



COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH

September 13, 2026

Welcome and Announcements

Liturgist

Prelude:

Noah Davis

Call to Worship-Responsive:

Liturgist

Leader: We bow with the rolling rocks.

All: God is our strength and our salvation.

Leader: We sing with the roaring rivers.

All: God is our justice and our joy.

Leader: We will never stop telling God's story.

All: God is the hope of our ancestors.

Leader: With all that we have and all that we are, we say:

All: God is so good!

Opening Prayer:

Congregation

Spirit of mercy, we come to your fountain
of forgiveness to begin again. You offer
a fresh drink, a new life. Though we are
often critical of others and of ourselves,
help us to accept that we are accepted.
Meet us here in ways that we can understand,
that we may be filled with the life only you
can offer. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn:

"Morning Has Broken" 664 GTG

Congregation

* Call to Confession

Liturgist

We are not here to pass judgment on each other:
all of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.
Therefore, let us go before God
as we offer our confession.



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*** Prayer of Confession**

Congregation

God our Judge, we admit we have double standards. We seek forgiveness for ourselves, but fail to forgive others. We seek relief for ourselves, but fail to seek relief for others. We seek leniency for ourselves, but fail to show that mercy to others. Forgive us, mighty God, and help us to forgive, showing others the same grace and mercy that you have generously shown to us.

Time of Silence for Personal Prayers of Confession

*** Assurance of Pardon**

Liturgist

Leader: People of God, hear and believe:
God does not deal with us according to our sins,
but according to God's own steadfast love for us.

**All: As far as the east is from the west,
so far God removes our sins from us.
Thanks be to God!**

***Responding to Grace:** *"Glory to God" #583 GTG*

Congregation

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Affirmation of Purpose

Beloved, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, you have confessed your faith in Jesus Christ by your participation in his work here in this church. Now, with this formal service, you will join us in full communion as a member of Countryside Trinity Church, accepting all of the privileges and responsibilities that accompany such a step of faith.



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Charge and Questions

Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and your Savior, and do you depend upon Christ alone for your salvation?

(New Member) **I do**

Acknowledging Jesus Christ as Lord, do you promise to fulfill the duties of membership in this local church, joining us regularly in worship, engaging with us in Christian service, participating with us in Christian fellowship, and giving of your heart and resources to further the work of the Gospel?

(New Member) **I will, with God's help.**

Will you promise to promote the peace, prosperity, purity, and purpose of the Church of Jesus Christ, in this community of faith, as the Triune God shall strengthen and sustain you?

(New Member) **I will, with God's help.**

Congregational Questions

*To the members of Countryside Trinity Church, will you welcome these fellow travelers in the life of this church, accepting them as full members, extending your friendship and prayers to them, offering a hand of fellowship in their low and high points, and supporting them fully as one of your own?

(Congregation) **We will, with God's help.**

Prayer over new members

Let us join together in praying as a community of faith, over our new members, and for the continued blessing of the Triune God.

Loving and gracious God, may your hand ever be over these, your servants, who have made this commitment to membership here today. May your Holy Spirit always be with them, and with all of us. Lead us all, together, in the knowledge and obedience of your Word that we may continue to serve you in this life and dwell with you in the life to come. We pray that out of the treasures of Your glory, you might grant us strength and power through the spirit in our inner being, that through faith Christ might dwell in our hearts in love. With deep roots and firm foundations, let us be strong to grasp-with all God's people-what is the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ to know what is beyond knowledge! We celebrate and praise you in all things this day, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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Declaration of Acceptance

In the name of Jesus Christ, we extend a hearty welcome to you. You are now full members of this church. May we, together, grow in our love of, faith in and understanding of our God, made known in our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen!**

Time With Young Disciples

Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

Prayer for Illumination

Liturgist

Faithful God, how blessed are those
who hunger and thirst for righteousness.
Sanctify us by your Word and Spirit
so that we may glorify you
in the company of the faithful;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, 'What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?' So, they approached Joseph, saying, 'Your father gave this instruction before he died, "Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you." Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.' Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, 'We are here as your slaves.' But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.' In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Second Scripture Reading: Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also, those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.



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We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written,

'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.'

So then, each of us will be accountable to God. This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading:

Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So, the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So, my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.' 'This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



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Sermon

"Compassion Vs. Hearts of Stone"

Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

Music Meditation

Noah Davis

* Sermon Hymn

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" 65 GTG

Congregation

Joys & Concerns

Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

Call to Offering

Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

* Doxology

Congregation

* Closing Hymn

"To God Be the Glory" 634 GTG

Congregation

* Charge, Benediction

Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

* Congregational Postlude

"Blessed Be The Name of the Lord"

Noah Davis

GENESIS SUNDAY CELEBRATION

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CELEBRATING TIME

Morning Has Broken 664

C Am Dm G Dm G C

1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black-bird has
2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en, like the first
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the

Em Am Em F G C Am F C

spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet-ness of the wet
one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion; praise ev - ery

Am G C G Am G7 C

morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

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This 20th-century text was created to provide words for this traditional tune named for a small village on the Isle of Mull, off the west coast of Scotland. Through repeated use of "new" and "first," each morning is treated as a re-creation of the promise of the original day.

