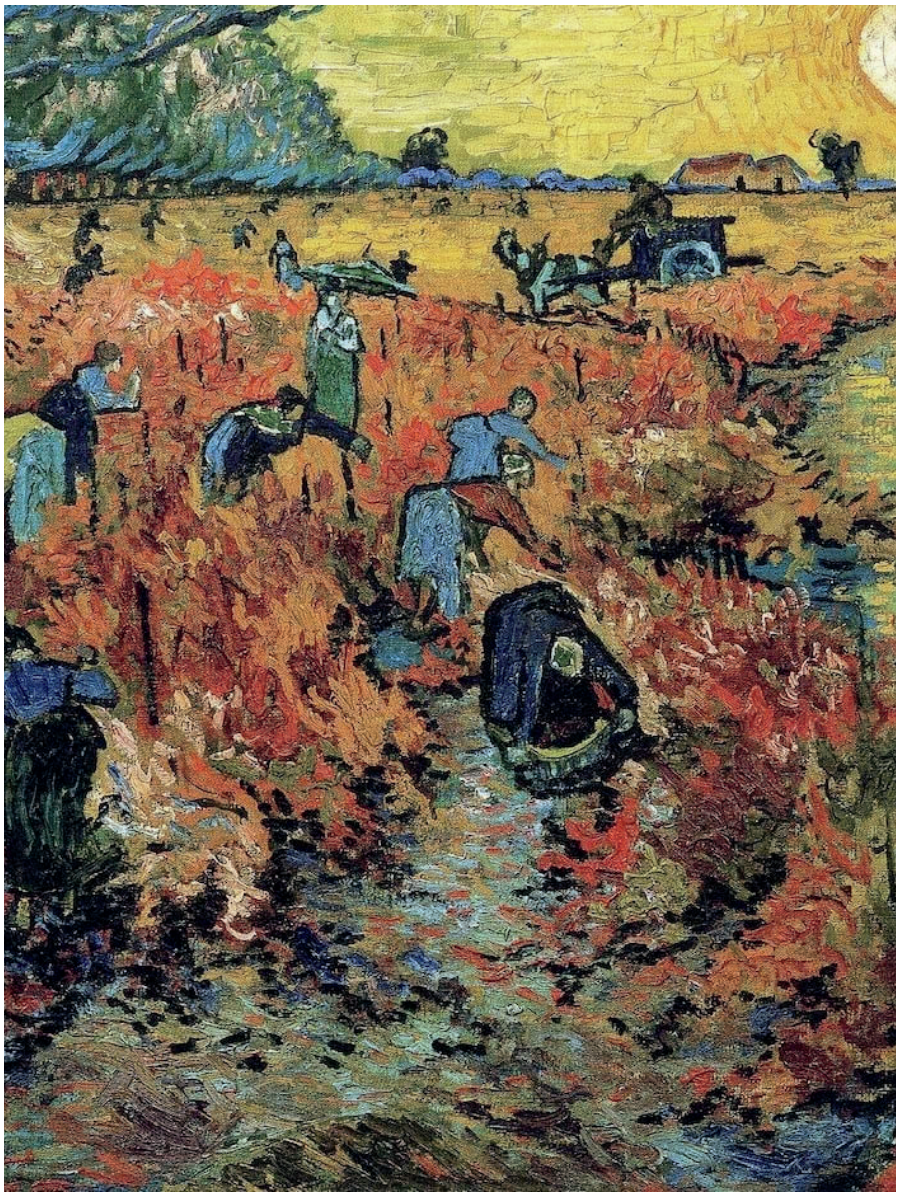
Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



The Red Vineyard, Vincent Van Gogh

September 20, 2026

Order of Worship September 20, 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 *There Is No Greater Love* Isham Jones / Marty Symes

WELCOME & †CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

One: Give thanks to the Lord!
Many: Call upon the name of the Lord!
One: God's love and mercy are given daily for each of us.
Many: God's forgiveness and tenderness are poured out for us.
One: Praise be to God who deals so kindly with us.
Many: Lord, help us offer the same compassion to others. 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 Hymn #709 *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Rev. Maggie Kennedy Morey

Children are invited to come forward for a story with Pastor Maggie at the chancel, then exit the sanctuary for Children's Church. **Children will return to the sanctuary for communion with their families.** Nursery is available for children birth-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: Psalm 105:1–6, 37–45 Reader: Molly Anderson

O give thanks to God; call on God's name;
make known God's deeds among the peoples.
Sing to God, sing praises to God;
tell of all God's wonderful works.
Glory in God's holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek God rejoice.
Seek God and God's strength;
seek God's presence continually.
Remember the wonderful works God has done,
God's miracles and the judgments God has uttered,
O offspring of God's servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, God's chosen ones.

