and vegetables to help stock the cupboards of families in need.

Stewardship Moment

Tim Kerrigan, Leah Georges and Sharon Royers

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Take what we offer, Lord, and make it holy.

Turn our money into mercy, our giving into grace. Amen.

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

†COUNTRYSIDE BLESSING

Nancy Cohen

POSTLUDE

Countryside Children's Choir - Shannon Shultz-Thomas, director
Alex Ritter, organ and piano - Joseph O'Connor, tenor

Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by Nancy and Earl Cohen
in memory of their parents Florence and Paul Cohen & Joy and Bill Yates.

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 to all the groups that use our building. We're grateful for the Omaha Japanese School and Heartland Karate who pass along their knowledge to a new generation. It's a joy to share our space with others in the community (Kiwanis, PFLAG, Destiny Cafe, River City Mixed Chorus, Nebraska Festival Singers, Resonance Chorus, Association of Burkinabe in Nebraska, African Immigrant Family Services (AIFS) and House of Bah) so that they can continue to reach out and provide their knowledge with others.

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

Laurie Sample is back home at Remington Heights. She continues to experience ongoing health concerns.

Carol McCann fell and after a brief hospitalization is now at Brookstone, 144th and Center, for rehab.

Marcy Patton had a riding accident on September 5 and is recovering from surgery for broken bones. After a 10-day stay at Madonna Rehabilitation, she is now receiving home care with ongoing occupational and physical therapy. She will be homebound for the next 6–8 weeks.

Molly Anderson asks for continued prayers for her sister Kate who fell again over the weekend, which resulted in another surgery. She will be at the care center for another four weeks.

Prayers for **Pat Smith** whose primary caregiver is out of town this week.

Mission of the A2A Designation Team

Countryside Community Church believes that all people are created in the image of God and therefore all people are to be fully and actively included in all aspects of Congregational life and ministry. Inclusion embodies efforts to remove barriers due to race, culture, gender, age, social class and/or disability. We see and treasure the souls of all who enter Countryside and strive to create an emotional/physical environment for accessibility, enrichment of worship and leadership participation. We do not think about disability inclusion as charity, but as faithfulness to the way of Jesus.

Next Steps

A2A Team has received Board Approval for our Countryside Accessibility Covenant. It will be read to the Congregation in next week's service. Our next step is to complete and file the United Church of Christ (UCC) audit checklist. Countryside will then achieve the UCC official designation of Accessible to All Church.

Want to Learn More?

Check out the Accessibility Center in the Narthex to see items available to assist during services, find out what items are in our Mobility Lending Closet, grab a few informational brochures, and check out books about Disability from our church library. There have been measurable improvements in Parking, Sanctuary Seating and Restroom Accessibility.

October Bulletin Art

As part of our October worship series highlighting A2A (Accessible to All) Awareness, we are featuring artwork from artists who live or lived with disability or chronic illness. These stories remind us that creativity is not limited by physical ability, and that art can become a form of resilience, prayer, and witness in the midst of struggle.

This month, we begin with Paul Klee (1879–1940) – a groundbreaking modern artist whose late works, created while suffering from scleroderma and after being labeled “degenerate” by the Nazis, reveal both anguish and hope. His art invites us to reflect on how beauty, courage, and faith can emerge even in the most difficult seasons of life.

On the cover

Our bulletin cover art for today is Paul Klee's *The Vase (Die Vase)*. Klee created this painting in 1938, late in his life, after an illness forced him to adapt his artistic style. At first glance, it looks like a simple vase of flowers. But when you look closer, the flowers take on human-like shapes, full of movement and personality. The bright reds, pinks, and yellows glow against a dark background, creating both beauty and a sense of fragility.

Klee often explored contrasts—order and freedom, vitality and decline, joy and mortality. His work reminds us that creativity and meaning can emerge even in times of limitation. In the spirit of A2A, *The Vase* invites us to see life, in all its complexity, as still vibrant, beautiful, and worthy of celebration.

Today's Special Guest Soloist Joseph O'Connor is a tenor with Résonance, which performs regularly with the Omaha Symphony. Résonance has appeared in multiple Omaha Symphony concert programs, including the *Christmas Celebration* in which O'Connor was a soloist. He has also performed with Opera Omaha and The Rose Theater.



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.