*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*

**Easter Sunday 6**

May 25, 2025

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Protocol Honoring Home** Rev. Pressley Sutherland, 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.**

**Gathering Song** Holy, Holy, Holy Paul W. and Christine W

Holy, holy, holy! Creator God Almighty

Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity

Holy, holy, holy! Living in Creation

Spirit of the God of Love in everyone we see

Holy, holy, holy! Moving now among us

God in all Persons, blessed Mystery

Holy, holy, holy, Creator God Almighty.

All Your works shall praise Your name,

in earth, and sky, and sea;

Holy, holy, holy, Everywhere and nowhere

God in all Creation, blessed ever be.

**Invocation**  Rev. Dr. Joan S., liturgist

One: O Mystery, how can that which is dead be alive? How can pain and suffering become hope and joy again?

**All: As long as we embody the Christ of justice, love, and healing, there will be resurrection!**

One: O Mystery, how can the one who was known so well, so personally, suddenly begin appearing in many forms and ways?

**All: As long as we embody the Christ of justice, love, and healing, there will be resurrection!**

One: O Mystery, how can a story of injustice and violence, so long ago and far away, be happening again and again? Is there no hope, no better future for humanity?

**All: As long as we embody the Christ of justice, love, and healing, there will be resurrection!**

One: Then, let it begin with us! Let Spirit breathe new life into the places of desolation - in us, through us, and for all the world. Let the Way of Christ, the Way of Love, not empire, be our path and practice.

**All: Our joy in liberating, compassionate Love will be our solace and resistance. The Ways of Death will not hold us in the ground.**

One: Come, rising Christ, come any way you want. Just come!

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

**Worship Songs** Rev. Pressley S, worship leader

**1.**  **Let the glory of the Lord rise among us**

Let the glory of the Lord rise among us

Let the praises of our God rise among us

Let it rise

Oh-h-h, let it rise

Oh-h-h, let it rise

Let the songs of the Lord rise among us

Let the songs of the Lord rise among us

Let the joy of the Lord rise among us

Let it rise

Oh-h-h, let it rise

Oh-h-h, let it rise

**2. (Chorus)**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,**

**O my soul,**

Worship God’s holy name.

Sing like never before,

O my soul.

I'll worship Your holy name.

1. The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;

It's time to sing Your song again.

Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,

Let me be singing when the evening comes. (Chorus)

2. You’re rich in love, and You're slow to anger.

Your name is great, and Your heart is kind.

For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;

Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. (Chorus)

3. And on that day when my strength is failing,

The end draws near, and my time has come;

Still my soul will sing Your praise unending:

Ten thousand years and then forevermore! (Chorus)

**3. This is how I fight my battles**

(repeat several times)

It may look like I’m surrounded,

But I’m surrounded by You

(repeat several times)

**Reading Revelation 21:10, 21:22-23, 22:1-5.** Susan P, lector

And in the Spirit, the angel carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God…

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb…

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb

through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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

**Response Shine Jesus Shine** Paul W. And Christine W., musicians

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 Creator’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

**Sermon Shall We Gather at the River** Rev.Pressley S., preacher

Shall we gather at the river?

Where bright angel feet have trod

With its crystal tide forever

Flowing by the throne of God

Yes, we'll gather at the river

The beautiful, the beautiful river

Gather with the saints at the river

That flows by the throne of God

Soon we'll reach the shining river

Soon our pilgrimage will cease

Soon our happy hearts will quiver

With the melody of peace

Yes, we'll gather at the river

The beautiful, the beautiful river

Gather with the saints at the river

That flows by the throne of God

**Community Prayers**  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 For Those Tears I Died** Sharilyn S., liturgist Paul W and Christine W, musicians

**1.** You said you'd come and share all my sorrows

You said you'd be there for all my tomorrows

I came so close to sending you away

And just like you promised, you came there to stay

I just had to pray.

**[Chorus]**

And Jesus said, Come to the water, stand by my side,

I know you are thirsty, you won't be denied.

I felt every teardrop when in darkness you cried,

And I strove to remind you that for those tears I died

**2.** Your goodness so great I can't understand,

And, dear Lord, I know that this was all planned.

Saviour, you're here now, and always will be.

Your love loosed my chains, and in you I'm free

But Jesus why me. *(To chorus)*

**3.** Jesus, I give you my heart and my soul.

I know, without God I'd never be whole,

Saviour, you opened up all the right doors,

And I thank you and praise you from earth's humble shores.

Take me, I'm yours. *(To chorus)*

**Communion** Rev. Dr. Lea B., celebrant Kris W, 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**

**Announcements** Rev. Pressley S, liturgist

* **New Book Group: The Gospels They Didn’t Want You to See! - Exploring Ancient Extra-canonical Gospels and Writings. Infancy Gospels of Jesus and Mary**, Tuesday, May 27, 7:30pm on Zoom.
* **Hendersonville Pride is coming up, Sat., June 7th!** Please see Christine to help organize and staff our booth.

**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**