

Order of Worship for Sunday, September 24, 2023
“Give An Answer” - Why Don't We Get What We Deserve?

Hear Pastor's Sermon by Phone 24/7 at 814-422-6238 - Website: PennsValleyParish.info
For the transformation of the world, we study God's Word in context to be equipped to live Jesus' Way.

CENTERING WORDS The God revealed in scripture is active, resourceful, and constantly moving toward us. Our actions are not the sole action going on in the world.

SERVICE OF THE ACOLYTE

† CALL TO WORSHIP *written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, March 2023*

L: Come! Now is the time to worship!

P: We come to worship God who provides!

L: When the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, God provided manna and quail.

P: God provides in unexpected ways.

L: Jesus tells a story of vineyard workers, some who work all day and some who work mere hours, yet the generous landowner paid all of them equally.

P: God provides in unexpected ways.

L: God does provide in unexpected ways, yet manna, quail, and grapes need gathering and harvesting.

P: We respond to God's provision by gathering and harvesting all that God provides.

L: Come! Now is the time to worship!

P: We come to worship and partner with God who provides for the long haul!

OPENING 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 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.

† OPENING HYMN *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy UMH #121*

† BLESSING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS – DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS - PASTORAL PRAYER (The Lord's Prayer "trespass")

HYMN He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought UMH #128

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION adapted from 1 Peter 3:15 NASB 1995

Father God, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today about the need to sanctify Christ as Lord in our hearts, and be ready always to give a defense to anyone asking about the hope we have, doing so with gentleness and reverence. Amen.

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Exodus 16:2-15 // Philippians 1:21-30 // Matthew 20:1-16

MESSAGE Why Don't We Get What We Deserve?

† CLOSING HYMN Here I Am, Lord UMH #593

† COMMISSION & BLESSING

PENNS VALLEY CHARGE ANNOUNCEMENTS – Calendar also on PennsValleyParish.info

TODAY – You're invited to the Fall Hayride & Picnic at Trinity in Woodward. Hayride begins at 3pm, picnic follows. Bring a covered dish to share. Beverages and table service provided. (Rain date Oct. 1)

September 27 – Soup Kitchen at St. James UMC, Coburn. Contact Paula Smith 814-880-6023.

September 28 – "The Secret Power of Kindness" study via Zoom 7-8:30pm PennsValleyParish.info!

September 30 – Paradise Cemetery Work Day – Volunteers welcome, starting at 8:30am.

October 3 – Sprucetown UMC's Ad Council and Trustees Meeting 7pm, all are welcome.

October 5 – Ladies Coffee & Conversation at St. James in Coburn at 9:30am. All ladies welcome.

October 8 – Trinity Woodward and St. James Coburn worship will be as part of the Dutch Fall Festival Community Worship Service 9:30am at Wert Park, Aaronsburg.

October 18 – Our Charge Conference is 7pm at Sprucetown UMC. Members, please attend.

October 22 – Sprucetown Church Homecoming and Luncheon, worship 11am, lunch following. Guest speaker is Georgene Searfoss, Robert Steiger's family historic documents will be on exhibit.

October 25 – Soup Kitchen at St. James UMC, Coburn. Contact Paula Smith 814-880-6023.

November 4 – Fall Bazaar at Sprucetown UMC 9am-2pm, gently used items, crafts and more.

Homemade soup and baked goods available. Great items for Thanksgiving and Christmas!

CCLI #1671542 Elements of worship are from Ministry Matters, A Preacher's Guide Lectionary Sermon Series Thematic Plans for Years A B and C, Feasting on the Word, The United Methodist Book of Worship, and The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023.