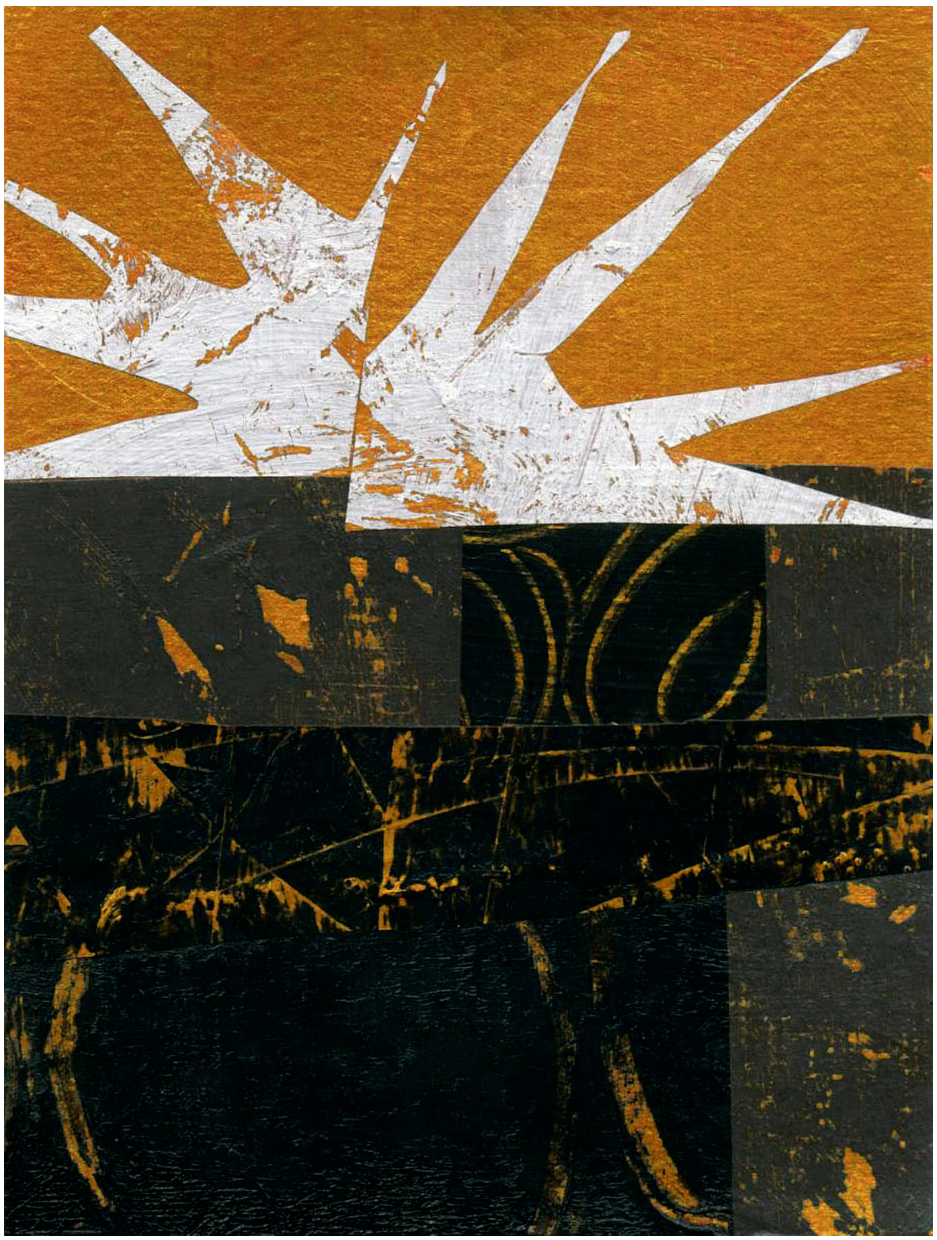
Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



Those Who Walked in Darkness, Jan Richardson

November 22, 2026

Order of Worship November 22, 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 *Pure Imagination* Leslie Bricusse / Anthony Newley

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

†CALL TO WORSHIP *(adapted from Psalm 95)* David McGinness

One: Come, let us sing for the joy of it — make a glad noise to the Rock who holds us.
Many: We come with thanksgiving, with songs rising up out of us like water from stone.
One: For God is great beyond our naming — the depths of the earth and the heights of the mountains are God's.
Many: The sea, for God made it; the dry land, shaped by the same tender hands.
One: So come — let us worship, let us bend low before the One who made us.
Many: For we are God's own, the flock held safe in the hollow of God's hand. Let us worship together.

†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 *Welcome To This House* (vs. 2)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Rev. Maggie Kennedy Morey

Children are invited to come forward for a time with Pastor Maggie at the chancel and then are dismissed to Discovery Kids. **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 1:15-23 Reader: Molly Anderson

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

MUSICAL REFLECTION *The Twenty-First Time* Ed Cash & Trent Monk

SECOND LESSON: Matthew 25:31-46 Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

MESSAGE *The least of these...* 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)
Holy God, the sea is yours and the dry land is yours, and so everything we lay here was yours before it was ever ours. Receive these gifts and the lives behind them, and use them to make your pasture wide enough for all. Amen.

Sending

†SENDING HYMN Hymn #461 *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service*

†BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

POSTLUDE *Bolivia* Cedar Walton

Matt Wallace, sax - Alex Ritter, organ and piano
Carlos Figuaroa, drums - Steve Gomez, bass - Tyler Gruttemeyer, vocals

Sunday Flowers This Week
Flowers were given today by Jodie Nichols
in honor of her famiily.

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 those who will come together for the Interfaith Thanksgiving service, and the gift of an abundant and beloved community.

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:

We pray with **Mike (Heidi) Bonner** and his family as he experiences ongoing health issues.

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

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.

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!

What We Almost Miss

We move through days
with places to be
and lists to finish
our minds always somewhere else

missing a face at the window
the stranger pausing by our door –
someone carrying more than we
can see.

The world rarely announces
moments that matter.
They arrive without ceremony
between one obligation
and the next.

The sacred
is never that far away
but waits in the small spaces
we hurry through.

C. Kasel 2025

imagine more

To make a 2027 Pledge

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