



**June 13, 2021**

**JOY**  
**Pride & Joy**

**Rev. Lori McPherson**  
**Preaching**

**First Reading ~ *1 Samuel 16:6-13***

When they arrived, and Samuel saw Eliab, and said to himself, “Surely, God’s anointed stands here before YHWH.” But YHWH said to Samuel, “Pay no attention to appearance and height; I have rejected him. YHWH does not see as mortals see; mortals see only appearances but YHWH sees into the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab to pass before Samuel, who said, “No. YHWH has not chosen this one.” Next came Shammah, but Samuel said, “Not this one either.” Seven sons were presented to Samuel by Jesse, who said, “YHWH has not chosen any of these.” Samuel asked, “Are these all the sons you have?” “There is still the youngest,” Jesse said, “but he is tending the sheep.” Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until the lad arrives.” So they sent for a boy, a ruddy youth with bright eyes, and handsome to behold. YHWH said, “Rise and anoint this one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed the boy in the presence of his brothers, and from that day forward the Spirit of YHWH came upon David and was with him.”

**Second Reading ~ *Mark 4:26-34***

Jesus went on to say, “What comparison can we use for the reign of God? What image will help to present it? It is like a mustard seed which people plant in the soil: it is the smallest of all the earth’s seeds, yet once it is sown, it springs up to become the largest of shrubs, with branches big enough for the birds of the sky to build nests in its shade.”

**Third Reading ~ *From Don’t Be Afraid Anymore*, by Rev. Troy Perry**

On October 6, 1968, twelve people attended the first service of Metropolitan Community Church. It was held in the right half of the little pink house in Los Angeles that Willie Smith and I called home...In our community were many gay people who were, despite our “gay” label, anything but happy. Tremendous need existed for a bold ministry...They came to us with tears and newfound hope. We were the first Christian bulwark against a determinedly ignorant society whose homophobic cruelty masked a callous indifference to humanity.