Then God brought Israel out with silver and gold,
and there was no one among their tribes who stumbled.
Egypt was glad when they departed,
for dread of them had fallen upon it.
God spread a cloud for a covering
and fire to give light by night.
They asked, and God brought quails
and gave them food from heaven in abundance.
God opened the rock, and water gushed out;
it flowed through the desert like a river.
For God remembered God's holy promise
and Abraham, God's servant.

So God brought God's people out with joy,
God's chosen ones with singing.
God gave them the lands of the nations,
and they took possession of the wealth of the peoples,
that they might keep God's statutes
and observe God's laws.
Praise God!

MUSICAL REFLECTION *So The Last Shall Be First* Gabriel Sternberg
Countryside Choir

SECOND LESSON: Matthew 20:1–16 Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

MESSAGE *A Frivolous God* Rev. Isaac Villegas

Responding to the Word

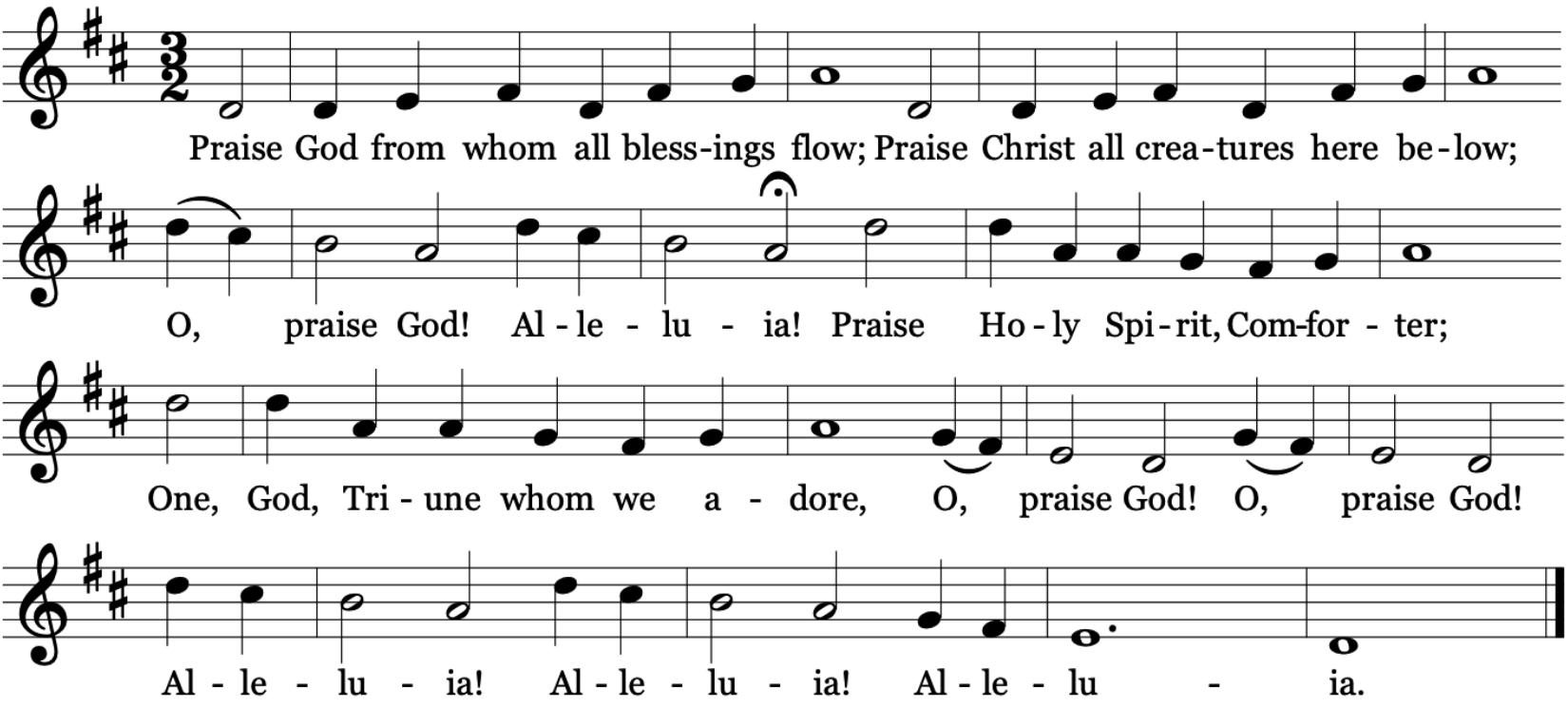
PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

