*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 14 Worship**

**August 10, 2025**

**Prelude** Paul W., musician

**Welcome and Protocol Honoring Home** Christine W., 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 Joyful People, Come and Worship**  Christine W. And Paul W., musicians

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee

God of glory, God of love;

Hearts unfold like flow’rs before Thee,

Op’ning to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;

Drive the dark of doubt away;

Giver of immortal gladness,

Fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,

Earth and heav’n reflect Thy rays,

Stars and angels sing around Thee,

Center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain,

Flow’ry meadow, flashing sea,

Singing bird and flowing fountain

Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,  
Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Wellspring of the joy of living,  
Ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou, Creator, Christ our Sibling,  
All who live in love are Thine;  
Teach us how to love each other,  
Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus,  
Which the morning stars began;  
The God of Love is reigning o’er us,  
Grace and love join all again.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
Victors in the midst of strife,  
Joyful music leads us Sunward  
In the triumph song of life.

**Invocation**

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

**Worship Songs** Rev. Pressley S., musician

**1.From the highest of heights to the depths of the sea**

Creation's revealing Your majesty

From the colors of fall to the fragrance of spring

Every creature unique in the song that it sings

All exclaiming

(Chorus)

Indescribable, uncontainable,

You placed the stars in the sky and You know them by name.

You are amazing God

All powerful, untameable,

Awestruck we fall to our knees as we humbly proclaim

You are amazing God

(Verse)

Who has told every lightning bolt where it should go

Or seen heavenly storehouses laden with snow

Who imagined the sun and gives source to its light

Yet conceals it to bring us the coolness of night

None can fathom

(Chorus)

Indescribable, uncontainable,

You placed the stars in the sky and You know them by name.

You are amazing God

All powerful, untameable,

Awestruck we fall to our knees as we humbly proclaim

You are amazing God

**2. As the deer panteth for the water**

So my soul longeth after Thee

You alone are my heart's desire

And I long to worship Thee.

[Chorus]

You alone are my strength my shield

To You alone may my spirit yield

You alone are my heart's desire

And I long to worship Thee

I love you more than gold or silver

Only You can satisfy

You alone are the real joy giver

And the apple of my eye

[back to Chorus]

You're my friend and you are my comfort

Even though you are unseen

I love you more than any other

So much more than anything

[back to Chorus]

**Reading Song of Songs 2:3–6** Joey D and Angel P, lectors

*(English)* “Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest, so is my beloved among the young men.  In his shade I took great delight and sat down, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.  He has brought me to his banquet hall, and his banner over me is love.  Sustain me with raisin cakes, refresh me with apples, because I am lovesick.  Let his left hand be under my head, and his right hand embrace me.”

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

*(Spanish)* Como el manzano entre los árboles del bosque,  
así es mi amado entre los jóvenes.  
A su sombra placentera me he sentado,  
y su fruto es dulce a mi paladar.

Él me ha traído a la sala del banquete,  
y su estandarte sobre mí es el amor.

Sustentadme con tortas de pasas,  
reanimadme con manzanas,  
porque estoy enferma de amor.

Esté su izquierda bajo mi cabeza  
y su derecha me abrace.

Palabra de Dios. **Te alabamos Dios.**

**Response Morning Has Broken** Paul W And Christine W, musicians

Morning has brok-en, like the first morn-ing

Blackbird has spok-en, like the first bird

Praise for the sing-ing, praise for the morn-ing

Praise for them spring-ing fresh from the world

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heav-en

Like the first dew fall, on the first grass

Praise for the sweet-ness of the wet gard-en

Sprung in complete-ness where his feet pass

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morn-ing

Born of the one light, Eden saw play

Praise with ela-tion, praise every morn-ing

God's recrea-tion of the new day

**Reading Song of Songs 4:9–11** Elaine R And Angel P, lectors

*(Spanish)* Cautivaste mi corazón, hermana y novia mía,  
    con una mirada de tus ojos;  
con una vuelta de tu collar  
    cautivaste mi corazón.

¡Cuán delicioso es tu amor,  
    hermana y novia mía!  
¡Más agradable que el vino es tu amor,  
    y más que toda especia  
    la fragancia de tu perfume!

Tus labios, novia mía, destilan miel;  
    leche y miel escondes bajo la lengua.

Palabra de Dios. **Te alabamos Dios.**

*(English)* “You have made my heart beat faster, my sister, my bride; you have made my heart beat faster with a single glance of your eyes, with a single strand of your necklace.  How beautiful is your love, my sister, my bride!  How much better is your love than wine, and the fragrance of your oils than all kinds of spices!  Your lips, my bride, drip honey; honey and milk are under your tongue.”

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

**Response In The Garden**

1. I come to the garden alone,

While the dew is still on the roses;

And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,

Your heart, O Christ, discloses.

*Refrain:*

*And You walk with me, and You talk with me,*

*And You tell me I am Your own,*

*And the joy we share as we tarry there,*

*None other has ever known.*

2. You speak, and the sound of Your voice

Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;

And the melody that You gave to me

Within my heart is ringing. [Refrain]

4. I'd stay in the garden with You

Tho' the night around me be falling;

But You bid me go; thro' the voice of woe,

Still Your voice to me is calling. [Refrain]

**Sermon History’s Most Censored Song**  Rev. Dr. Lea Brown, preacher

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

1. 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!

*(Chorus)*

*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!*

2. 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: *(to chorus)*

3. 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! *(to chorus)*

**Community Prayers** Sharilyn S, M. Div., 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**

**Communion** Rev. Dr. Joan S, celebrant, Jori B, 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 - Let Your Life Speak, Parker Palmer, Ch. 3,** Tuesday, August 12th, 7:30pm on Zoom.
* **Founding Committee Monthly Meeting** - Wednesday, August 13th, 7pm on Zoom
* **Blue Ridge Pride** sign-up sheet for volunteers

**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**