



**PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH**

**August 23, 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**

Loving God, call us together as your people; transform us with your love.  
Transform our hearts, that we may love generously.  
Transform our eyes, that we may see your grace.  
Transform our hands, that we may serve others.  
Transform our spirits, that we may be the body of Christ, gathered to worship and sent out to serve.  
Amen.

**HYMN** Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

## **PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

We are the Church, Jesus, but sometimes we fail to believe it, and so we focus more on what divides us than on your call and the unconditional welcome that joins us. May your Spirit flow through us to bind and connect us in ways that neither our diversity nor our self-righteousness, nor our sin can separate.

We are your Body, Jesus but sometimes we fail to act like it, and so we grow more concerned with ourselves than the others you call us to serve May your grace and compassion flow through us to heal and embrace all who are broken and wounded.

We are your Messengers, Jesus, but sometimes it's easier to carry bad news, or no news than to challenge the powers that be, or to oppose injustice with the message of the Gospel.

May your prophetic voice be proclaimed in us in ways that encourage the despairing, liberate the oppressed and hold the powerful accountable.

Forgive us when we fail to be who we are – who you have called us to be and teach us to live and to love as your presence in this world. For Christ's Sake. Amen

## **SCRIPTURE READING:**

**Exodus 1:8 – 2:10**

**Romans 12:1-8**

**MESSAGE** *A King Came to Power Who Did Not Know the Source of Blessing*

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *Sanctuary*

## **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**

Generous God, you have given us many gifts and drawn us together into Christ's body, the church. You have blessed us with generous and cheerful spirits. May the gifts of our money, time, and talents support the ministry of your church. Amen.

### **SENDING FORTH**

Resist the powers that use people. Hear the cries of the weak. Dare to work for justice. Know that God—Source, Word, and Spirit— is your help, will keep you safe, and will bring you new life. You are blessed by God and sent to serve.

## **POSTLUDE**

Credits: Today's Liturgy is adapted from: Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Sending Forth; Nancy Townly, Prayer for Forgiveness, John van de Laar

HYMN, Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying, CCLI#22829 1973, Hope Publishing Company

### **Announcements & Upcoming Events**

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

Monday Night at 7pm *Daniel Dilema*

Wednesday 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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