



**PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH**

**October 25, 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** (Psalm 90)

God, we know you are with us.

**From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.**

You have showered your love upon all generations,  
since the beginning of time.

**From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.**

Guide us now through this time of worship,  
and into the week ahead.

**From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.**

### **CENTERING PRAYER**

When nothing is right, when we are weary and lost, when clouds dull the sky, help us to be still.

When our cries are unheeded, when no effort bears fruit, when the sun sets, help us to be still.

When love is over, when hope is gone, when darkness covers the land, help us to be still.

For in being still, in refusing to panic or despair, we shall come to know that God is there, suffering alongside and with us, waiting to show us stepping-stones through the swirling waters, and to help us sing a new song. AMEN.

### **SONG** *My Redeemer Lives*

### **KID'S MESSAGE** *Dan Ledwith*

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

O God, in each of our hearts is a locked place. Like a forgotten room or a dark cupboard, we would prefer to forget it even exists. But inside our hearts are things that won't stay hidden. Others would never suspect that we carry such a place. We guard our faces so no evidence appears, and we keep our lips sealed, allowing no escape for the stories of the skeletons in our cupboard.

But in the quiet moments, the unguarded times of solitude, the doors we struggle to hold shut fly open and the skeletons – these living guilts – come out and dance mocking us and reminding us of our secret shame.

O Jesus, free us from the power and the prison of the skeletons in our cupboards. Teach us that mistakes and brokenness and failure are part of creative and bold living. Remind us that what is hidden holds us in bondage and cannot be healed. And lead us through our shame to confident joy in You.

Let us know the touch of your forgiveness and healing and teach us to pass this acceptance on to others, friends, family and strangers who, like us, pretend to be whole while within them, skeletons still dance. Amen.

### **SCRIPTURE READING:**

Psalm 90

Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn us back to dust,  
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."  
For a thousand years in your sight  
are like yesterday when it is past,

or like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away; they are like a dream,  
like grass that is renewed in the morning;  
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;  
in the evening it fades and withers.

For we are consumed by your anger;  
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.  
You have set our iniquities before you,  
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

For all our days pass away under your wrath;  
our years come to an end like a sigh.  
The days of our life are seventy years,  
or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;  
even then their span is only toil and trouble;  
they are soon gone, and we fly away.

Who considers the power of your anger?  
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.  
So teach us to count our days  
that we may gain a wise heart.

Turn, O Lord! How long?  
Have compassion on your servants!  
Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.  
Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us,  
and as many years as we have seen evil.  
Let your work be manifest to your servants,  
and your glorious power to their children.  
Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,  
and prosper for us the work of our hands—  
O prosper the work of our hands!

### **Job 23:1-12**

Job answered:

Today my complaint is again bitter;  
my strength is weighed down because of my groaning.  
Oh, that I could know how to find him—  
come to his dwelling place;  
I would lay out my case before him,  
fill my mouth with arguments,  
know the words with which he would answer,  
understand what he would say to me.  
Would he contend with me through brute force?  
No, he would surely listen to me.  
There those who do the right thing can argue with him;  
I could escape from my judge forever.

Look, I go east; he's not there,  
west, and don't discover him;  
north in his activity, and I don't grasp him;  
he turns south, and I don't see.  
Surely he knows my way;  
when he tests me,  
I will emerge as gold.  
My feet have stayed right in his tracks.  
I have kept his way and not left it,  
kept the commandments from his lips and not departed,  
valued the words from his mouth more than my food.

**MESSAGE**     *Darkness Descends on Job*

## **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**

As you leave this place, may God's love surround you, uphold you, and empower you to be agents of love in this world. Amen.

## **POSTLUDE**

Credits: Today's Liturgy is adapted from: Call to Worship and Sending Forth, Laura Jaquith Bartlett  
Centering Prayer, Kate Compston. Prayer of Confession, John van de Laar.

Song; My Redeemer Lives. CCLI #6256702, Public Domain

Drone footage: Christ Metcalf

## **Announcements & Upcoming Events**

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

Monday Night at 7pm

Wednesday Morning at 10am The Me I Want to Be

Wednesday Night at 7pm *Taste and See*

**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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