*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 16 Worship**

**August 24, 2025**

**Prelude** Paul W., musician

**Welcome and Protocol Honoring Home Rev. Pressley S**

**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 We Are the Church Alive**  Christine W. And Paul 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.

**Invocation**  Sharilyn S., M. Div

**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 Mateo/Matthew 25:34-40**  Angel P and Cari W, lectors

*(Español)* Entonces el Rey dirá a los de su derecha: Venid, benditos de mi Padre, heredad el reino preparado para vosotros desde la fundación del mundo. Porque tuve hambre, y me disteis de comer; tuve sed, y me disteis de beber; fui forastero, y me recogisteis; estuve desnudo, y me cubristeis; enfermo, y me visitasteis; en la cárcel, y vinisteis a mí. Entonces los justos le responderán diciendo: Señor, ¿cuándo te vimos hambriento, y te sustentamos, o sediento, y te dimos de beber? ¿Y cuándo te vimos forastero, y te recogimos, o desnudo, y te cubrimos? ¿O cuándo te vimos enfermo, o en la cárcel, y vinimos a ti? Y respondiendo el Rey, les dirá: De cierto os digo que en cuanto lo hicisteis a uno de estos mis hermanos más pequeños, a mí lo hicisteis.

**Palabra de Dios** Te alabamos Dios

*(English)* “Then Child of Humanity will say to those on their right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Parent; take your inheritance, the kin\_dom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

“Then the righteous will answer them, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

“The Child of Humanity will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

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

**Response I Will Change Your Name**

I will change your name

You shall no longer be called

Wounded, outcast, lonely or afraid

I will change your name

Your new name shall be

Confidence, joyfulness, overcoming one

Faithfulness, friend of God

One who seeks My face

**Sermon Missing Life’s Greatest Joy**  Rev. Pressley S, preacher

**Sending Blessing for Angel and David**

**Community Prayers**  Christine W, 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 Remember God Cherishes You** Christine W and Paul W, musicians

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!*

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)*

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)*

**Communion** Rev. Dr. Lea B, 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

* **Book Group - Let Your Life Speak, Parker Palmer, Ch. 4,** Tuesday, August 19th, 7:30pm on Zoom.
* **Immigration Rights and ICE Protocol Update** with Rev. Lea B. Directly following today’s service

**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**