Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



Where God Grows, Jan Richardson

November 15, 2026

Order of Worship November 15, 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 *Killer Joe* Benny Golson

WELCOME & †CALL TO WORSHIP *(adapted from Psalm 90)* Rev. Maggie Kennedy Morey
One: Holy One, you are our dwelling place! From everlasting to everlasting, you are God!
Many: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
One: Holy One, you are our dwelling place! From everlasting to everlasting, you are Sovereign!
Many: Let your work be manifest to your servants and your glorious power to their children.
One: Holy One, you are our dwelling place! From everlasting to everlasting, you are God!
Many: Let your favor be upon us and prosper for us the work of our hands — O prosper the work of our hands!

†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 *All Are Welcome* (v. 3)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR *I See God!* Tom T. Shelton
After Children's Choir performs, all kids are invited to join Pastor Maggie for Children's Church.
Caregivers, children will be returned to the sanctuary for communion with families. *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: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Reader: Nancy Berhringer

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of God will come like a thief in the night. When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

MUSICAL REFLECTION *O Jesus, I Have Promised* arr. Timothy Shaw

Countryside Choir - Adam Witte, director - Alex Ritter, piano

SECOND LESSON: Matthew 25: 14-30 Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

“Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip.

“The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master’s money.

“After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, ‘Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.’

“The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’

“The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.’

““The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’

“Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn’t plant and gathering crops you didn’t cultivate. I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.’

“But the master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn’t plant and gathered crops I didn’t cultivate, why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’

“Then he ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

MESSAGE *More Than Permission* 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

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!

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)
God whose mercies are new every morning, you enrich our lives with the gift of your presence. Now, with the blessings of more than we can imagine we return to you the gifts of our hands and the fruits of our lives. Receive now these gifts as signs of our faithfulness and use them to further your mission of love and justice in the world. Amen.

†DOXOLOGY

SERVICE OF COMMUNION Rev. Dr. Jenny Schultz-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 *Little Sunflower* Freddie Hubbard

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 #609 *Take My Life, and Let It Be* (vs. 1-2, 5-6)

†BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Strasbourg St. Denis* Roy Hargrove

Countryside Choir - Adam Witte, director
Countryside Children's Choir - Shannon Shultz-Thomas, director
Matt Wallace, sax - Alex Ritter, organ and piano
Carlos Figueroa, drums - Steve Gomez, bass

Sunday Flowers This Week
The Care Team is honoring both Countryside's and our Country's Military Verterans with this bouquet.

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 celebrate with **Rev. Grant Speece,** who has been called to serve as Transition Pastor of Arlington Community Church (United Church of Christ).

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

Karmen and Jacob King would like prayers for her sister Jenny who has found out about a genetic defect which has no cure. She will begin a course of action in a trial study due out next year. Karmen asks for prayers as well as she also has undergone the test and is awaiting results.

Bethany (Grant) Speece requests prayers for her chronic neck and back pain.

Our prayers are with **Mike (Heidi) Bonner** as he deals with ongoing health issues.

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.

2027 Stewardship Campaign

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.**

imagine more

To make a 2027 Pledge

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

Countryside
Community Church