



Panther Valley
Ecumenical Church

February 21, 2021

*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

So often, we expect life to wow and dazzle us.

But God, you often come in the still, the small, and the meek.

So when we're overloaded by constant stimulus and marketing ...

... we pray that you'd settle us with the unforced rhythms of grace.

When our hearts are dried up by apathy and cynicism ...

... we pray that you would open up the wellspring of your mercy.

God, we are seeking you in hopeful expectation.

You are trustworthy and good.

For this, we give you thanks. Amen.

SONG *Baptized In Water*

OPENING PRAYER

O God, you come to us not in the chaos of the whirlwind,
not in the roar of the earthquake, not in the crackling heat of the fire,
but in the sound of sheer silence.

Quiet our minds, bring peace to our hearts and stillness to our bodies
that we might meet you in that silence.

Help us to listen for your still, small voice.

Give us the courage to go wherever you lead us,
trusting that you will prepare the way.

We pray this in the name of our Companion on the journey,
Jesus the Christ.

UNISON PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

The worst storms, Jesus, are the ones caused by our fear, when we grow afraid of losing our power,
or we grow suspicious of the power of others, when we refuse to acknowledge your mysterious
authority;

Yet, it's in the storm that we find our capacity to love. In releasing our weak claim to power and opening
to your reign, we discover a new way of seeing ourselves – as called and useful and beloved – and the
other, whoever they may be – as dignified and precious and beloved.

Here in the storm, Jesus, we need you, and we need each other, and the love you give us to share,
leads us through sacrifice and self-giving to peace and calm, if only we will loose our hold on fear.
Amen.

(Silence is kept)

Words of ASSURANCE

Hear the good news of God's love for us;

not in the earthquake, not in the storms, not in the mighty deeds
but in the silence, in the gentle touch, in the sound of falling snow

God says,
again,

"You are my Beloved. I love you."

PSALM 46:10

Be Still and Know That I Am God

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Kings 19: 11-12

The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by."

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.

MESSAGE *Listening to Softly Powdered Silence*

HYMN *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God you are our safe place to hide.

You are our mighty fortress.

You are our ever present help in time of need.

We can and do turn to you in the midst of our troubles.

And Lord our world is full of difficulties.

Lord we may feel afraid, but it does not overcome us

Because we know we can put our trust in you.

Your love and grace are like streams of water in the desert.

Your joy comes splashing down upon us.

Your refresh and renew us like rain coming down on the earth.

Bring your water of life to those who are thirsty
and living in a dry and weary land.

Where there are wars, bring your peace.

Where there is starvation, fill the empty bellies.

Where there is despair, bring your hope.

Where there is animosity, bring your reconciliation.

Where there is abuse, bring your tender mercies,

Where there is poverty, bring your charity.

Where there is illness, bring your healing.

Where there is grief, bring your gentleness.

Where there is injustice, bring your justice.

Lord you are mighty fortress, our strong deliverer.

In you we put our trust and release ourselves into your hands.

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

BENEDICTION

And now as you move on into the world...

Hold that which is happening on the outside AND the inside dear.
Love what comes across your path for what it will teach you.
Cherish the struggle that stirs in your gut for how it will guide you.

And know that all people carry within them
the Essence of the Divine—a Holy Wisdom—given at birth.

Listen every day until we meet again.
Get quiet enough to hear the still small voice and to find your own.
And may the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with you all.

POSTLUDE

Today's Flowers are given by Betty Schultheis in celebration of Stephen Schultheis' Birthday!

Credits:

Today's Liturgy is adapted from: Opening Prayer, Rev. Heather A Moody, Prayer of Confession, John van de Laar, Worship Design Studio, Psalm 46:10 from The Work of the People, Prayer of the People, Rev. Abi

Prelude, Give Me Jesus

Postlude, We Are God's People, Johannes Brahms

Hymn, Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days, CCLI #280458, Public Domain

Song: Baptized In Water, CCLI# 5788305, Words: 1982 Michael Saward - The Jubilate Group (Admin. by Jubilate Hymns Ltd, sub to Hope Publishing for various regions) Music: 1990 Van Ness Press, Inc.

We are grateful for the following people who made this worship service possible:

Diane Van Dongen our Music Director, Andrew Van Dongen, and Pastor Ninabeth Metcalf.