



Saturday, September 26, 2026 at 10:30 AM

Central United Methodist Church

Thank you for joining faith groups from the Asheville area for a joyful service grounded in our shared belief in a loving God before heading to the Blue Ridge Pride Festival in Pack Square Park. This one-hour service will conclude with coffee and treats on the Central UMC lawn.

Order of Worship

Prelude

“We Gather Together”

arr. Craig Phillips

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown
Central United Methodist Church

Opening Prayer

Rev. Dr. Mack Dennis
Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church

***Opening Hymn 158**

“Come, Christians Join to Sing”

SPANISH HYMN

Call and Response/Reading

Pastor Seth Black
Haywood Street Congregation

From street corner and high-rise mountain top and muddy gutter,

The fullness of our being belongs.

Storied with love, storied with loss, storied with sorrow and hope and joy.

The fullness of our being blesses.

With holy courage and sacred resilience, speaking up and marching out,

The fullness of our being blooms.

May we be reminded that to be human is to be in need of each other and needed
by one another.

Ordained in original goodness.

Endowed with inherent belovedness –

To be the light that only we can each uniquely be.

Beyond binary or box boundary or limitation, the image of God Who is Love is
ever more fully reflected when we each reflect our fullness of self.

This we remember. Amen.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Lucy Robbins
Lead Pastor of Biltmore Village Cooperative Parish

Offertory

“To Make You Feel My Love”

Seth Black
Haywood Street Congregation

The offering today will go entirely to Blue Ridge Pride.

You may give online via www.blueridgepride.org

When the rain is blowing in your face

And the whole world is on your case

I could offer you a warm embrace

To make you feel my love

When the evening shadows and the stars appear
And there is no one there to dry your tears
I could hold you for a million years
To make you feel my love

I know you haven't made your mind up yet
But I will never do you wrong
I've known it from the moment that we met
No doubt in my mind where you belong

I'd go hungry, I'd go black and blue
I'd go crawling down the avenue
No there's nothing that I wouldn't do
To make you feel my love

The storms are raging on the rolling sea
And on the highway of regret
The winds of change are blowing wild and free
You ain't seen nothing like me yet

I could make you happy, make your dreams come true
Nothing that I wouldn't do
Go to the ends of the Earth for you
To make you feel my love
To make you feel my love

Prayers for the People

Holy One, Source of Love and Justice, we gather as people of many faiths and traditions, united in hope and solidarity. Today we remember those who have gone before us, those who have paved the way for LGBTQIA+ equality across the world and here in our Western North Carolina community.

We give thanks for the pioneers of justice.

We remember leaders near and far – Rev. Paul Murray, Bayard Rustin, Andre Lorde, Harvey Milk, Sylvia Rivera, Marsha P. Johnson, Bishop Gene Robinson, and those who rose up at Stonewall. We give thanks for Helen Ryde and others here in Asheville and across Western North Carolina whose faithful witness reminds us that love is louder than fear.

(Names may be spoken aloud. Silence is kept.)

O Holy One, as we remember those who have inspired and shaped us,

We honor their courage and pray for strength to continue their work.

We hold before You, O God, all who have been harmed by religious institutions and faith communities – those shamed, excluded, or rejected because of who they are or whom they love.

We lament the harm and pray for healing.

We pray for all who continue to be persecuted and victimized—here in our communities, within places of faith, across our nation, and throughout the world. May we be bold in resisting hatred and faithful in proclaiming love.

We pray for conciliation and future reconciliation.

Grant us humility to confess the wrongs of our past, courage to work for justice today, and vision to image a future shaped by love that liberates, welcome that affirms and hold actions that transform. Amen.

Glitter Blessing:

The Rev. Dr. Audette Fullbright Fulson, Heath Nettles

***Closing Hymn 577**

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

CWM RHONDDA

Benediction

Rev. Lisa Hartzog

Postlude

“Hymn to Joy”

arr. Albert Travis

***Please stand, if you are able.**

Ministers

Pastor Seth Black
Haywood Street Congregation

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown
Senior Pastor of Central United Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. Lucy Robbins
Lead Pastor of Biltmore Village Cooperative Parish

Rev. Dr. Mack Dennis
Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Audette Fulbright Fulson
Lead Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Asheville, NC

Rev. Lisa Hartzog
Avery's Creek United Methodist Church

Organist

Corey Powell
Director of Music Ministries, Central United Methodist Church