*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*

**Proper Sunday 17 Worship**

**August 31, 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.**

**Gathering Song Holy Holy Holy**  Christine W. And Paul W., musicians

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**  Erik W, liturgist

**ALL: Holy One, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Creator, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.**

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

**Reading Philippians 2:1-8**  Susan P, lectors

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he existed in the form of God,
    did not regard equality with God
    as something to be grasped,

but emptied himself,
    taking the form of a servant,
    assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human,

    he humbled himself
    and became obedient to the point of death—
    even death on a cross.

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

**Response Great is Thy Faithfulness** Paul W., musician

1.Great is thy faithfulness, God my Creator,

There is no shadow of turning with Thee;

Thou changes not, Thy compassions they fail not;

As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

*(Refrain)*

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!*

*Morning by morning new mercies I see;*

*All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;*

*Great is thy faithfulness, God, unto me.*

2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,

Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,

Join with all nature in manifold witness,

To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love (to Refrain)

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,

Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;

Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,

Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (to Refrain)

**Sermon Emptied to be Filled?**  Rev. Pressley S, preacher

**Community Worship and Communion Time**

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**

**1. There's nothing worth more, that will ever come close**

Nothing can compare, You're our living hope

Your Presence God

I've tasted and seen, of the sweetest of loves

Where my heart becomes free, and my shame is undone

In Your Presence God

**Chorus**

Holy Spirit You are welcome here

Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere

Your Glory God is what our hearts long for

To be overcome by Your Presence God

**Bridge**

Let us be come more aware of Your Presence

Let us experience the Glory of Your Goodness (3x)

God.

**2. When the music fades all is stripped away and I simply come**

 Longing just to bring something that's of worth that will bless

 your heart

[Pre-Chorus]

I'll bring you more than a song for a song in itself is not what you have

required

You search much deeper within through the way things appear

you're looking into my heart

[Chorus]

I'm coming back to the heart of worship and it's all about you, it's all

about you Jesus

I'm sorry God for the thing I made it when it's all about you,

it's all about you Jesus

 V2. Christ of endless worth no one could express how much you deserve

 Though I'm weak and poor all I have is yours, every single breath

[back to Pre-Chorus]

**3. This is how I fight my battles** *(repeat as Spirit leads)*

It may look like I’m surrounded

But I’m surrounded by You *(repeat as Spirit leads)*

**Community 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**

**Announcements** Rev. Pressley S, liturgist

* **Book Group - Let Your Life Speak, Parker Palmer, Ch. 5,** Tuesday, August 19th, 7:30pm on Zoom.

**Closing Hymn and Offertory Amazing Grace** Paul W., musician

Amazing Grace! (how sweet the sound)

That saved a soul like me!

I once was lost, but now am found,

Was bound, but now I’m free.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,

And grace my fears relieved.

How precious did that grace appear,

The hour I first believed.

When we've been there ten thousand years,

Bright shining as the sun,

We've no less days to sing God's praise

Than when we first begun.

Amazing Grace! (how sweet the sound)

That saved a soul like me!

I once was lost, but now am found,

Was bound, but now I’m free.

**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. Amen**