



## **PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH**

**October 18, 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**

Brothers and sisters, the love of God is poured over you.

**We feel our thirsting souls quenched by God's mercy.**

We are called to share God's love by our words.

**We are invited to share God's love by our compassionate acts.**

Come, let us worship the Lord!

**Let us bow down and proclaim God's goodness. AMEN.**

### **GATHERING PRAYER**

God of power and might, help us to recognize the imprint of your love and mercy in our lives. Open our hearts to that love that we may grow in our faith and be strengthened in our witness to you. In Jesus' name, we pray. AMEN.

**SONG** *Look Around*

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

(based on Psalm 146)

Do not put your trust in princes, the psalmist says, nor in mortals, in whom there is no help, whose plans perish. And yet here we are, bending over backwards to find ways to put our trust in ourselves. We are sure that writing a killer paper, or preaching a fabulous sermon, or speaking wise words to our friends, or committing to another program, or establishing a daily rhythm of reading Scripture will save us. We have convinced ourselves that to rest means to fail. We have to keep up the routine. We fear that if we do not, we will be ruined, fall into poverty, become imprisoned by a modest way of life, be left alone to feel like orphans, find ourselves a stranger to our friends, lose hope.

What we do not realize is that we're already oppressed, already famished, already imprisoned, already alienated, already orphaned and widowed.

And it is precisely in this oppression, hunger, and loneliness that you stoop down and scoop us up.

You are our help. You are our hope. You keep faith forever.

And you promise to watch over us. We can rest, we can sleep, we can say no to this activity or that invitation, we can quit the exhausting work of trying to sustain ourselves, because you never slumber or sleep. You are faithful always. O my soul, praise the Lord.

### **SCRIPTURE READING:**

Psalm 146

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in princes,  
in mortals, in whom there is no help.

When their breath departs, they return to the earth;  
on that very day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God,  
who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them;  
who keeps faith forever;  
who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;  
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.  
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the Lord loves the righteous.  
The Lord watches over the strangers;  
he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.  
Praise the Lord!

Job 6

Then Job answered:

“O that my vexation were weighed,  
and all my calamity laid in the balances!  
For then it would be heavier than the sand of the sea;  
therefore my words have been rash.  
For the arrows of the Almighty are in me;  
my spirit drinks their poison;  
the terrors of God are arrayed against me.  
Does the wild ass bray over its grass,  
or the ox low over its fodder?  
Can that which is tasteless be eaten without salt,  
or is there any flavor in the juice of mallows?  
My appetite refuses to touch them;  
they are like food that is loathsome to me.

“O that I might have my request,  
and that God would grant my desire;  
that it would please God to crush me,  
that he would let loose his hand and cut me off!  
This would be my consolation;  
I would even exult in unrelenting pain;  
for I have not denied the words of the Holy One.  
What is my strength, that I should wait?  
And what is my end, that I should be patient?  
Is my strength the strength of stones,  
or is my flesh bronze?  
In truth I have no help in me,  
and any resource is driven from me.

“Those who withhold kindness from a friend  
forsake the fear of the Almighty.  
My companions are treacherous like a torrent-bed,  
like freshets that pass away,  
that run dark with ice,  
turbid with melting snow.  
In time of heat they disappear;  
when it is hot, they vanish from their place.  
The caravans turn aside from their course;  
they go up into the waste, and perish.  
The caravans of Tema look,  
the travelers of Sheba hope.  
They are disappointed because they were confident;  
they come there and are confounded.  
Such you have now become to me;  
you see my calamity, and are afraid.  
Have I said, ‘Make me a gift’?  
Or, ‘From your wealth offer a bribe for me’?  
Or, ‘Save me from an opponent’s hand’?  
Or, ‘Ransom me from the hand of oppressors’?

“Teach me, and I will be silent;  
make me understand how I have gone wrong.

How forceful are honest words!

But your reproof, what does it reprove?  
Do you think that you can reprove words,  
as if the speech of the desperate were wind?  
You would even cast lots over the orphan,  
and bargain over your friend.

“But now, be pleased to look at me;  
for I will not lie to your face.  
Turn, I pray, let no wrong be done.  
Turn now, my vindication is at stake.  
Is there any wrong on my tongue?  
Cannot my taste discern calamity?

**MESSAGE** *Dan Ledwith*

## **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**

Accept and bless these wonderful gifts that they may be used to serve you by serving others in need. AMEN.

### **SENDING FORTH**

Beloved of the Lord, go forth in peace to joyfully serve God. Share your lives and your blessings with others in need. Go in peace. AMEN.

## **POSTLUDE**

Credits: Today’s Liturgy is adapted from: Call to Worship and Gathering Prayer, Nancy C Townley.  
Prayer of Confession, Grace Olson Clause.

Special Music: Look Around, Marsha Jean Moors-Charles, arr. Caleb Collins.

Drone footage of PVEC by Chris Metcalf.

## **Announcements & Upcoming Events**

**Fellowship on Zoom from 11:30 – 12:30 Meeting ID 312 632 2951 Password: pvec**

### **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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