Popcorn Ball

Welcome back to Day 8!

Now that we've had a chance to play with stitches and colour, let's introduce some interesting textures! Starting with this one that looks a bit like those caramel popcorn balls you'd find on a holiday party buffet table.

Special Stitches:
**4 Double Crochet Cluster Stitch (4DCCL) – ***YO and insert your hook into the indicated stitch, YO and pull up a loop, YO and pull through 2 loops. Repeat from * 3 more times. With 5 loops on your hook, YO and pull through all 5 loops.
Half Double Crochet 2 Together (HDC2TOG) – YO and insert your hook into the indicated stitch, YO and pull up a loop. Immediately insert your hook into the next stitch or space and YO. You should have 4 loops on your hook. YO and pull through all 4 loops.

Pattern Instructions:

For this pattern, we will be working in continuous rounds . The use of a stitch marker will help you keep track of each round. Be sure to place your stitch marker (PM) in the first stitch of each round immediately after making it.
Round 1 - Make a MR and CH1. Place 7 HDC into your ring. DO NOT JOIN (7 HDC)
Round 2 - HDC in the first stitch, PM, then HDC back into the same stitch. Place 2 HDC into each remaining stitch of round 1. DO NOT JOIN (14 HDC)
Round 3 - HDC in the first stitch, PM, then HDC back into the same stitch. 4DCCL in the next stitch. *2HDC in the next stitch, 4DCCL in the next. Repeat from * around. DO NOT JOIN (14 HDC, 7 4DCCL)
Round 4 - HDC in the first stitch, PM, then HDC back into the same stitch. HDC into each of the next 2 stitches. *2 HDC in the next stitch, HDC in each of the next 2 stitches. Repeat from * around. DO NOT JOIN (28 HDC)
Rounds 5 - HDC in the first stitch (PM), HDC in the next stitch, *4DCCL in the next, HDC in the next 3 stitches. Repeat from * until there are two stitches remaining. 4DCCL in the first stitch and HDC in the last stitch. DO NOT JOIN (21 HDC, 7 4DCCL)
Round 6 - HDC in the first stitch (PM) and HDC in every stitch around. DO NOT JOIN (28 HDC)
Rounds 7 – HDC in the first stitch (PM), *4DCCL in the next stitch, HDC in each of next 3 stitches. Repeat from * until you have 3 stitches remaining. 4DCCL in the first of these stitches, and HDC in each of the remaining 2 stitches. DO NOT JOIN (21 HDC, 7 4DCCL)
Round 8 – HDC in the first stitch (PM) and HDC in every stitch around. DO NOT JOIN (28 HDC)
Rounds 9 – *4DCCL in the first stitch (PM), HDC in each of the next 3 stitches. Repeat from * around. DO NOT JOIN (21 HDC, 7 4DCCL) Before proceeding, tighten the magic ring. You will find that your magic ring tail is on the outside of your work. Thread it through your ring before cinching it and weaving in that tail.

Round 10 - HDC in the first stitch (PM), *HDC2TOG over the next two stitches, and HDC in the next stitch. Repeat from * around. (10 HDC, 9 HDC2TOG)

** INSERT YOUR BAUBLE ** – we will be working around the bauble from now on as we close. Remove the metal top to make it easier to work around the ball.

Round 11 – HDC2TOG over the first 2 stitches (PM) , *4DCCL in the next, HDC2TOG over the next 2 stitches. Repeat from * until there is one stitch left, HDC in the last stitch. (6 HDC2TOG, 6 4DCCL, 1 HDC) At the end of the round, cut a long tail, pull it out through your stitch. Thread it onto your yarn needle and weave it through the tops of each stitch. Pull tight and FO.

Finishing – Replace the metal top of your bauble and decorate as you desire with ribbon, moss or greenery.