Countryside Community Church WORSHIP

Are You Coming or Going? Jan Richardson

September 27, 2026

Order of Worship September 27, 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 *On a Clear Day* Burton Lane / Alan Jay Lerner

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

One: We come with praise on our lips, God,
Many: but we also come tired and burdened with despair.
One: Meet us here, God, and call us to your peace.
Many: We long for peace, God, we love for your presence.
One: Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.
Many: Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us. 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 #259 *Spirit of the Living God*

CONFIRMATOIN MENTOR COMMISSIONING Rev. Maggie Kennedy Morey

God, we seek your help and Spirit to live out our baptism as a loving community in Christ: nurturing one another in faith, upholding one another in prayer, and encouraging one another in service. Amen

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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 **Hymn #437 *Go Now in Peace***

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: Philippians 2:1-13 Reader: Nancy Cohen

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he existed in the form of God,
  did not regard equality with God
  as something to be grasped,
but emptied himself,
  taking the form of a slave,
  assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human,
  he humbled himself
  and became obedient to the point of death—
  even death on a cross.
Therefore God exalted him even more highly
  and gave him the name
  that is above every other name,
so that at the name given to Jesus
  every knee should bend,
  in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
  that Jesus Christ is Lord,
  to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

MUSICAL REFLECTION *Rescuer (Good News)* Bryan Fowler / Ben Hastings
Tyler Gruttemeyer, Adam Witte

SECOND LESSON: Matthew 21:23-32 Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

MESSAGE *Hope Shows Up* Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Responding to the Word

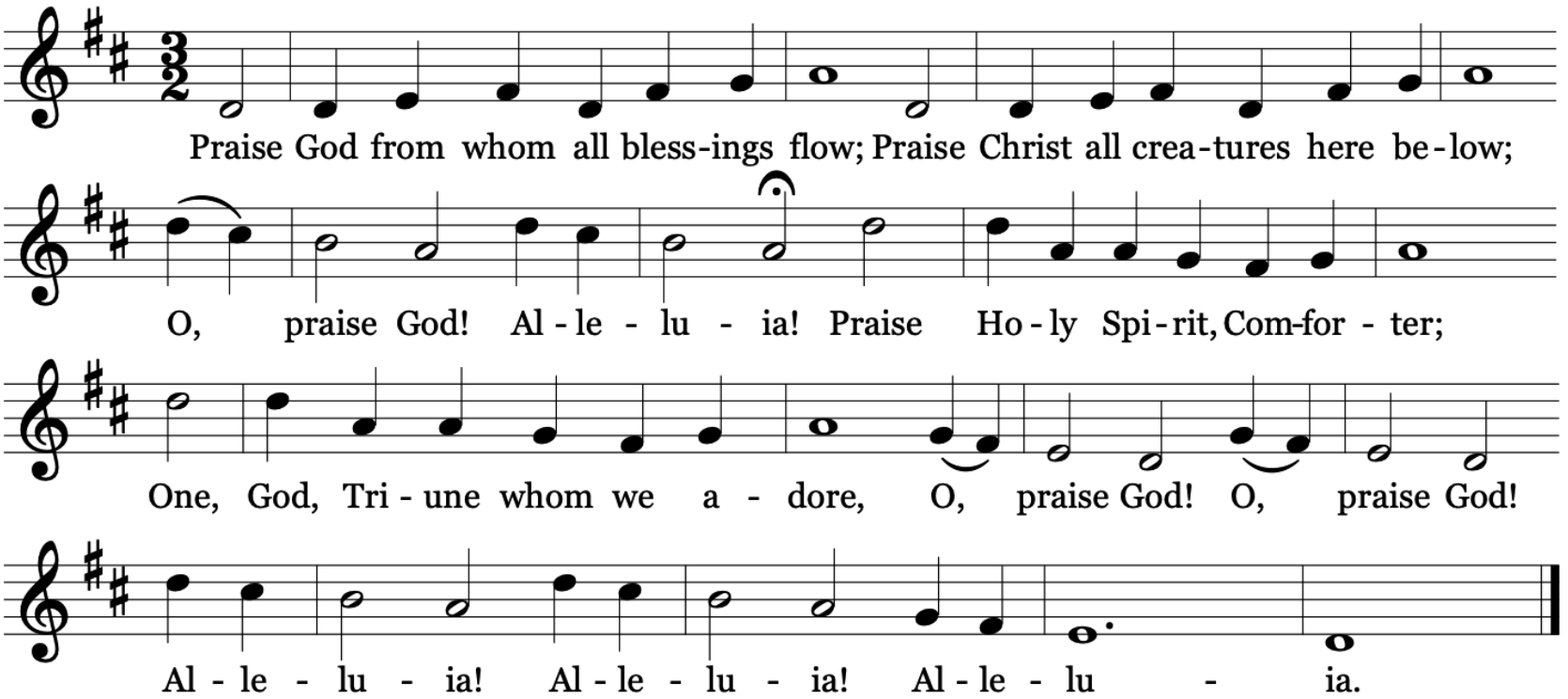
PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER

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)

God who is our light and our life, shine upon us with the abundance of your blessing and your grace. In your likeness, O God, we long to be made whole. In our longing, in our striving, draw us to our knees. Call us to lives that reflect your mercy, and let our actions bear your lovingkindness. It is in this posture that we offer you the gifts of our hands and our lives. Use these gifts, and use this church, to further your mission of love and justice in the world. Amen.

Sending

†SENDING HYMN Hymn #711 *O Day of Peace that Dimly Shines*

†BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

POSTLUDE *Samba de Orfeu* Luiz Bonfá

Tyler Gruttemeyer, vocals - Adam Witte, vocals and piano - Matt Wallace, sax
Alex Ritter, organ and piano - Carlos Figueroa, drums - Michael Federickson, bass

Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by Kiley Maxwell-Ward and Marc Ward
in honor of their 17th wedding anniversary.

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 celebrate the changing of the seasons and the beginning of fall.

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

Christine Kasel requests prayers for her nephew, Tim, who underwent surgery this week. We pray for a quick and complete recovery.

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.

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.

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!