*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*

**Easter Sunday 5**

May 18, 2025

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Protocol Honoring Home** Rev. Pressley Sutherland, 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** Paul W. and Christine W

Joyful people, come and worship!

Lift your happy hearts in song,

Giving praise for our church family

In God’s house, where all belong,

Celebrating our uniqueness

Filled with love and pride today,

Forth we travel on faith’s journey

We, who once had turned away.

And today we lift our voices,

Of amazing love we sing,

Giving thanks and praise to Yahweh

For the joy that love can bring!

Praising Jesus and the Spirit,

Singing of amazing grace,

Here we see that same sweet Spirit

On each blessed sibling’s face.

God, whose mercies know no bound’ries

Heard our cries for liberty,

Broke the chains of fear that bound us

Lifted, loved, and set us free!

Learning how to love each other

How to live and how to grow,

Children of God’s new creation

Onward, upward now we go!

**Invocation**  Rev. Dr. Joan S., 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, musician

**1. I will bless You, God, forever**

I will trust You at all times

You have delivered me from all fear

You have set my feet upon a rock

I will not be moved

And I`ll say of my God:

You are my shield, my strength, my portion, deliverer

My shelter, strong tower, my very present help in time of need

Whom have I in heaven but You

There`s none I desire besides You

You have made me glad

And I`ll say of the Lord

You are my shield, my strength, my portion, deliverer

My shelter, strong tower, my very present help in time of need

**2. In the morning, when I rise,**

in the morning, when I rise

In the morning, when I rise, give me Jesus

[Chorus]

Give me Je-sus, give me Jesus

You can have all this world

Just give me Jesus

[Verse 2]

When I am alone, When I am alone

Oh, when I am alone, give me Jesus

(chorus)

[Verse 3]

When I come to die, when I come to die

Oh, when I come to die, Give me Jesus (chorus)

**3. This is how I fight my battles**

(repeat several times)

It may look like I’m surrounded,

But I’m surrounded by You

(repeat several times)

**Reading Gospel of Thomas verses 16 and 48** Erik W., lector

(16) Jesus said, "People think, perhaps, that it is peace which I have come to cast upon the

world. They do not know that it is dissension which I have come to cast upon the earth:

fire, sword, and war. For there will be five in a house: three will be against two, and two

against three, the parent against the child, and the child against the parent. And they will

stand alone."

(48) [Then] Jesus said, "If two make peace with each other in this one house, they will say to the mountain, 'Move Away,' and it will move away.”

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

**Reading Revelation 21:1-6** Cari M, lector

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.

To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

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

**Response Let There Be Peace on Earth** Paul W. And Christine W., musicians

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

Let there be peace on earth the peace that was meant to be.

With God as our creator, family all are we.

Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me Let this be the moment now.

With every step I take let this be my solemn vow.

Take each moment and live each moment with peace eternally.

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me

**Sermon When the Time Comes: Cicadas, Chaos, and Making Peace**

Rev.Pressley S., preacher

**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 Make Me A Channel of Your Peace** Christine W, liturgistPaul W, musician

1. Make me a channel of Your peace.

Where there is hatred let me bring Your love,

Where there is injury Your pardon Lord,

And where there's doubt, true faith in You.

2. Make me a channel of Your peace.

Where there's despair in life let me bring hope,

Where there is darkness, only light,

And where there's sadness, ever joy.

 *(Chorus)* Oh, Creator, grant that I may never seek,

So much to be consoled, as to console.

To be understood, as to understand,

To be loved, as to love with all my soul.

3. Make me a channel of Your peace.

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

In gi-ving to all that we receive,

And in dying that we're born to eternal life. *(To chorus)*

**Communion** Sharilyn S., M.Div, celebrant, Cari M., 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: The Gospels They Didn’t Want You to See! - Exploring Ancient Extra-canonical Gospels and Writings. The Secret Gospel of Mark**, Tuesday, May 13, 7:30pm on Zoom.
* **Hendersonville Pride is coming up, Sat., June 7th!** Please see Christine to help organize and staff our booth.
* If you missed Womansong’s concerts this weekend, there is another chance on May 31st. Please see Rev. Dr. Joan for more information.

**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**