Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



A Study of Feathers, Sarah Biffin, 1812 / https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:A_Study_of_Feathers_-_Sarah_Biffin_-_1812.webp

October 18, 2026

Order of Worship October 18, 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 *Recordame* Joe Henderson

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

†CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Maggie Kennedy Morey

One: Sing to the Holy One, all the earth. Declare God's glory!
Many: Great is the Holy One, who made the heavens and the earth.
One: Sing a new song unto the Holy One. Join with all creation in praise and reverence!
Many: We witness God's marvelous works among the peoples.
One: Worship the Holy One, all the earth! Declare God's sovereignty!
Many: Rejoice and be glad! God is great!

†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 #382 *We Give Thee But Thine Own* (vs. 1-2)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Rev. Maggie Kennedy Morey

Children are invited to come forward for a time with Pastor Maggie at the chancel, then exit the sancturary for Childrens Church. **Caregivers, your child will return to the sanctuary for communion.** 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: Psalm 99:1-5 Reader: Renee' Besancon

The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble!
God sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!
The Lord is great in Zion;
God is exalted over all the peoples.
Let them praise your great and awesome name.
Holy is God!
Mighty King, lover of justice,
you have established equity;
you have executed justice
and righteousness in Jacob.
Extol the Lord our God;
worship at God's footstool.
Holy is God!

MUSICAL REFLECTION *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* Edwards / Larson
Countryside Choir

SECOND LESSON: Matthew 22:15-22 Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?"
But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?"
"Caesar's," they replied.
Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."
When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

MESSAGE *More than Silver* 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 Adam Witte

"Imagine More" Stewardship Video Kelsey Arends, Jan Benitez

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 grace and mercy, we offer to you the gifts of our time, talents and treasures. May we look beyond what is required, and give more than silver to the work of justice, to the care of the sick, to the feeding of the poor, to growing your church in the world. Receive these gifts and multiply them that more love will abound for and through your people. 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 *Corcovado* Antônio Carlos Jobim

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 #595 *Be Thou My Vision*

†BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

POSTLUDE *St. Thomas* Sonny Rollins

Matt Wallace, sax - Alex Ritter, organ and piano
Carlos Figueroa, drums - Mark Luebbe, bass

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 a month of October as Accessible to All month in the UCC.

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

Our prayers are with the family and friends of Marjorie Sambasile, who died on October 10. May they feel God's presence and comfort.

We pray for **Nancy Cohen** as she undergoes and recovers from surgery on October 16.

Marion Norman requests prayers for herself and her family. Her son Brian died unexpectedly in California on October 3. We pray they feel God's care and love in the days and weeks ahead.

We pray for Mark Thurston, **Deb Hickman's** younger brother, as he has been released to physical therapy and is home. His adult children are caring for him as he continues to recover.

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.

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

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

Sunday Flowers This Week

Flowers were given today by John Kugler and family
in memory of Cyndi Kugler.

On the Cover ~

Born without arms or legs, Sarah Biffin (1784–1850) became a celebrated English miniature portraitist whose work earned royal commissions. Rediscovered through a 2022 London exhibition, her story invites us to look beyond perceived limitations and recognize the gifts and contributions each person brings. Scan the QR code to learn more about Sarah Biffin and her remarkable artistic legacy.

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.**