



PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

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

FRIENDS ~ FAMILY ~ FAITH

Panther Valley Ecumenical Church
March 29, 2020
5th Sunday of Lent

We invite you to begin your personal preparation at the beginning of the prelude.

PRELUDE

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

OPENING WORDS

ONE: Healing God, we come together in our brokenness, to call to you in your mercy, to make us whole again.

ALL: Wholeness—giving God, listen to our prayers, we pray.

ONE: Restoring God, we gather to worship you, even as we hopefully seek to be renewed and restored again.

ALL: God, our Quiet-Centre, listen to our prayers this day.

ONE: Foundational God, we come to praise and thank you! In the depths of your Holy Being we find peace and rest.

ALL: God – our Beginning and our End, we hope always in you. Amen

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, Creator of Life, you call us out of our dark places, offering us the grace of new life. When we see nothing but hopelessness, you surprise us with the breath of your spirit.

Call us out of our complacency and routines, set us free from our self-imposed bonds, and fill us with your spirit of life, compassion, and peace, In the name of Jesus, your anointed one, we pray. Amen.

HYMN

Hymn of Promise

*In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed an apple tree
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning, in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing, in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, your Word is living and active, and the stories of our lives bear witness to your Good News. We thank you for these words, of scripture and testimony. Open us to hear your voice within these words, and guide us as we respond in faith. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 130

*Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.
Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!
If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.
I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.
O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.
It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.*

GOSPEL READING: John 11:1-36

SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC Kyrie Eleison (Lord have mercy)

PRAYER for HEALING and WHOLENESS

For those whose lives are broken by distress

May the God of healing restore you

For those whose lives are broken by fear

May the God of healing restore you

For those whose lives are broken by anger

May the God of healing restore you

For those whose lives are broken by pain

May the God of healing restore you

For those whose lives are broken by illness

May the God of healing restore you

For those whose lives are broken by sin

May the God of healing restore you

(at this time please lift up your personal prayers for healing and wholeness)

God of healing gently touch these lives with your Spirit. Bring warmth and comfort, life and wholeness, and restoration into fractured lives and souls. 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 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

THE OFFERING

We invite you to take this time to express your gratitude to God for all that you have been given by dedicating your time, talents, witness, service, and resources. The gifts you give are helping God build the community of love in this place and in our world. We offer several ways that you can give your fiscal pledge: by mail, through our website [Here](#), or add PVEC to your online bill pay. Thank you for your generosity.

HYMN *Shalom To You*

*Shalom to you now, shalom my friends.
May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.*

BENEDICTION

Whatever wilderness the Spirit has brought you to:
walk in boldness, as a beloved child of God
walk in peace, under the shelter of the Most High
walk in faith, knowing Christ walks with you. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Credits:

Cover Image: Anointed by Lauren Wright Pittman, 2018 <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57085>

Today's Liturgy is adapted from: Opening Prayer by Nancy Johnson, Prayer for Healing and Wholeness written by John Birch,

Today's Hymn, Hymn of Promise; CCLI Song # 126529, 1986 Hope Publishing Company
Shalom To You; CCLI Song #114122, The United Methodist Publishing House

Announcements & Upcoming Events

PVEC Shop & Drop If you are in a situation where you can not leave your house and you need food or medication contact our office and we will arrange for someone to shop and drop your items at your house.

Children's faith formation is found on our [website](#) and [facebook](#).

Bedtime Stories with Ms. Sarah & Mr. Dan are on Facebook live at 7:30pm

Lenten Bible Studies are being held on Zoom. Email or call the office if you are interested in joining these studies.

The Last Days of Jesus - Monday evenings at 7pm via Zoom

The Passion Play - Wednesday Mornings at 10am via Zoom

Camp Johnsonburg Workdays Throughout April - any hours or days you can volunteer will be appreciated. Carpentry, painting, and cleaning projects. Call or email Kathy Zinckgraf.

Our **PVEC Handbell Choir** offers us a unique musical and visual experience that speaks to our souls. Our Bells are 30+ years old and require a much needed refurbishing. Their value is \$16K, and we only have to find \$1,700 to make them like new. If you are interested in making a donation to this project, please speak to Faye Kennedy.

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.

PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH 1490 Route 517 Hackettstown, NJ 07840
~Welcome—we were built for you!~

Panther Valley Ecumenical Church is a multi-denominational church serving northwest New Jersey since 1969. We are formally affiliated with: The Episcopal Church, The United Church of Christ, The Presbyterian Church USA, and The United Methodist Church.

We are a congregation of many Christian traditions who worship together in accordance with Christ's prayer: "that they may all be one."

May God's Blessing go with you this week.

Pastor: Ninabeth Metcalf

Music Director: Diane Van Dongen

Church Administrator: Cynthia Richards

Office hours: Mon. – Fri. 9:00am – 2:00pm

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Friends • Family • Faith