TEXT: Eleanor Farjeon, 1931, alt.
MUSIC: Gaelic melody; arr. Beverly A. Howard, 2012
Text © David Higham Assoc., Ltd.
Music Arr. © 2012 Beverly A. Howard

BUNESSAN
5.5.5.4.D

GENESIS SUNDAY CELEBRATION

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SERVICE MUSIC

Glory to God *Gloria, gloria*

583

Capo 3: (Bm) (Em) (A) (D)
Dm Gm C F (chords continue)

*
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

*
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*May be sung as a canon.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1979
Music © 1979, 1981 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

GLORIA (Taizé)

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GENESIS SUNDAY CELEBRATION

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GOD'S COVENANT WITH ISRAEL

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 65

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.

TEXT: William Williams, 1762; stanza 1, trans. Peter Williams, 1771; stanzas 2–3, trans. William Williams, 1772
MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA
8.7.8.7.8.7.7

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GENESIS SUNDAY CELEBRATION

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ADORATION

634 To God Be the Glory

1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!
2 Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;

who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin,
but pur - er and high - er and great - er will be

and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

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This American gospel song became popular in England in the late 19th century, then returned to this country in the mid-20th century with the Billy Graham crusades. Its continuing popularity may well be due to the freedom from subjective considerations in its praise of God.

TEXT: Fanny Jane Crosby, 1875
MUSIC: William Howard Doane, 1875

TO GOD BE THE GLORY
11.11.11.11 with refrain

GENESIS SUNDAY CELEBRATION

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ADORATION

Refrain

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people re-joice!

O come to the Fa-ther through Je-sus the Son,

and give him the glo-ry: great things he has done!

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GENESIS SUNDAY CELEBRATION

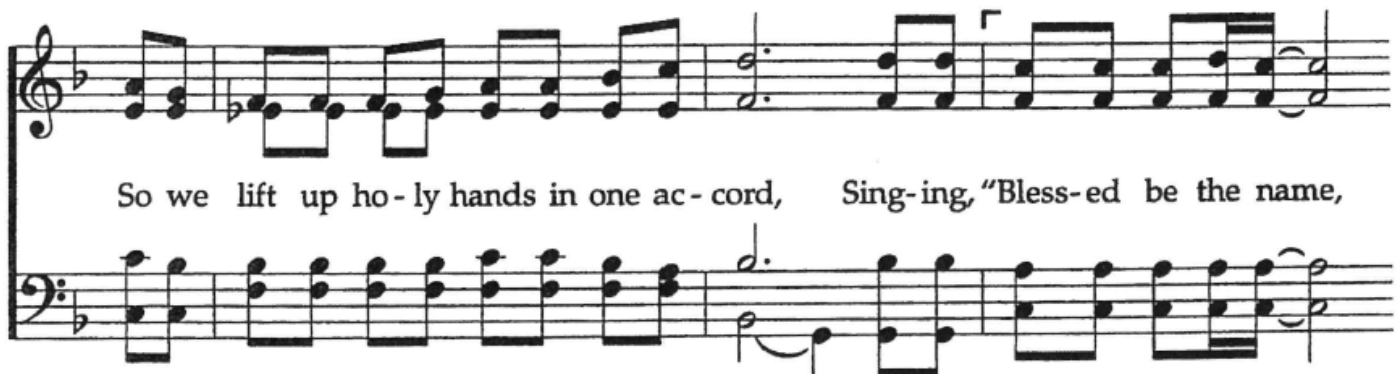
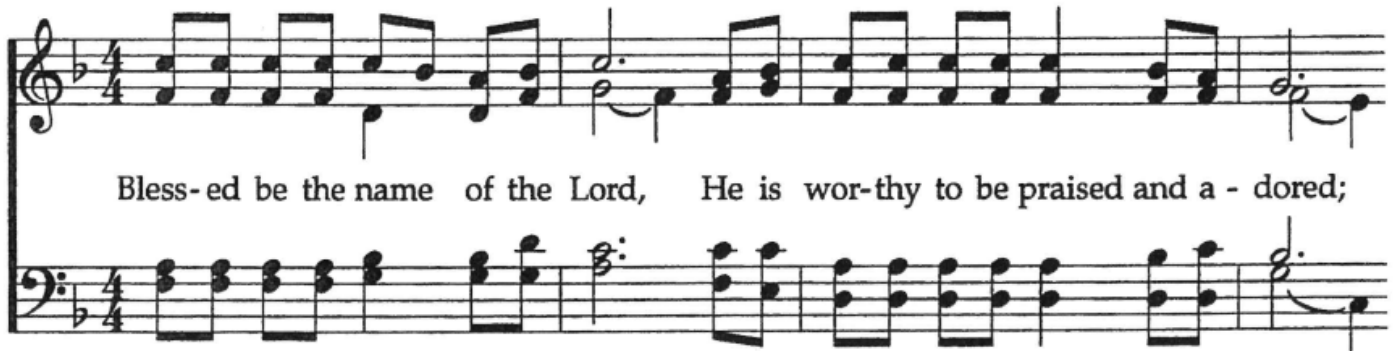
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64 Blessed Be the Name of the Lord

Praise be to His glorious name forever. Psalm 72:19



TEXT: Don Moen

MUSIC: Don Moen

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BLESSED
Irregular meter

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