*Mountain Spirit Metropolitan Community Church*

*A spiritual community born out of LGBTQIA+ Appalachia*

*QUEERFULLY and WONDERFULLY MADE!*

*“I praise you for I am fearsomely and wonderfully made.”*

*Psalm 139:14*

**Palm Sunday**

**April 13th, 2025**

**Prelude:** Paul W., musician

**Welcome and Protocol Honoring Home** Rev. Pressley S., pastor

**All: We bless these mountains in which we gather, and all the animals, plants and elements for whom this is home;**

**We bless all who have walked this land and called this place home long before us;**

**We bless and honor Congregation Beth Israel for sharing their home with us;**

**And we pray that we will be a blessing in this place.**

**May peace be among us. Amen.**

**Invocation from a prayer by Thomas Merton** Rev. Pressley S., liturgist

One: My God, I have no idea where I am going.

**Many: I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will**

**end.**

One: Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will

does not mean that I am actually doing so.

**Many: But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.**

One: And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do

anything apart from that desire.

**Many: And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may**

**know nothing about it.**

One: Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow

of death.

**Many: I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face**

**my perils alone.**

One: Siblings and friends, let us together invoke the presence of the Holy One among

us.

**All: Come Holy Spirit. Come any way you want. Just come. Amen/Amèn**

**Gathering Song This is My Creator’s World** Paul W., musician

This is my Creator's world,

And to my listening ears

All nature sings, and round me rings

The music of the spheres.

This is my Creator's world:

I rest me in the thought

Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas--

His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Creator's world:

The birds their carols raise,

The morning light, the lily bright,

Declare their Maker's praise.

This is my Creator's world:

She shines in all that's fair;

In the rustling grass I hear Her pass,

She speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Creator's world:

O let me ne'er forget

That though the wrong seems oft so strong,

God is the Ruler yet.

This is my Creator’s world:

Why should my heart be sad?

With praises sing: let the heavens ring!

God reigns; let earth be glad!

**Reading Mark 11:1-11**  Susan P. And Angel P., lectors

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciplesand said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it.If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this: ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’ ” They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They told them what Jesus had said, and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

    Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God!

    Blessed is the coming kindom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple, and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Let us hear Living Words. **Thanks be to God.**

Cuando se acercaban a Jerusalén y llegaron a Betfagué y a Betania, junto al monte de los Olivos, Jesús envió a dos de sus discípulos con este encargo: «Vayan a la aldea que tienen enfrente. Tan pronto como entren en ella, encontrarán atado un burrito, en el que nunca se ha montado nadie. Desátenlo y tráiganlo acá. Y si alguien pregunta: “¿Por qué hacen eso?”, díganle: “El Señor lo necesita y enseguida lo devolverá”».

Fueron, encontraron un burrito afuera, en la calle, atado a un portón y lo desataron. Entonces algunos de los que estaban allí preguntaron: «¿Qué hacen desatando el burrito?». Ellos contestaron como Jesús había dicho y dejaron que lo desatara. Llevaron, pues, el burrito a Jesús. Luego pusieron encima sus mantos y él se montó. Muchos tendieron sus mantos sobre el camino; otros usaron ramas que habían cortado en los campos. Tanto los que iban delante como los que iban detrás gritaban:

—¡Hosanna![a]

—¡Bendito el que viene en el nombre del Señor![b]

—¡Bendito el reino venidero de nuestro padre David!

—¡Hosanna en las alturas!

Jesús entró en Jerusalén y fue al Templo. Después de observarlo todo, como ya era tarde, salió para Betania con los doce.

La palabra de Dios. **Te alabamos Dios.**

**Response Shine Jesus Shine** Paul W., musician

Lord, the light of Your love is shining

In the midst of the nighttime, shining

Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us

Set us free by the truth You now bring us

Shine on me, shine on me

[Chorus]

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory

Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire

Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy

Send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be light

[Verse 2]

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence

From the shadows into Your radiance

By Your Love, I may enter Your brightness

Search me, try me, inspire me with kindness,

Shine on me, shine on me

**Reading The Journey by Mary Oliver** Sharilyn S., lector

One day you finally knew

what you had to do, and began,

though the voices around you

kept shouting

their bad advice—

though the whole house

began to tremble

and you felt the old tug

at your ankles.

"Mend my life!"

each voice cried.

But you didn't stop.

You knew what you had to do,

though the wind pried

with its stiff fingers

at the very foundations,

though their melancholy

was terrible.

It was already late

enough, and a wild night,

and the road full of fallen

branches and stones.

But little by little,

as you left their voices behind,

the stars began to burn

through the sheets of clouds,

and there was a new voice

which you slowly

recognized as your own,

that kept you company

as you strode deeper and deeper

into the world,

determined to do

the only thing you could do—

determined to save

the only life you could save.

**Response We Can Be Kind** Erik W. And Joey D., musicians

**Reflection Choosing Your Own Path** Rev. Dr. Lea Brown, preacher

**Offertory Remember God Cherishes You** Paul W., musician

There are those who would say we must all be the same,

And that differences must be denied;

But we know that each soul is belov’d in God’s eyes

And we claim all God’s blessings with pride!

So remember God cherishes you;

You are precious, and worthy, and loved.

When you live out the truth that is yours,

There’s rejoicing in heaven above!

There are voices of fear that deny what we know:

That all of God’s people are blessed.

So we sing loud and clear, with our words and our lives,

And we share the good news we confess:

Please remember God cherishes you;

You are precious, and worthy, and loved.

When you live out the truth that is yours,

There’s rejoicing in heaven above!

When hate threatens to harm, may we speak out as one

And declare that love conquers all fear.

No one shall stand alone; we will walk side by side,

And proclaim that God’s kin\_dom is near!

So remember God cherishes you;

You are precious, and worthy, and loved.

When you live out the truth that is yours,

There’s rejoicing in heaven above!

**Community Prayers** Rev. Pressley S., liturgist

**Our Mother Prayer**

**Our Mother who lives within us, we celebrate your many names.**

 **Your wisdom come, your will be done, unfolding from the depths within us.**

 **Each day you give us all that we need.**

 **You remind us of our strengths, and we embrace them.**

 **You support us in our power, and we act with courage.**

 **For you are the dwelling place within us,**

 **the empowerment around us,**

 **and the celebration among us, now and forevermore. Amen**

**Open Table Communion** Rev. Dr. Joan S., celebrant Angel P., acolyte

C: God is with you. **All: And also with you**

C: Let us open our hearts. **All: We open them to God**

C: Let us give God thanks and praise **All: It is a good and joyful thing to do**

**Santo, santo, santo**

**Mi corazón te adora**

**Mi corazón sabe decir**

**Santo eres tú**

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

**My heart, my heart adores you**

**My heart knows how to say to you**

**You are holy, God**

(Distribution)

**Announcements:**

* **Book Group, Tuesday 7:30pm,** Living Buddha, Living Christ by Thich Nhat Hanh, through Ch. 9, Zoom
* **Marketing Meeting, Wednesday, 7pm**, Zoom. All are welcome to attend.
* **4/18 Good Friday Prayer Service,** Noon, Zoom
* **4/20 Easter Service,** 10:30am, Facebook and 118 Burton St. Only. No worship at 229 Murdock Ave.

**Benediction** Rev. Pressley, liturgist

All will be well, and all will be well

And all manner of thing will be well

All will be well. Be well.

**All:** **Go out with peace. Go out with kindness. Go out with Love,**

One: In the name of the Creator, Christ, Comforter, and All that are Wise and Good.

**All: Amén/Amen**