



**PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH**

**September 20, 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

Great is our God, and worthy of praise!  
God's goodness knows no limit;  
God's faithfulness toward us is boundless!

### GATHERING PRAYER

Lord, who lifts us up, reside in our hearts today. Help us to listen closely for your word to us. Remind us that you are always with us, throughout all of our lives. Give us confidence in your presence, so that we may go into your world ready to witness to your love through our works and our deeds, for we pray these things in Jesus' name. AMEN.

**HYMN** *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Your generosity is extravagant, Jesus; your grace and mercy so freely given, your love and presence so readily available, your Spirit and strength so reliable. We are so grateful for all of these blessings that we enjoy, and for the goodness they bring into our lives; we praise you for your always coming Kingdom, and the abundant life it offers.

But, Jesus, we are also fearful, that your gifts may not be enough, that things may change and we may find ourselves in need, and so we hoard your goodness, and separate ourselves from others; Forgive us for our little faith, and our selfish grasping; forgive us for our failure to understand that your blessings are always meant to be shared; teach us to stay always awake to your coming, and always ready to invite others in to the blessings you so freely share with us. In Jesus' Name Amen.

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Feel the comforting power of God's love and mercy in your lives. God is with us through all our experiences. Though we try we cannot stray from God's love. Rejoice! This is the good news for all of us! AMEN

### SCRIPTURE READING:

#### **Philippians 1:1-11**

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

## **Matthew 20:1-16**

New Revised Standard Version

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

**MESSAGE** *God’s Economy ~ Generosity, Gratitude, and Grace*

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

Lord, your blessings abound in our lives and we lift our voices in gratitude for these lovely gifts from you. We also lift our voices as our hearts cry out our concerns for those who are ill, who mourn, who feel lost. We offer to your both our joys and concerns, so often intermingled in our lives. Be with each of us and for those whom we name with our voices and in our hearts. Dear friends, let us take a moment to share our joys and our concerns.

*Sharing of joys and concerns; then a brief period of silence*

Lord, you have heard our cries and our shouts of joy. Make your presence known to us again through the love and forgiveness of others as we have loved and forgiven them. In Jesus’ name, 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**

Generous God, you have blessed us with so much. Take these gifts and cause them to work for you in this world which you have loaned to us. AMEN.

### **SENDING FORTH**

Go forth into God’s world as God’s own children. Let the love of Christ be reflected in your life and your deeds. Go with joy to serve the Lord. AMEN

### **POSTLUDE**

Credits: Today's Liturgy is adapted from: Gathering Prayer, Nancy Townley. Prayer of Confession, John van de Laar.

Special Music: Look Around, Marsha Jean Moors-Charles, arr. Caleb Collins. Drone footage of PVEC by Chris Metcalf.

HYMN, O Jesus, I Have Promised, CCLI# 2399773, Public Domain

### **Announcements & Upcoming Events**

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

Monday Night at 7pm *God's Answers to Life's Difficult Questions*

Wednesday Morning at 10am *Who Is This Man?*

Wednesday Night at 7pm *Present Over Perfect*

**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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