*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*

**Ascension Sunday**

June 1, 2025

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Protocol Honoring Home** Rev. Dr. Joan 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.**

**Gathering Song Come, People, Join to Sing!** Paul W. and Christine W

1. Come, people, join to sing,

Alleluia, Amen!

Loud praise to Christ we bring,

Alleluia, Amen!

Let all with heart and voice

Before God’s throne rejoice;

Praising God’s gracious choice;

Alleluia, Amen!

2. Come, lift your hearts on high;

Alleluia, Amen!

Let praises fill the sky;

Alleluia, Amen!

Spirit is our Guide and Friend;

To us She'll condescend;

Her love shall never end;

Alleluia, Amen!

3. Praise yet the Lord again;

Alleluia, Amen!

Life shall not end the strain;

Alleluia, Amen!

On Heaven's blissful shore

Love’s goodness we'll adore,

Singing forever more,

Alleluia, Amen!

**Invocation**  Cari M, 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. **Lord I lift your name on high**

Lord I love to sing Your p r a i s e s

I'm so glad Your in my life

I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth to show the way

From the earth to the cross my debt to pay

From the cross to the grave from the grave to the sky

Lord I lift Your name on high

**3. (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)

**Reading Juan/John Angel P And Erik W**, lectors

Mas no ruego solo por estos, sino también por los que han de creer en mí por la palabra de ellos, para que todos sean uno. Como tú, oh Abba, *estás* en mí y yo en ti, que también ellos estén en nosotros, para que el mundo crea[a] que tú me enviaste. La gloria que me diste les he dado, para que sean uno, así como nosotros somos uno: yo en ellos, y tú en mí, para que sean perfeccionados en unidad[b], para que el mundo sepa que tú me enviaste, y que los amaste tal como me has amado a mí. Abba, quiero que los que me has dado, estén también conmigo donde yo estoy[d], para que vean mi gloria, la *gloria* que me has dado; porque me has amado desde antes de la fundación del mundo. Oh Abba justo, aunque el mundo no te ha conocido, yo te he conocido, y estos han conocido que tú me enviaste. Yo les he dado a conocer tu nombre, y lo daré a conocer, para que el amor con que me amaste esté en ellos y yo en ellos.

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

[Jesus prayed,] “I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Abba, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Abba, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them and I in them.”

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

**Response I’ll Fly Away** Paul W. And Christine W., musicians

Some glad morning when this life is o’er,

I’ll fly away,

To a home of God’s celestial shore,

I’ll fly away.

I’ll fly away, O Glory!

I’ll fly away,

When I die, Hallelujah! By and by,

I’ll Fly away!

Just a few more weary days and then,

I’ll fly away,

To a land where joy shall never end,

I’ll fly away.

I’ll fly away, O Glory!

I’ll fly away,

When I die, Hallelujah! By and by,

I’ll Fly away!

**Sermon Ascension: I Will Rise** Rev. Pressley S., preacher

**Community Prayers**  Christine, 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 God’s Love Reigns Susan P**, liturgist, Paul W and Christine W, musicians

How lovely on the mountains  
are the feet of him  
Who bring good news, good news:  
Announcing peace,  
Proclaiming news of happiness.  
God’s Love reigns, God’s Love reigns!  
  
God’s Love reigns! God’s Love reigns!  
God’s Love reigns! God’s Love reigns!

Out of the tomb Christ came with grace and majesty;  
And is alive, And is alive.  
God loves us so, see here Christ’s hands and feet and side.  
Yes, we will know, Christ is alive.  
  
God’s Love reigns! God’s Love reigns!  
God’s Love reigns! God’s Love reigns!

(Repeat)

**Communion** Sharilyn S., M.Div., celebrant Angel P, 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: beginning Tuesday, June 10, 7:30pm on Zoom - “Jesus in Love: A Novel,” by Kittredge Cherry,** read Intro-Ch. 4
* **Hendersonville Pride is coming up, Sat., June 7th!** Please see Christine for more information
* **Pentecost Sunday, June 8th!** Invite your friends.
* **MSMCC/Beer City Sisters Bingo, Sat. June 21st, 6pm**, @ Haywood Famous, 508 Haywood Rd., Asheville, NC

**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**