*Mountain Spirit Metropolitan Community Church*

*A spiritual community born out of LGBTQIA+ Appalachia*

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

*Ps. 139.14*

**Hurricane Helene Remembrance**

**September 28, 2025**

**Prelude** Paul W., musician

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

**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 Rev. Pressley S.,** liturgist

**ALL:** **Come Holy Spirit. Come any way you want. Just come. Amen**

**Gathering Song We Shall Overcome** Christine W. And Paul W., musicians

We Shall Overcome, we shall overcome

We shall overcome someday.

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,

We shall overcome someday.

God will see us thru, God will see us thru,

God will see us thru someday.

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,

God will see us thru someday.

We are not afraid, we are not afraid,

We are not afraid today.

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,

We shall overcome someday.

We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace,

We shall live in peace someday.

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,

We shall live in peace someday

**Reading Recovery** Erik W., lector

The floods came

Wiping out towns

Creating rock and mudslides

Taking lives

Creating devastation

Then came calm and sun and silence

No sounds of technology

Just the running of water

Wind through the opening

Left by fallen trees

As the days progressed

Bees visited flowers

Squirrels returned to forage

Birds sang in the trees

Hummingbirds zipped about

Nature survived

And we started our work

Searching, rescuing, helping

Feeding, caring, delivering needs

To neighbors, friends and strangers

**Peace Flowing Like a River** Kris W., dancer and Paul W., Musician

**Reading Genesis 9:13-17** Sharilyn S., M. Div., lector

I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

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

**Response It Is Well With My Soul** Paul W And Christine W, musicians

When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot Thou hast taught me to say,  
“It is well, it is well with my soul!”

Refrain:

It is well with my soul!  
It is well, it is well with my soul!

My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought—  
My sin, not in part, but the whole,  
Is nailed to His Cross, and I bear it no more;  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

(Refrain)

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live;  
If dark hours about me shall roll  
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life  
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

(Refrain)

**Sermon What’s in a Rainbow?** Rev. Pressley S., preacher

**Communion** Rev. Pressley S, celebrant, Cari M., 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**

**A Time for Reflection** Paul W., musician

* Communion
* Baptism
* Laments
* Blessings

**Community Prayer** Rev. Dr. Joan S., liturgist

**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**

**Offertory I’ve Got Peace Like a River** Christine W. And Paul W., musicians

1.

I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in my soul.  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in my soul.

2.

I've got love like a river,  
I've got love like a river,  
I've got love like a river in my soul.  
I've got love like a river,  
I've got love like a river,  
I've got love like a river in my soul

3.

I've got joy like a river,  
I've got joy like a river,  
I've got joy like a river in my soul.  
I've got joy like a river,  
I've got joy like a river,  
I've got joy like a river in my soul.

**Announcements** Rev. Pressley S, liturgist

* **Church Potluck and Choir Rehearsal,** Sunday, Oct. 5, 118 Burton St., Asheville
* **“The Light of a Clear Blue Morning: A Dolly Parton-inspired Service”**, Sunday, Oct. 19th, 10:30am

**Benediction** Rev. Pressley S., liturgist

**All will be well; and all will be well;**

**And all manner of thing will be well;**

**All will be well, be well.**

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

**In the name of the Creator, Christ, Comforter, and All that are Wise and Good. Amén/Amen**