*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*

**Epiphany 3 Sunday**

**January 26th, 2025**

**Prelude:** Paul W., musician

**Welcome and Protocol Honoring Home & Our Lady”** 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 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms** Paul W. And Christine W., musicians

What a fellowship, what a joy divine

Leaning on the everlasting arms

What a blessedness, what a peace is mine

Leaning on the everlasting arms

Leaning, leaning

Safe and secure from all alarms

Leaning, leaning

Leaning on the everlasting arms

What have I to dread, what have I to fear

Leaning on the everlasting arms?

I have blessed peace with my Lord so near

Leaning on the everlasting arms

Leaning, leaning

Safe and secure from all alarms

Leaning, leaning

Leaning on the everlasting arms

**Invocation** Christine W., liturgist

One:   Long ago and far away, in the midst of uncertain and dangerous times, there were wise ones who followed a star. Because they did, they found a special gift from the Holy One. But can signs like that still be found?

**All:      The Holy One still leaves signs for us. When we open the eyes of our hearts, we will see them.**

One:    Ancient prophets spoke Divine truth that was revealed to them. But has the Divine voice gone silent?

**All:      God is still speaking. When we open the ears of our hearts, we will hear and understand.**

One:   Then let us make this space and time sacred. Let us open our hearts.

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

**Reading Lucas/Luke 4:4-14-21**

*(Español)*—Jesús regresó a Galilea en el poder del Espíritu y se extendió su fama por toda aquella región. Enseñaba en las sinagogas y todos lo admiraban. Fue a Nazaret, donde se había criado, y un sábado entró en la sinagoga, como era su costumbre. Se levantó para hacer la lectura y le entregaron el libro del profeta Isaías. Al desenrollarlo, encontró el lugar donde estaba escrito:

«El Espíritu del Señor está sobre mí,
    por cuanto me ha ungido
    para anunciar buenas noticias a los pobres.
Me ha enviado a proclamar libertad a los cautivos
    y dar vista a los ciegos,
a poner en libertad a los oprimidos,

    a pregonar el año del favor del Señor».[a]

Luego enrolló el libro, se lo devolvió al ayudante y se sentó. Todos los que estaban en la sinagoga lo miraban detenidamente **21**y él comenzó a hablarles: «Hoy se cumple esta Escritura en presencia de ustedes».

Palabra de Dios **Te alabamos Dios**

*(English)* Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up and read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the the Holy One is upon me, because God has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. And God has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Creator’s favor.” And he rolled up the scroll, give it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

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

**Response We Are the Church Alive** Paul W. And Christine W., musicians

We are the Church Alive,

Christ's presence on this earth

We give God's Spirit body in

The act of our new birth.

As yielded open channels

For God's descending dove,

We shout and sing, With joy we bring

God's all-inclusive love.

We are the Church Alive,

Our faith has set us free;

No more enslaved by guilt and shame,

We live our liberty!

We follow Christ's example

And freedom now proclaim,

Destroying myths of doubt and fear

In Jesus' mighty name.

We are the Church Alive,

The body must be healed;

Where strife has bruised and battered us,

God's wholeness is revealed.

Our mission is an urgent one;

In strength and health let's stand,

So that our witness to God's light

Will shine through every land.

We are the Church Alive,

All praise to God on high!

Creator, Savior, Comforter!

We laud and magnify

Your name, almighty God of love;

Pray give us life, that we

May be your church, the Church Alive,

For all eternity.

**Sermon**  Knowing What We’re About Rev. Pressley S., preacher

**Offertory Our God is Like An Eagle**  Christine W, exhorter Paul W., musician

When Israel camped in Sinai, then Moses heard from God:

“This message tell my people, and give them this, my word:

From Egypt I was with you, and carried on my wing,

The whole of your great nation from slavery I did bring.

Just like a mother eagle, who helps her young to fly,

I am a mother to you, your needs will I supply;

And you are a as my children, the ones who hear my voice,

I am a mother to you, the people of my choice.”

If God is like an eagle who helps her young to fly,

And God is also Father, what then of you and I?

We have no fear of labels, we have no fear of roles—

If God’s own being blends them, we seek the selfsame goals.

Our God is not a woman, our God is not a man,

Our God is both and neither, our God is I WhoAm.

From all the roles that bind us, our God has set us free.

What freedom does God give us? The freedom just to be.

**Community Prayers and Communion** Rev. Dr. Lea B., liturgist Angel P., acolyte

 **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**

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**

**Sanctus:**

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:**

* **Book Group.**  Tues. 7:30pm Zoom: **The Uncovery: Understanding the Power of Community to Heal Trauma.** Cari M., will be our facilitator. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
* **Souper Bowl Sunday, Feb. 9th**

**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**