



**PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH**

**July 26, 2020**

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

*Our Worship can be viewed on our website  
[PantherValleyChurch.org](http://PantherValleyChurch.org)*

***FRIENDS ~ FAMILY ~ FAITH***

## PRELUDE

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come and worship, proclaim God's ways of faithfulness and steadfast love.  
We will tell of God's love, which unfolds in our lives.  
Come and worship, for we are God's people, rejoicing in his graciousness.  
God is always with us, there is nothing which can keep us apart.  
Come to the One who tells stories; worship our God who keeps promises.  
We rejoice with God who is with us always.

### **OPENING PRAYER**

Clear our hearts, O God, that we may see you. Clear our heart, O God, that we may truly see ourselves.  
Clear our heart, O God, that we may know the sacredness of this moment and in every moment seek you, serve you, strengthen you, as the Living Presence in every presence.  
Clear our heart, O God, that we may see.

### **HYMN**     *Seek Ye First*

### **PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

We praise You, God, and glorify Your name.  
For great is Your love toward us.  
You have rescued us from the path that leads to death.  
O Lord, save us from hardness of heart, where your word cannot take root.  
O Lord, help us to let go of the things that keep us from your wisdom.  
Teach us Your ways, so that we may live according to Your truth.  
Grant that our hearts may be fertile soil,  
where your word flourishes and yields a harvest,  
bringing salvation to ourselves and those about us.  
Give us pure hearts, so that our lives will bring honor to You.  
Amen.

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**     **(based on Psalm 86:11-15)**

Brothers and sisters, Our God is a God of compassion and mercy, slow to get angry, and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. So be at peace: your sins are forgiven.

### **SCRIPTURE READING:**     *1 Kings 3:5-12*

### **GOSPEL READING:**     Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

### **MESSAGE**     *Seeking Wisdom: Treasures Old and New*

### **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**

We offer our gifts to you, Steadfast Love, not because you need them, but so others might be as blessed as we are by your presence, your power, and your peace. Amen

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

### **SENDING FORTH**

Peace where there is war, healing where there is hurt, memory where we have forgotten the other. Vision where there is violence, light where there is madness, sight where we have blinded each other. Comfort where there is sorrow, tears where there is hardness, laughter where we have missed life's joy. Laughter when we remember the joy.

## **POSTLUDE**

Credits: Today's Liturgy is adapted from: Opening Prayer and Sending Forth, John Philip Newell, Prayer for Forgiveness, ,

## **Announcements & Upcoming Events**

### **Bible Study on Zoom:**

Monday Night at 7pm *Unshakable Hope*

Tuesday Night at 7pm *The Good Gospel*

Wednesday Morning at 10am *God Is Closer Than You Think*

**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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