



PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

July 12, 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

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

God has abundantly cast God's seeds of love and hope upon us.

May we be fruitful soil for the planting and growing of hope and peace. Come, let us praise God who is so generous with us.

OPENING PRAYER

Gather us, Lord, from our scattered places, bring us here and help us to be truly present, that your presence might proclaim itself to us, and we might receive your word. Amen.

HYMN *Thy Word Is a Lamp*

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Let me yield my life, let me feel the seed, of your awesome word taking root in me, Jesus. Let my life be deep rich ground, do a work in me, let your truth abound. Help me overcome all my shallowness, where I am hard as stone help me to confess. Where I need to change, where I am chained and bound, do a work in me, let your truth abound. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: *Psalms 119:105-112*

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

MESSAGE *A Fertile Place*

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Creator God, we meet to give you praise and worship. Each one of our homes can be called Beth-el, the house of God: Hear us as we now try to pray from our place here in your world. We praise you for the beauty of the world and we worship you that we are able to see it as it is – your creation.

We pray for all children and teenagers especially in countries where one school year is ending and we have doubts about what the new one will bring; the changes to schools and universities and how these will affect our lives.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for all those we meet as life slowly changes to a new normal, especially those for whom it means vast changes to life and work. We pray for the vast networks of support, from foodbanks to care assistants, that all may discover the help needed.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for all who have found lock-down hard, life difficult, and health problematic; for those who mourn, who despair, and who suffer. For those we know and can name in the silence of our hearts; for those we don't know but know about, and for those worldwide who suffer.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for our environment: despite the lock-down, earthquake and storm, wildfire and drought, flood and destruction, continue to happen. We celebrate the reduction in human-made air pollution: now that we have seen how quickly the earth responds grant us the will to care for the whole ecosystem.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are still growing crops and wondering how harvesting will take place. We pray for those packing our food; for those who transport it, especially the crews of bulk carriers and container ships, of tankers, and also of cruiseliners.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray, giving thanks for the things we have rediscovered this year:
the beauty of silence and bird song;
the letting go of busy, over-committed lives;
the time to savor in many ways the gifts of word, speech, and friendship;
the time to be in your world as your house.
This is your world, all things are made by you and for your glory.
Hear us, that we might know you are indeed our God.
Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

When you were born, Lord, kings brought precious gifts, gold, frankincense, and myrrh, to honor you; a tiny, newborn King.

Today we remember the gifts You offer us; the gift of your love, the gift of your amazing limitless grace, the gift of your life on the cross, gifts more precious than silver, gifts more costly than gold.

What can We offer in return?

Only the gift of ourselves, our lives, our possessions, our tomorrows.

We offer these gifts to honor you because you, Lord are indeed precious to us.

SPECIAL MUSIC

BENEDICTION

May we nurture the seeds planted within us, may we go out celebrating the life God gives us, may we carry the knowledge that life is precious and God is life-giving to a world that needs God's growth! Go with God!

POSTLUDE

Credits:

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Today's Liturgy is adapted from: Opening Prayer, Prayer of Forgiveness, and Benediction, Laurie Zellman, Prayer of Intercession, Copyright © 2020 World in Prayer, All rights reserved.

Hymn; Thy Word Is a Lamp, CCLI #14301

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Bible Study on Zoom:

Monday Night at 7pm *Unshakable Hope*

Tuesday Night at 7pm *The Good Gospel*

Wednesday Morning at 10am beginning July 22nd

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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