



Panther Valley Ecumenical Church

Sunday May 31, 2020

Pentecost

*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 speaks to us in the riches of creation.

God speaks to us in the stories of Jesus.

God speaks to us in the Lives of other people.

OPENING PRAYER

When the day of Pentecost came there was a noise ... like a strong wind blowing

Wind to blow away the cobwebs of our tradition.

Wind to freshen our faces and awaken us to the challenges of today.

Wind to fill our sails and send us on a voyage of spiritual discovery.

Wind of the Spirit, blow strongly through the church and enliven us with the breath of God.

They saw ... tongues of fire

Fire to burn away the rubbish in our lives.

Fire for the spiritual heat to 'strangely warm' our hearts.

Fire to light a beacon of hope for the people in our communities.

Fire of the Spirit, set us on fire for the Gospel.

They heard the believers speaking in their own languages.

Speaking in a way that people can understand.

Speaking to the real needs, having something to say on real issues.

Speaking so that our neighbors want to listen.

Words of the Spirit, speak to us and through us, that we may preach the living Word.

But the others said: "These people are drunk!"

Perhaps they were:

Drunk on the new wine of the Kingdom of God.

High on the power of the Holy Spirit –

Celebrating the birth of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Holy Spirit of God, inspire and excite us as we celebrate in worship, and empower the work and witness of your Church today. Amen.

HYMN

O Spirit of the Living God

O Spirit of the living God,
thou light and fire divine,
descend upon thy church once more,
and make it truly thine.

Fill it with love and joy and power,
with righteousness and peace;
till Christ shall dwell in human hearts,
and sin and sorrow cease.

Teach us to utter living words
of truth which all may hear,
the language all may understand
when love speaks loud and clear;
till every age and race and clime
shall blend their creeds in one,
and earth shall form one family
by whom thy will is done.

SCRIPTURE Acts 2:1-41

This reading comes entirely from Scripture. It weaves together the Old and New Testament providing a historical context for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

MESSAGE *The Language of Loss and Love*

SPECIAL MUSIC

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

Author of life, whose presence sustains us in every circumstance, hear our prayer! We seek the grounding power of your love and compassion. O Lord, over 100,000 people in the United States have died from COVID-19. We open our hearts in anger, sorrow, and hope for those whose lives have been forever changed. May they find solace and strength in the days to come. We are grieving. We ask for courage, for strength, and presence to provide comfort for those who are lost deep in their grief. Gracious One, we lift up to you now, those who are ill, those who are struggling to make ends meet, those who are afraid, those who are falling into addiction, those who have lost their jobs, those who are lost and lonely. O Lord, hear our prayers. Open our hearts and our eyes to the movement of your Spirit. Give us a glimpse of your kingdom emerging around us and drawing us into the new things you are doing in the world.

It is for your kingdom that we now pray, filled with your Spirit, using the words Jesus 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

For all you have given, for all we have received, we give you thanks. We bring before you our gifts of substance and the gift of our lives. We bring our passion and joy and surprise, our visions and dreams. May they refresh and enliven our church and community, as the wind of your Spirit did long ago and continues to do now. Amen

CLOSING WORDS

God of fire and beauty – WARM US

God of peace and justice – DISTURB US

God of Pentecost – KINDLE YOUR LOVE IN OUR LIVES

POSTLUDE

*Today's flowers are given by Betty Schultheis
In joyous celebration of the Holy spirit present always at PVEC.*

***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;
Call to Worship and Closing Words; Ruth Burgess, Opening Prayer; David
Lemmon, Prayer of Dedication; Joanne Carlson Brown



Image Credits:

Pentecost photos - Terrie Newbold

Paintings:

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Pentecost by Ed de Garman

National Cathedral Mosaic

Announcements & Upcoming Events

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

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."

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

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