



PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

**October 4, 2020
World Communion Sunday**

*Connecting with the Community,
Growing Disciples, and Serving Jesus Christ*

*Our Worship can be viewed on our website
PantherValleyChurch.org*

FRIENDS ~ FAMILY ~ FAITH

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

From where we are sheltering in place, from sacred spaces where folks are socially distancing themselves,

we are gathered as God's people, called to the Table where brokenness nourishes us with simple grace.

From virtual communities from all over the world, with families gathered in living spaces,

we are gathered as God's faithful community, serving, living, caring wherever we are.

From neighborhoods made up of those of every class, every race, every branch of faith,

we are gathered as witnesses to God's hope and peace which have not disappeared in every place, in every person in this uncertain time.

GATHERING PRAYER

Almighty God, your word bursts forth into our lives like a glorious sunrise.

You speak, and our hearts rejoice. You command, and our eyes are opened. The sound of your voice brings revival to our souls. Your words are purer than the finest gold. True and righteous one, living Word, light our way. As we listen to your Spirit, may the words of our mouths and the thoughts of our hearts be accepted in your sight, O Lord, our strength and our redeemer. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Search us, O God, and know our hearts. Test us and know our anxious thoughts. Point out anything in us that offends You, and guide us on the road to life. (Ps. 139:23-24)

Time of silence

O Lord, You have examined our hearts and know everything about us.

You know when we sit down or stand up. You know our thoughts from afar.

You see when we walk or lie down, You know every detail of our conduct.

You even know what we are going to say before we say it.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for us, too great for us to understand. (Ps. 139:1-3, 6)

Cleanse us from hidden faults. Keep us from deliberate sins. Don't let them control us. Then we will be free of guilt, and innocent of serious wrong-doing. (Ps. 19:12-14)

Listen to the promise of God: Those who love Me, I will deliver. I will protect those who know My name. When they call to Me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue them and honor them, and show them my saving power. (Ps. 91:14-15)

Lord, we trust in Your unfailing love! We rejoice, because You have rescued us! Sing praise to God, because He has been so good to us! (Ps. 13:5-6)

HYMN *How Great Thou Art*

SCRIPTURE READING:

Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

But who can detect their errors?

Clear me from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Exodus 20:1-4,7-9,12-20

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

You must have no other gods before me.

Do not make an idol for yourself—no form whatsoever—of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth.

Do not use the Lord your God's name as if it were of no significance; the Lord won't forgive anyone who uses his name that way.

Remember the Sabbath day and treat it as holy. Six days you may work and do all your tasks,

Honor your father and your mother so that your life will be long on the fertile land that the Lord your God is giving you.

Do not kill.

Do not commit adultery.

Do not steal.

Do not testify falsely against your neighbor.

Do not desire and try to take your neighbor's house. Do not desire and try to take your neighbor's wife, male or female servant, ox, donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the horn, and the mountain smoking, the people shook with fear and stood at a distance. They said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we'll listen. But don't let God speak to us, or we'll die."

Moses said to the people, "Don't be afraid, because God has come only to test you and to make sure you are always in awe of God so that you don't sin."

MESSAGE *Who Do We Love When We Say We Love God?*

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord of grace and forgiveness, you who gave everything and spared nothing to make us your own, we offer back to you what you have so freely given to us. Let all that we say and do, all that we think and plan and consider, be pleasing to you, blessed Creator, Provider, and Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

We are here because Jesus has called us – strangers and friends, locals and visitors, believers and doubters, the certain and the curious. It is always a mixed company that Jesus gathers and invites to his table where, in bread and wine, he meets us and through him we, who are different, are joined to each other.

So come, not because you understand, but because you are understood.

Come, not because of how you feel, but because God has food for you.

Come, not because you deserve a place, but because Jesus invites you, just as you are.

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

... And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory,

Hosanna in the highest.

Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

... And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died;

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

Hosanna in the highest.

... Through your Son Jesus Christ, with your Holy Spirit in your Holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen. Hosanna in the highest.

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

SENDING FORTH

Even in this time of pandemic, we are a blessed people.

We will go to be a blessing in the world.

Even when there are so many angry people around us, we are the face of Jesus.

We will go to be love and compassion to all.

Even when we are isolated, quarantined, living in lockdowns, we are the family of God.

We will go to serve our sisters and brothers wherever we may find them.

POSTLUDE

Credits: Today's Liturgy is adapted from: Call to Worship and Sending Forth, Thom M Shuman

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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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