



PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

August 16, 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 (based on Psalm 67)

May God be gracious to us, and bless us, and cover us with the radiance of grace. May your way be known everywhere, God: in the hidden places of our hearts; in the comfort of our homes; in every corner of our world; in the farthest reaches of creation. You transform us; you heal our lives; you renew the earth and every creature: Let our praise for you shake the rafters with songs of joy!

OPENING PRAYER

God, we remember with wonder and joy that your spirit is reaching everywhere: rejoicing in the liveliness of all living things; touching what is wounded or ill with healing power; gathering in the lonely, the lost, the least; soothing ancient animosities; creating and recreating a vision of hope.

Come now, Holy Spirit. Let our worship rejoice in you, and lift our hearts, and bind us in one family of loving grace. We ask in Jesus' name; Amen.

HYMN My Faith Looks Up To Thee

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

We long to know your presence and your blessing God; to know that we have found a place in your kingdom; And so we commit to being those who acknowledge our poverty of spirit, and who grieve rightly our brokenness and losses; For this is how we open ourselves to blessing.

We dedicate ourselves to humility, and to a constant, never-ceasing hunger and thirst for justice; For this is how we open ourselves to blessing.

We seek to always act with compassion and mercy, and to keep our hearts pure – free from destructiveness, and bound by integrity; For this is how we open ourselves to blessing.

We devote ourselves to working for peace, and to constant celebration and rejoicing, even in the face of hardship, persecution, and struggle; For this is how we open ourselves to blessing.

Gracious and Compassionate God, We offer ourselves to you again, in worship and obedience, in lives committed to the purposes and practices of your reign; For in this way, we know, we are blessed, and we are a blessing. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: *Genesis 45:1-15*

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin

see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

PSALM 67

*May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us, Selah
that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.*

*Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth. Selah
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.*

*The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.
May God continue to bless us;*

MESSAGE *God’s Blessing*

PASTORAL PRAYER

God bless us. So we can bless others. That they might then bless you.

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

SENDING FORTH (Numbers 6:24-26)

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace"

POSTLUDE

Credits: Today’s Liturgy is adapted from: Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, John A. Nelson, Prayer for Forgiveness, John van de Laar Prayer of Dedication,

HYMN, My Faith Looks Up To Thee CCLI# 43334, Public Domain

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Bible Study on Zoom:

Monday Night at 7pm *Daniel Dilema*

Tuesday Night at 7pm *The Good Gospel – Resumes Tuesday August 18th*

Wednesday Morning at 10am *God Is Closer Than You Think – Resumes Wednesday August 19th*

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.

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