*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 18 Worship**

**September 7, 2025**

**Prelude** Paul W., musician

**Call to Worship**  **Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing** Julia Cameron D. and Rev. Pressley

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

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**  Joey D., liturgist

**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**

**A Time for Worship**

**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

(Final repeat)

Incomparable, unchangeable

You see the depths of my heart and You love me the same

You are amazing God

You are amazing God

2. **I am light, I am light (repeat)**

V1. I am not the things my family did

I am not the voices in my head

I am not the pieces of the brokenness inside

I am light.

V2. I’m not the mistakes that I have made

Or any of the things that caused me pain

I am not the pieces of the dream I left behind

I am light.

V3. I am not the color of my eyes

I am not the skin on the outside

I am not my age, I am not my race

My soul inside…..is all light.

V4. I am divinity defined

I am the God on the inside

I am a star, a piece of it all

I…………am light.

3. I**t only takes a spark to get a fire going**

And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing

That's how it is with God's love

Once you've experienced it, you spread God’s love to everyone,

You want to pass it on

2. What a wondrous time is spring, when all the trees are budding

The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming

That's how it is with God's love

Once you've experienced it, you want to sing

It's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on

3. I wish for you my friend, this happiness that I've found

You can depend on Them, it matters not where you're bound

I'll shout it from the mountain top

I want the world to know, the Lord of love has come to me,

I want to pass it on.

**Reading John 5:2-9**  Susan P, lector

Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew[a] Beth-zatha,which has five porticoes. In these lay many ill, blind, lame, and paralyzed people. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” The ill man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am making my way someone else steps down ahead of me.” Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

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

**Response I Will Change Your Name** Paul W., musician

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 An Mm-Mm Good Life**  Rev. Pressley S, preacher

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

 **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 We Can Be Kind** Erik W. And Joey D., musicians

**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 the sabe decir**

**Santo eres, Dios**

**Holy, holy, holy**

**My heart, my heart adores you**

**My heart is glad to say to you:**

**You are holy, God**

**Announcements** Rev. Pressley S, liturgist

* **Book Group - Let Your Life Speak, Parker Palmer, Ch. 6,** Tuesday, August 19th, 7:30pm on Zoom.
* **ReSister “Rocky Horror Show” Drag Queen Bingo**, Saturday, September 20th, 6pm, Haywood Famous
* **Blue Ridge Pride,** Saturday, September 27th, Pack Square, Asheville
* **Hurricane Helene Anniversary Prayer Service**, Sunday, September 28th, 10:30am
* **The Light of a Clear Blue Morning - A Dolly Parton-Inspired Worship Service**, Sunday, October 19th, 10:30am

**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. Amen**