

Order of Worship for Sunday, October 8, 2023 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
“Give An Answer”: How Do I Know God Won’t Reject Me?
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 Good stewardship begins with an organization that is trust-worthy.

SERVICE OF THE ACOLYTE

† CALL TO WORSHIP

L: From dens of slavery, through burning deserts, people of faith came forth.

P: From lives encompassing both wealth and impoverishment, we come to this place of worship.

L: Hear the great lessons of faith, offered to you through the centuries. We have not hidden the struggles from you, but invite you to place yourselves on the pathways of hope.

P: Though our individual lives may differ, we all come seeking God’s loving guidance and forgiveness.

L: Welcome to this house of God, a place of continuing hope and courage.

P: Bless each one of us, O Lord, that we may fully receive your word and seek your will for our lives.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, from the mountaintop in ancient Israel, you gave your people ways in which to live in harmony with all creation. As time has progressed the power of those words seems to have faded in our lives and we often succumb to base temptations of power and greed. Bring us back to your words of compassion and hope, offered to all creation by your Son Jesus. Open our hearts to receive your love and your direction in our lives. AMEN.

† OPENING HYMN Trust and Obey UMH #467

† 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 Close to Thee UMH #407

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Isaiah 5:1-7 // Philippians 3:2-14 // Matthew 21: 33-46

MESSAGE How Do I Know God Won't Reject Me?

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Confession is not an easy or a pleasant thing to do. We would like to think that we have been good and faithful disciples, following your way. But we know in our hearts the many ways in which we have turned our backs on you and rejected your will for us. Like the people in the wilderness, we create for ourselves idols and worship them, only to discover their shallowness and emptiness for our lives. And we wonder what went wrong. Stop us in our tracks, O Lord. Help us to be open to your will for our lives. We know what you want us to do. Give us the persistence and the courage to do your will. Heal us from our wayward actions and attitudes. Remind us that we must be willing to do what the saints above were willing to do during their time here on earth, to reach out to others in humility, compassion and peace. Merciful God, come to us this day with your healing power and help us again to be your disciples, offering hope and peace to your hurting and wounded world. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

† CLOSING HYMN When We All Get to Heaven UMH #701

† COMMISSION & BLESSING

PENNS VALLEY CHARGE ANNOUNCEMENTS – Calendar also on PennsValleyParish.info

Harvest Home Food Drive – Bring non-perishable food items to benefit the local food pantry through November 19th!

October 12, 19, 26 – “The Secret Power of Kindness” Zoom book study 7pm. Details on our website.

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

October 19 – Ladies Coffee & Conversation at St. James in Coburn at 9:30am. All ladies welcome.

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. A new history of Sprucetown compilation will be available.

October 24 – 4th Quarter Staff Parish Relations Committee Meeting 7pm at Trinity Woodward

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

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

November 12 – Monthly potluck lunch following worship at Sprucetown UMC

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.