*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*

**Autumn Celebratory Service**

**October 4th, 2025**

**Prelude** Paul W., musician

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

**Invocational Gathering Songs Rev. Pressley S., musician**

1. **I will enter your gates** with thanksgiving in my heart

I will enter your courts with praise,

I will say this is the day that our God has made

I will rejoice for you have made me glad.

You have made me glad, you have made me glad

I will rejoice for you have made me glad

You have made me glad, you have made me glad

I will rejoice for you have made me glad.

2. **Let the glory of our God** rise among us

Let the glory of our God rise among us

Let the praises of our God rise among us

Let it rise (repeat)

Oh-h-h, let it rise

Oh-h-h, let it rise

Let the songs of our God rise among us

Let the songs of our God rise among us

Let the joy of our God rise among us

Let it rise (repeat)

Oh-h-h, let it rise

Oh-h-h, let it rise

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

**Community Prayers** Rev. Dr. Lea B., liturgist

*Prayers of thanksgiving, care and healing for*

1. *our world,*
2. *our community*
3. *ourselves*

Response - One: Loving God, in your compassion,

**ALL: Hear our Prayers**

**Reading Autumn** Erik W., lector

Here, toward the end of the voyage,

A possibility surfaces as radical and telling as the

Pleiades on this autumn night:

Perhaps now there is time for joy. Perhaps happiness

Is our winter port, our dwelling after such earnest sailing, where

Next we may walk our fields and sing of honest

Efforts and potential secreted in these earthen mounds

Soon to be awakened by the graces of our Mother

Softly whispering, “The harsh sun is past.”

**Response Peace Like a River Christine W. And Paul W., musicians**

1. I’ve got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in my soul.  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in my soul.

2. I've got love like a river,  
I've got love like a river,  
I've got love like a river in my soul.  
I've got love like a river,  
I've got love like a river,  
I've got love like a river in my soul

3. I've got joy like a river,  
I've got joy like a river,  
I've got joy like a river in my soul.  
I've got joy like a river,  
I've got joy like a river,  
I've got joy like a river in my soul.

**Reading Excerpt “On Goldenrods and Purple Asters” by Robin Wall Kimmerer**

Rev. Dr. Joan S.,lector

If a fountain could jet bouquets of chrome yellow in dazzling arches of chrysanthemum fireworks, that would be Canada goldenrod. Each three- foot stem is a geyser of tiny gold daisies, ladylike in miniature, exuberant en masse. Where the soil is damp enough, they stand side by side with their perfect counterpart, New England asters. Not the pale domesticates of the perennial border, the weak sauce of lavender or sky blue, but full-on royal purple that would make a violet shrink. The daisy-like fringe of purple petals surrounds a disc as bright as the sun at high noon, a golden-orange pool, just a tantalizing shade darker than the surrounding goldenrod. Alone, each is a botanical superlative. Together, the visual effect is stunning. Purple and gold, the heraldic colors of the king and queen of the meadow, a regal procession in complementary colors. I just wanted to know why.

Why do they stand beside each other when they could grow alone? There are plenty of pinks and whites and blues dotting the fields, so is it only happenstance that the magnificence of purple and gold end up side by side? Einstein himself said that “God doesn’t play dice with the universe.” Why is the world so beautiful? It seemed like a good question to me.

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

**Sermon Why is the World So Beautiful?** Rev. Pressley S., preacher

**Offertory Shine, Jesus, Shine** Christine W. And Paul W., musicians

1. Christ, the light of Your love is shining

In the midst of the nighttime, shining

Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us

Set us free by the truth You now bring us

Shine on me, shine on me

[Chorus]

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with Creation's glory

Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire

Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy

Send forth Your word, God, and let there be light

2. Christ, I come to Your awesome presence

From the shadows into Your radiance

By Your Love, may enter Your brightness

Search me, try me, inspire me with kindness,

Shine on me, shine on me *(to chorus)*

**Communion** Rev. Dr. Lea B, celebrant, Kris W, 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**

**Our Mother Prayer** Rev. Dr. Lea B., celebrant

**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**

**Announcements** Rev. Pressley S, liturgist

+ **Book Club this week.** We’ll begin our next series,TJ Klune’s “Somewhere Beyond the Sea” on Tues., Oct. 7th, 7:30pm on Zoom. Please read through Ch. 3 if you can.

* **Fall** **Church Potluck and Choir Rehearsal,** Sunday, Oct. 5, 118 Burton St., Asheville
* **“The Light of a Clear Blue Morning: A Dolly Parton-inspired Service”**, Sunday, Oct. 19th, 10:30am
* **New Transgender and Gender Diverse Support Organization has been launched, “Trans-Action 4 Families”** which will includes Maria’s Closet, a clothes bank for our trans community. This is being launched by Francisco Gonzalez, Minister of Outreach, and our friends at Providence Baptist Church in Hendersonville. Contact information is posted on our Facebook Page.

**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**