



**PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH**

**August 30, 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**

There are so many directions in which we are being pulled. We struggle and hope that we have chosen the right way. Some of these paths are falsely enticing and others dangerous. How can we know what to do? Look to Jesus! He will be your guide and Holy Spirit will guard your life. Let us follow Jesus who is the example of compassion, healing and hope.

**HYMN** I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

## **PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

God of love and mercy, be with us this day. We have faltered in our service to you. We create divisions between various people; we judge before we listen; we condemn before we make any attempt to understand. Our lives are in turmoil and we confess that we have turned away from you. It is fear and anger that too often surrounds us and our actions become based on those fears and anger. Slow us down, Lord. Give us hearts overflowing with grace and compassion. Help us to mirror Jesus who loved and healed others who were rejected by "polite" society. Remind us that we are called to be strong voices of hope for those who feel alienated and lost; we are called to be a home to strangers; to quench thirst and to give nourishment; to welcome and bring words of hope. Forgive us when we have forgotten these things. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Christ calls each of us into lives of service and hope. He equips us for these ministries and places us on the pathways of peace. Rejoice! You are called by God's Son and blessed by him. AMEN.

## **SCRIPTURE READING:**

### **Romans 12:9-21**

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**MESSAGE** *Guest speaker Donna Weinberg*

## **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**

Dear God, we offer you now these gifts. Take our money and use it to bring comfort to those in need. Take our service and use it to bring justice to those who are oppressed. Take our witness and use it to bring good news to those who hunger for hope. Take our lives and use them for our very salvation. We pray through Jesus Christ, the one whom we follow even to the cross. Amen.

## **SENDING FORTH**

Jesus has called you and placed his trust in you. Go into this world, bearing the words of hope and healing. Reach out to others in compassion. For it is in Jesus' name, that you are sent out to serve. AMEN.

## **POSTLUDE**

Credits: Today's Liturgy is adapted from: Nancy Townly

HYMN, I Have Decided to Follow Jesus, CCLI# 24494, Public Domain

## **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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