



PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

July 19, 2020

*Connecting with the Community,
Growing Disciples, and Serving Jesus Christ*

*Our Worship can be viewed on our website
PantherValleyChurch.org*

FRIENDS ~ FAMILY ~ FAITH

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(inspired by Psalm 139)*

We've come to worship God, who loved us before we were yet born, who knows us even better than we know ourselves, whose presence never leaves us, and whose love for us never ceases. This is our God. Let us worship together!

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious and loving God, we gather to acknowledge you as our God and to praise your name in all the earth. In our worship, reveal and make yourself known among us that you are no longer the God that we heard of but the God who is real and as close to us as our breath. May we know you so that we can make you known in the world through what we say and do. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

HYMN *We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder*

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Merciful God, you plant each of us like seeds in the same field and together we are nourished and nurtured by the sun. We sway in the wind and are refreshed by the rain. We are blessed by the knowledge that you want us to grow towards what you call us to be.

When we deprive others of that same opportunity,
forgive us.

When we want to uproot those whom we believe do not belong in our part of the field, forgive us.

When we label others as good or bad rather than accept them for who they are, forgive us.

When we are reluctant to acknowledge that we ourselves are a mixture of weeds and wheat, forgive us.

When we are afraid to look into the fields of our own lives to see what is growing there, forgive us.

O God, you know us inside and out, through and through.

You search us out and lay your hand upon us.

You know what we are going to say even before we speak.

So we pray that you will help us to reach out to the uprooted and rejected, the lonely and the outcast, and to develop and grow the good in ourselves, in others and in the world.

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

SCRIPTURE READING: *Genesis 28:10-19a*

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

MESSAGE *Blessing the Weeds and the Wheat*

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Your steadfast love is but one of the many gifts you pour into us. Our offerings are but a part of the ways in which we can serve you and your people. Bless them, and bless us, to ministries of healing and hope. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SENDING FORTH

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who came to make God real for us,
And the unchanging love of God who finds us in the time of our deepest needs,
And the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit be with you in your continued journey. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Today's flowers are given in honor of Betty Schultheis's Birthday!

Credits: Today's Liturgy is adapted from: Opening Prayer and Sending Forth, Grace Pak, Prayer for Forgiveness, Moira Laidlaw,

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Bible Study on Zoom:

Monday Night at 7pm *Unshakable Hope*

Tuesday Night at 7pm *The Good Gospel*

Wednesday Morning at 10am beginning July 22nd

Care and Nurture Prayer Shawls and Palm Prayer Squares are in the coat closet outside Fellowship Hall. People can take a bag to give to anyone who is in need of support and comfort.

PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH 1490 Route 517 Hackettstown, NJ 07840

Pastor: Ninabeth Metcalf

Music Director: Diane Van Dongen

Church Administrator: Cynthia Richards

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