Countryside Community Church WORSHIP

Forgiving, Jan Richardson

September 13, 2026

Order of Worship September 13, 2026

† 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) Adam Witte

PRELUDE *They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love* arr. Susan Geschke
Countryside Ringers

WELCOME & †CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Maggie Kennedy Morey

One: Let us bring our whole selves to worship this morning, for God meets us here, just as we are.
Many: We come bringing our joy and our sorrow, our hope and our grief.
One: Come to the table of grace, where God's forgiveness is everlasting.
Many: We come ready to release our burdens and receive God's peace.
One: Come, let us worship the One whose mercy is unending, whose love is unconditional.
Many: We come to worship. Thanks be to God.

†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 #494 *They'll Know We Are Christians* (vs. 1)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Rev. Maggie Kennedy Morey

Children are invited to come forward for a time with Pastor Maggie at the chancel, then are dismissed to Discovery Kids with their teachers. **Caregivers, please pick up your child after the service in Priscilla (Choir Room)**. Nursery is available for children birth through pre-K.

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: Romans 14:1-12 Reader: Leslie Day

Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

MUSICAL REFLECTION *Turn Back, O Man* John D. Miller

Countryside Choir

SECOND LESSON: Matthew 18:21–35 Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

MESSAGE *Hope that Releases* Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Responding to the Word

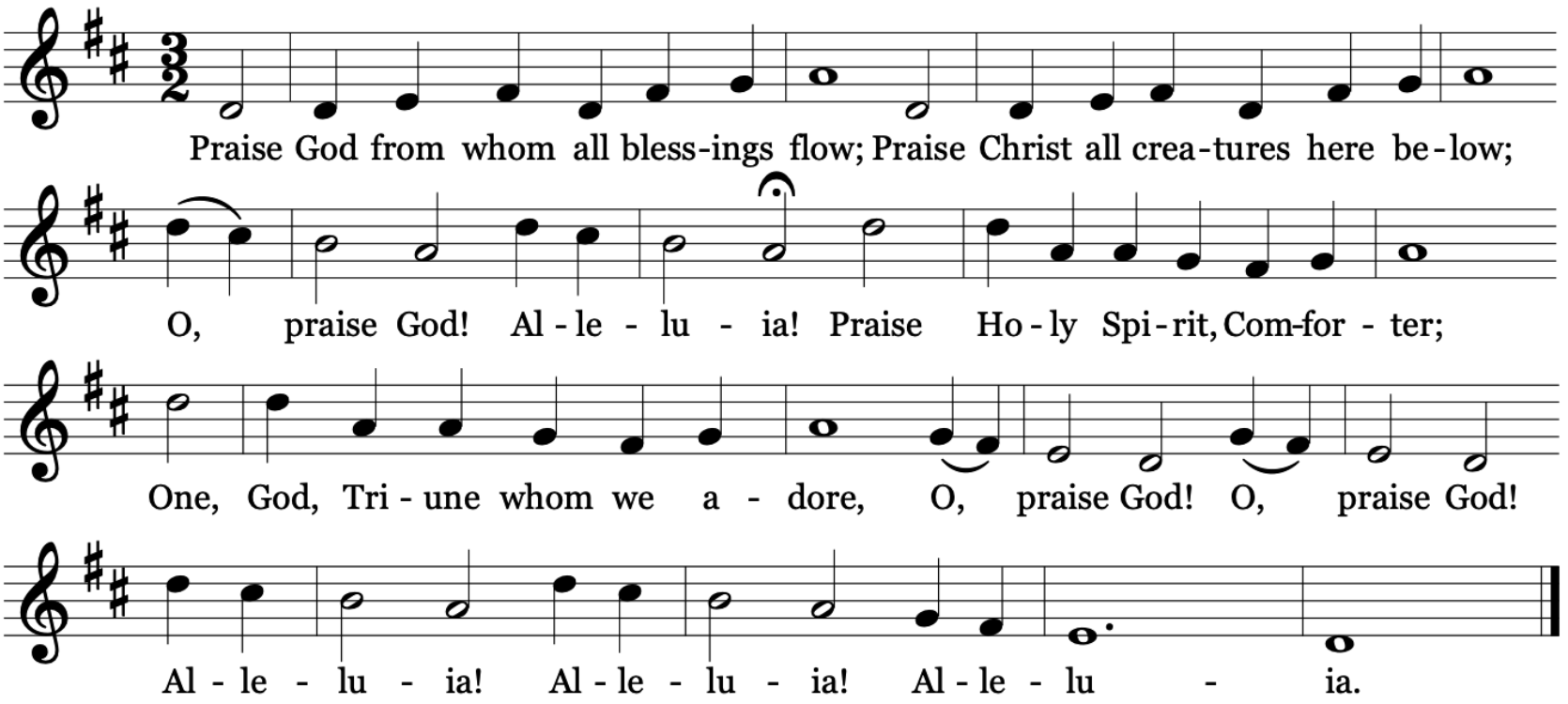
PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Mother and Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kin-dom 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 kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SHARING OUR GIFTS Rev. Maggie Kennedy Morey

Please find the QR code within the bulletin or at the Spotlight table in the narthex for more information about how to support our community partners this month through The Box and Fingerprints and also to contribute to Countryside's annual mission spending plan (budget). Countryside is 100 percent dependent on member giving to support the mission and ministries of our church. We are grateful for all the ways you give to sustain our vibrant and welcoming community!

†DOXOLOGY



†PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Spirit of the living God, we bring you these gifts from what we have been given. May we offer not only what we can spare, but a share of all that has come to us, for every good thing comes from you. Multiply these offerings. May they do the work of your love and justice in this world. Amen.

Sending

†SENDING HYMN Hymn #73 *There's A Wideness in God's Mercy*

†BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

POSTLUDE

Countryside Choir and Countryside Ringers - Adam Witte, director
Alex Ritter, organ and piano

Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by the Miller, Griffey, Schultz and Foss families in memory of John and Phyllis Miller.

Countryside Giving

Give a little, help a lot! Scan the QR code to support Countryside's mission, The Box and Fingerprints. Or text GIVE to 59409.
Your generosity keeps our community warm, welcoming and full of life!

Joys & Concerns

Join us as we pray for our congregation members and their loved ones who are on our Joys and Concerns list. 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 in Countryside's Thursday morning prayer group, contact Rev. Maggie Kennedy Morey at maggiekm@countrysideucc.org or (402) 884-8025.

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.

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

We pray with **Tom and Marianne Campbell** for comfort and peace for Tom's mother Harriet Campbell who has begun hospice care.

We pray for the family and friends of **Nancy Deetz,** who died early September 3; may God's love and care surround them. Memorial service details will be shared as they are finalized.

Our love and prayers surround **Jolene Hotovy** following the death of her beloved partner Michael. May she feel God's presence in the days and weeks ahead.

Prayers for **Laurie Sample** as she receives chemotherapy following her pancreatic cancer surgery.

We pray with **De Schmierer** for her niece Tami Jalapa, who has recently been diagnosed with cancer.

We pray for healing and comfort for **David (Amy) Worth** as David recovers from pneumonia.

Volunteer Connect

Welcome to the Volunteer Connect tool for Countryside! In just a few moments, you will discover how your interests and gifts align with the needs and ministries of our church. Scan the QR code to take the survey, text VOLUNTEER to 59409 or watch for a link in the C-10 email. Paper copies are available at the Spotlight Table.