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 David McGinness

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)

God of every good and perfect gift, by your grace and through our imperfections, take what our hands have made and turn our little into much. Out of the abundance we possess, call us to give bountifully, with humble and willing hearts. And in our giving, God, may we also receive: your blessing, your peace, your presence. 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 bins on the front pews after receiving the elements.

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 *Dolphin Dance* Herbie Hancock

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 #461 *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service*

†BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas / Rev. Isaac Villegas

POSTLUDE *My Little Suede Shoes* Charlie Parker

Countryside Choir - Adam Witte, director - Doyle Tipler, trumpet
Alex Ritter, organ and piano - Carlos Figueroa, drums - Steve Gomez, bass

Sunday Flowers This Week
Flowers were given today by Pam and Geoff Kregg
in loving memory of their parents, Pat and Ed Kregg and Norm and Carolyn Patberg
and our beloved daughter-in-law Julie.

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 the presence of Rev. Isaac Villegas this weekend; we are grateful for his wisdom, insight, and care.

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

We pray with **Tom and Marianne Campbell** following the death of Tom's mother Harriet Campbell. May they feel God's love and presence.

We pray with the friends and family of **Cyndi Kugler,** who died September 13. Cyndi founded Countryside's esteemed Center for Faith Studies. Her work inspired thousands and remains a vital part of Countryside's mission today. A Celebration of Life will be held for Cyndi at Countryside on October 17.

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.

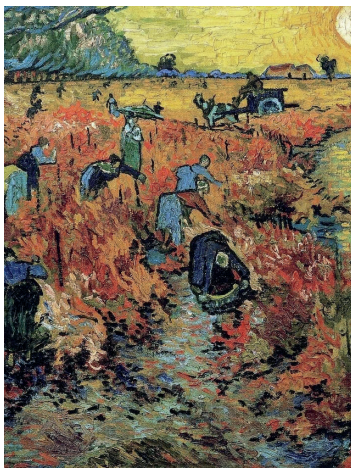
We pray with **De Schmierer** for her niece Tami Jalapa, as she begins treatment for cancer.

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

Countryside Giving

Imagine More - Build What You Believe. What does a young person learn when they see their community invest in what it believes?
Everything.

On the Cover ~ The Red Vineyard
Vincent Van Gogh



In October, 1888 (Paul) Gauguin arrived in Arles and moved in with Van Gogh, who was beside himself with excitement and dream of starting if not an artists' colony, at the very least a shared studio. Van Gogh had met Gauguin two years previously and was in awe of the slightly older artist, whose own opinion of himself was greatly inflated. The stay ended in disaster culminating in Van Gogh's self-mutilation, but prior to this the two artists had worked on similar projects, and Gauguin's influence can be seen on Van Gogh's paintings of this time.

Van Gogh was particularly enraptured with a local vineyard, whose colours were turning to autumnal reds and yellows as the days shortened into autumn. He painted *The Red Vineyard,* capturing the mellowed tones and glistening light of the early evening sun reflecting in the river, while Gauguin painted *Vineyard at Arles with Breton Women,* clothing the women in the traditional Breton costume of his home.

The Red Vineyard, which Vincent van Gogh was unusually pleased with, is the only work he sold during his lifetime, and was bought for 400 francs by Anna Boch (1848-1936). ~ *VincentVanGogh.org*