



Panther Valley Ecumenical Church

Sunday May 24, 2020

*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

God has given us everything
God has given us new life in Christ.
God has called us to be one in Christ
Jesus calls upon us to love one another as God loves us.
Jesus laid down his life for us
And so we are called to lay down our lives for one another.
Come, let us worship our God
Let us follow Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

God, Protector of the widow, the orphan and the stranger –
in a world where many know despair, you raised your Son Jesus
to give hope for humanity and renewal to the earth.

Continue to strengthen and unify your Church
in its struggles against the forces of death in the world,
where violence against creation and humanity
obscures the hope of the new life you offer.

This we pray in the name of the Risen Lord,
in the power of His Spirit. Amen.

HYMN

We Shall Overcome

*We Shall overcome,
we shall overcome, we shall overcome someday!
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe we shall overcome someday!*

*We shall live in peace,
we shall live in peace, we shall live in peace someday!
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall live in peace someday!*

*The Lord will see us through,
the Lord will see us through, the Lord will see us through someday!
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, the Lord will see us through someday!*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, we confess that we let our fears get the better of us. At times we feel frozen, stuck right where we are, not only physically, but mentally and spiritually. We end up focused on the wrong things, looking back instead of looking forward. Remind us that we are not alone. Remind us that You are always present with us. Remind us that Your perfect love casts out fear. Restore us, O God, so we may know Your steadfast love endures forever. Amen and Amen.

PRAYER OF ASSURANCE

God is on the move. God is in our hearts. God is by our side. God is with us. Know that God's love enfolds you, and covers you, and is with you always. You are God's beloved child. You are forgiven and restored. Share the good news. Share God's love and forgiveness. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

John 17:1-11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

1Peter 5:6-11

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen

MESSAGE

That they may be one, as we are one.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION Honoring Those Who Served Our Country

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

It is difficult in this moment not to be near some of the people we love and might be worried about. Take a moment and say out loud the names of people you wish were right there next to you today.

As we name them, know that they are present with us in our hearts.

Let us also call to mind, the people we cannot name, whose names we do not know.

They too need our prayers and God's comfort.

For those who have lost loved ones

For those who are sick and recovering

For those who are caring for loved ones who are sick at home

For those who are caring for persons in medical care

For those who are separated from loved ones

For those who are feeling alone and isolated

For those who are helping and are so very tired

For those who are struggling to find friends, food, and comfort

For those who are afraid

(lift up your prayers)

God in Community, Holy in One,
Protect, comfort, forgive, heal, free, receive, and make whole your beloved children.
We lift our hearts to you as we pray together the prayer your Beloved Son taught us:

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God, you pour out your grace upon us without reservation; help us to be as gracious and generous with our gifts and resources, so others might know you; your hope, your healing, your presence in their lives. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

O God, we are one with you. You have made us one with you.
You have taught us that if we are open to one another, you dwell in us.
Help us to preserve this openness and to fight for it with all our hearts.

Help us to realize that there can be no understanding where there is mutual rejection.
O God, in accepting one another wholeheartedly, fully, completely, we accept you, and we thank you, and we adore you, and we love you with our whole being, because our being is in your being, our spirit is rooted in your spirit.

Fill us then with love, and let us be bound together with love as we go our diverse ways, united in this one spirit which makes you present in the world, and makes you witness to the ultimate reality that is love. Love has overcome. Love is victorious.

POSTLUDE

*Today's flowers were given by Henry Newbold
"in memory of Corbin and Jean Ward and Happy Birthday to Terrie"*

***PLEASE JOIN US AT 11:30am for a time of fellowship and conversation on Zoom
The Member ID is 312-532-2951***

Credits: Cover Image; The Last Supper by John August Swanson.
Opening Prayer: World Council of Churches, Prayer of Confession; Rev. Mindi,
Closing prayer; Thomas Merton
HYMN: We Shall Overcome, Public Domain

Announcements & Upcoming Events

The Chicken Dinner Returns! Take-out Curbside Pickup Only. Thursday June 4th!

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

Bible Studies are being held on Zoom.

Email or call the office for the Zoom meeting ID.

Unshakable Hope - Monday evenings at 7pm via Zoom

What the Women Saw – Tuesday Evenings at 7pm via Zoom and Facebook

Unafraid; Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times - Wednesday Mornings 10am via Zoom

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

~We were built for you!~

Panther Valley Ecumenical Church is a congregation of many Christian traditions who worship together in accordance with Christ's prayer: "that they may all be one."

Our multi-denominational church has been 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.

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

Website: <http://www.panthervalleychurch.org>

Tel: 908-852-5444 Fax: 908-850-4754

Email: officepvec@gmail.com

Friends • Family • Faith