Countryside Community Church WORSHIP

Unnamed, Becky Betancourt

October 11, 2026

Order of Worship October 11, 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 *The Bells Must Ring!* John Behnke
Countryside Ringers

WELCOME & †CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas
One: Let us join our hearts to the hope of Christ,
Many: with praise on our lips, we rejoice in what God has done!
One: The grace of God goes with us; the gifts of God shine through us.
Many: Let us worship together, for God's goodness abounds!

†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 #543 *Blessed Assurance* (vs. 1)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT David McGinness
Children are invited to come forward for a time with David at the chancel. **Caregivers please pickup 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: Ephesians 3:20-21 Reader: Molly Anderson

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION *Goodness of God* CeCe Winans

Jamie Luedtke, mezzo-soprano

SECOND LESSON: Matthew 22:1-14 Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe,and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

MESSAGE *More Room* 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. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

"Imagine More" Stewardship Video Dan Wengert

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 many names, your grace abounds.
For the gifts in our lives, we are humbled and grateful.
Open our hands, open our hearts.
Make us stewards of your generosity, bearers of your light.
May we give more than we think we can,
May we share more than we think we have,
and always — always — make room at the table for one more. Amen.

Sending

†SENDING HYMN Hymn #609 *Take My Life, and Let It Be* (vs. 1-4)

†BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

POSTLUDE

Countryside Ringers - Adam Witte, director
Jamie Luedtke, mezzo-soprano - 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. 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 are grateful for the work of the A2A team as we recognize Accessibility Sunday.

We give thanks with **Christine Kasel** for her nephew Tim's continued recovery from surgery.

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

Marion Norman requests prayers for herself and her family. Her son Brian died unexpectedly in California on October 3.

We pray for Mark Thurston, **Deb Hickman's** younger brother. He has some serious heart issues and was recently hospitalized with complications. He has been transferred to rehab for help with his recovery.

Margie Phillips requests prayers for her cousin Tommy Loeffler's wife, Kay, who was just diagnosed with lung cancer and had lung surgery Wednesday, October 7. Prayers of comfort and strength for the whole family.

We pray for **Glenn (Margie) Phillips** as Glenn recovers from knee replacement.

Renee Beasancon requests prayers for her cousin, Betty Johnson, who had surgery on October 8.

Our prayers are with the friends and family of **Jan Moran,** who passed away on September 22. May they feel God's love and comfort.

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.

On the Cover ~

Artist & designer Becky Betancourt had a successful career as an artist and art teacher. Through illness and an injection that destroyed the nerves in her legs, she became bedridden. After two years of watching TV and deeply depressed, she experimented with using AI as a medium to create art. Having worked in various mediums and also teaching, she had the vocabulary, experience, and knowledge of the different mediums.

Being creative again has brought joy back into her life and she wants to share her art and bring joy to others. At this time, she is primarily sharing through Facebook. As artists before her have had to find new mediums (Matisse used oils then colored paper is one example.), Becky is using AI to help generate her art.

2027 Stewardship Campaign - Imagine More

Our giving becomes something much bigger than a number on a pledge card. It becomes a child discovering faith and belonging. It becomes music that brings beauty into worship. It becomes a meal for a neighbor who needs one. It becomes a community where people can ask questions, grow, serve, celebrate, grieve, and know they belong. This is what it means to **Imagine More.**

To make a 2027 Pledge

- complete a pledge card
- visit countrysideucc.org/imaginemore
- scan the QR code
- text PLEDGE to 59409

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!