



**PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH**

**August 9, 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

Lord, be with us throughout these summer days. Guide us in your paths of service. Dance with us on the days of joy. Reach out to us when we are fearful. Dear friends, Jesus is our guide and our pilot. No matter how rough the “seas”, Jesus brings us hope and peace. AMEN.

### OPENING PRAYER

God of mysterious ways, you take our fears and turn them into triumphs. You remind us that you are always with us and that we do not need to fear the wind and waves of life. Encourage us to step out of the boat; to come across these difficulties to your redeeming and transforming love. Give us courage and strength, joy and peace for all the times ahead. AMEN.

**HYMN**    Here I Am, Lord

### PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Lord, please forgive our weakness and our lack of trust in you. We are like the disciples who, in the midst of fears and storms, could only tremble and wonder about the threatening events. Even when Jesus called to the disciples, they shook with fear. But Jesus offered words of encouragement. Impulsive Peter asked Jesus to call to him and bid him come out of the boat. Jesus complied and Peter stepped over the edge onto the waves — but fear claimed him again and he began to sink. Many of us can identify with that moment when we let go of our faith and clutch onto our fears. Help us to place our trust totally in you and your call to us. You will guide and lift us to safety — that is the promise you have given to us and we believe it. When our faith slips, scoop us up and bring us peace. Be patient with us, for we are flawed and yet loved by you. Give us strong hearts and willing spirits to be your disciples. AMEN.

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Keep your focus on Jesus. He is your Savior and your Guide. He will never fail you. Rejoice, dear friends, you are called precious by our Lord. AMEN.

**SCRIPTURE READING:**    *Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28*

**GOSPEL READING:**    Matthew 14:22-33

**MESSAGE**    *When the Seas Are Rough*

### PASTORAL PRAYER

As the summer days move rapidly toward autumn, our attention is drawn forward. We begin to think about all that is coming; will our children go to school or learn virtually or do both? Will our young people go to work or college? Will we return to regular work schedules? What about our retirement? Will a vaccine be found? When will we gather in church again? There are so many things looming on our horizons that our focus is placed on them. Be with us, loving God. Remind us to place our focus on Jesus, who calls us to trust in his mercy and care. Keep the needs of others in our hearts and minds; needs for healing, for comfort, for friendship. Help us to reach out to them and offer our gifts and service in your name. We name these dear ones with our voices and in our hearts to you in these next moments of silence

*[silent prayer in which names may be offered for prayer].*

As you have loved and healed us, so we ask your healing mercies on these whom we have named. We also ask your guidance and patience with us as we march through the last weeks of summer. Confident in Jesus' love for us, we pray. AMEN.

## **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**

Lord of sea and storm, of sunshine and meadow, we present these offerings as tokens of our lives in grateful praise for your love for us. Use these gifts for the ministries of hope and justice in this, your broken world. We ask this in Jesus' name. AMEN.

## **SENDING FORTH**

You have been embraced by the love of God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and blessed by Jesus to go into this world to offer healing and hope. Go in peace. AMEN.

## **POSTLUDE**

Credits: Today's Liturgy is adapted from: Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Prayer for Forgiveness, Prayer of Dedication, Sending Forth, Nancy Townley,

HYMN, Here I Am, Lord © 1981, OCP Publications

## **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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Pastor: Ninabeth Metcalf

Music Director: Diane Van Dongen

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