*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 20 Worship**

**September 21, 2025**

**Prelude** Paul W., musician

**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 Psalm 113:1-4**  Rev. Pressley S., liturgist and musician

Praise the Creator! Praise, O servants of the Holy One; praise the name of the Creator.

**Blessed be the name of the God from this time on and forevermore.**

From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of Godis to be praised.

**The Holy One is high above all nations, and Their glory above the heavens.**

Who is like the our God, who is seated on high,

**who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?**

God raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

**to make them sit with royalty, with the royalty of God’s people**

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

**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

**Reading Matthew 7:1-6**  Susan P, lector

“Don’t judge others, and God will not judge you. If you judge others, you will be judged the same way you judge them. God will treat you the same way you treat others.

“Why do you notice the small piece of dust that is in your friend’s eye, but you don’t notice the big piece of wood that is in your own? Why do you say to your friend, ‘Let me take that piece of dust out of your eye’? Look at yourself first! You still have that big piece of wood in your own eye. You are a hypocrite! First, take the wood out of your own eye. Then you will see clearly to get the dust out of your friend’s eye.

“Don’t give something that is holy to dogs. They will only turn and hurt you. And don’t throw your pearls to pigs. They will only step on them.

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

**Response Blessed Assurance** Paul W. And Christine W., musicians

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!

Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God,

born of Their Spirit, changed in Their Love.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,

praising my Savior all the day long.

This is my story, this is my song,

praising my Savior all the day long.

2 Perfect communion, perfect delight,

visions of rapture now burst on my sight.

Angels descending bring from above

echoes of mercy, whispers of Love. [Refrain]

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest.

I in my Savior am happy and bless’d,

watching and waiting, looking above,

filled with God’s goodness, lost in Their Love. [Refrain]

**Reading Philippians 2:1-4** Elaine R., lector

Think about what we have in Christ: the encouragement Christ has brought us, the comfort of His love, our sharing in Their Spirit, and the mercy and kindness She has shown us. If you enjoy these blessings, then do what will make my joy complete: Agree with each other, and show your love for each other. Be united in your goals and in the way you think. In whatever you do, don’t let selfishness or pride be your guide. Be humble, and honor others [as much as] yourselves. Don’t be interested only in your own life, but care about the lives of others too.

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

**Response Remember God Cherishes You** Paul W. And Christine W., musicians

1There 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)*

**Sermon Of Pearls and Pigs**  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 Love Divine All Loves Excelling** Paul W and Christine W, musicians

Love divine, all loves excelling,

Joy of heaven, to earth come down,

Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,

All Thy faithful mercies crown!

Jesus, Thou art all compassion,

Pure, unbounded love Thou art;

Visit us with Thy salvation,

Enter every trembling heart.

Breath, O breath Thy loving Spririt

Into every troubled breast!

Let us all in Thee inherit,

Let us find the promised rest;

Take away the love of sinning;

Alpha and Omega be;

End of faith, as its beginning,

Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,

Let us all Thy life receive;

Suddenly return, and never,

Nevermore Thy temples leave.

Thee we would always be blessing,

Serve Thee as Thy hosts above;

Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,

Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then, Thy new creation;

Pure and spotless let us be;

Let us see Thy great salvation

Perfectly restored in Thee;

Changed from glory into glory,

Till in heaven we take our place,

Till we cast our crowns before Thee,

Lost in wonder, love and praise.

**Communion Sharilyn S**, M. Div., celebrant

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 - Video Series: Queer in Appalachia** Tuesday, August 22nd, 7:30pm on Zoom.
* **Blue Ridge Pride organizing today,** Saturday, September 27th, Pack Square, Asheville
* **Hurricane Helene Anniversary Prayer Service**, Sunday, September 28th, 10:30am
* Church Potluck and MS Singers Rehearsal, Sunday, October 5th, 118 Burton Street
* **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**