



PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

Seventh Sunday in Easter May 16, 2021

*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

ONE: God is present in our lives.

ALL: God is present in this place.

ONE: We are called to live compassionately.

ALL: We are called to live our faith in action.

ONE: May we hear the word read and proclaimed.

**ALL: May we listen to where Jesus leads us to be.
Amen and amen.**

GATHERING PRAYER

Gather us into this place to receive your word and to be your witnesses to the world during this season of Easter. Bring us to an understanding of true community gathered in the name of Jesus. Help us to live lives that are bound to each other, to all of humanity, and to our created world. Bind us together to share the faith, to care for others, and to be the church in the world. Amen and amen.

HYMN *Kum Ba Yah*

Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!

Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!

Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!

O Lord, kum ba yah!

Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah!

Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah!

Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah!

O Lord, kum ba yah!

Someone's crying, Lord, kum ba yah!

Someone's crying, Lord, kum ba yah!

Someone's crying, Lord, kum ba yah!

O Lord, kum ba yah!

Someone needs you, Lord, kum ba yah!

Someone needs you, Lord, kum ba yah!

Someone needs you, Lord, kum ba yah!
O Lord, kum ba yah!

Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah!
O Lord, kum ba yah!

Let us praise you, Lord, kum ba yah!
Let us praise you, Lord, kum ba yah!
Let us praise you, Lord, kum ba yah!
O Lord, kum ba yah!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**How many ways You have cared for us, O God;
How many companions You have given to share our difficult and joyous
journey.
And yet we forget Your care, and reject Your messengers.**

**Forgive us for failing to recognize You in those who are different from
ourselves.**

**Forgive us for rejecting other people – children of Yours who are equally
loved.**

**Forgive us for believing the lie that says we can do it our way, and we can
do it alone.**

Silence

**Teach us to love as You have loved us, to embrace and welcome others as
You have welcomed us, to enjoy and commit to the family which You have
given for our comfort and nurture. In Jesus' Name.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Know that the peace of God is with you. You are loved by God. You are forgiven
by God. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING:

Acts 1:12-14 CEB

Forty days after Jesus's resurrection he is taken up into heaven,

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem—a sabbath day's journey away. When they entered the city, they went to the upstairs room where they were staying. Peter, John, James, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James, Alphaeus' son; Simon the zealot; and Judas, James' son— all were united in their devotion to prayer, along with some women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

John 17:6-19 CEB *In this passage Jesus is praying for his disciples.*

“I have revealed your name to the people you gave me from this 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 comes from you. This is because I gave them the words that you gave me, and they received them. They truly understood that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

“I'm praying for them. I'm not praying for the world but for those you gave me, because they are yours. Everything that is mine is yours and everything that is yours is mine; I have been glorified in them. I'm no longer in the world, but they are in the world, even as I'm coming to you. Holy Father, watch over them in your name, the name you gave me, that they will be one just as we are one. When I was with them, I watched over them in your name, the name you gave to me, and I kept them safe. None of them were lost, except the one who was destined for destruction, so that scripture would be fulfilled. Now I'm coming to you and I say these things while I'm in the world so that they can share completely in my joy. I gave your word to them and the world hated them, because they don't belong to this world, just as I don't belong to this world. I'm not asking that you take them out of this world but that you keep them safe from the evil one. They don't belong to this world, just as I don't belong to this world. Make them holy in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. I made myself holy on their behalf so that they also would be made holy in the truth.”

MESSAGE *A Community in Prayer*

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

**Jesus,
just as you prayed for your disciples so long ago
Pray for us,
Pray for our wellbeing,
Pray for our protection.
Pray for your joy to be made complete in us.
Pray for our spiritual growth.
Pray for your truth to be made complete in us.**

**Jesus,
we often do not know how to pray,
So pray for us,
Pray with us,
That we may be one with you,
One with each other, and
One in ministry to the world.**

**Jesus,
Pray for your weak ones,
Your strong ones,
Your ones who are have illnesses,
Your ones near death,
Your ones who breeze through life,
Your ones who struggle in life.**

**Jesus,
Pray for those who have lost loved ones,
Those who have lost ones suddenly and unexpectedly.
Those who have lost ones after a long illness.
Those who have lost ones through violence and war.**

**Jesus,
We join you in these prayers for all your people,
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: in person by placing your offering in the “church mailbox” in the narthex, dropping it off at the office, by mail, through our website www.panthervalleychurch.org, or add PVEC to your online bill pay. Thank you for your generosity.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God, you have seen our needs and have come to us. At this time, we think of others; and our minds and hearts reach out to them through this act of giving. There are so many who are hurting in this world. Some are right here in our community. Some are in distant lands. Since we are all part of your family, we share what we have. We rejoice that we can participate in this act of sharing your love in Jesus’ name. Amen.

BENEDICTION

As we leave this place, we are called to take the light into the world.

As we leave this place, we are called to love God and one another.

As we leave this place, may we live in unity with God and with one another.

As we leave this place, may we live up to the calling to be community in the world.

POSTLUDE

Credits:

Today’s liturgy is adapted from: Call to Worship, Gathering Prayer, and Benediction is written by Karyn L. Wiseman. Prayers of the People adapted from Rev. Abi. Prayer of dedication written by Herb Mather.

Kum Ba Yah, CCLI#3193590, Words: Public Domain, Music: 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

Announcements & Upcoming Events

***We are looking for volunteers to help film our worship services on Sunday morning. It is not difficult and would be so helpful if you are present anyway.**

Donation Statements Our Treasurer, Betty Johnson would like to know **WHO OBJECTS** to receiving their donation statement via email? If you object, please let her know at treasurerpvec1@gmail.com or call the office.

Prayer Requests We all have them, please share. We need it now more than ever.

Children's faith formation is being offered on Class Dojo and at PVEC on Sundays.

PVEC Rummage Sale started Friday and goes through May 22.

Fellowship Hour the Care and Nurture Commission is having a Welcome Back Fellowship Hour kick-off on Sunday June 6th after church service from 11:15-12:30 in Fellowship Hall. Fellowship Hour will be held beginning June 6th and every Sunday thereafter, unless otherwise noted in the bulletin. Coffee and tea will be served along with snacks. We will maintain social distance, everyone must wear a mask, except when eating or drinking, and all food will be served in accordance with State and local restrictions. Come and enjoy Fellowship and Friendship.

Calling all members and friends of PVEC The Worship Commission would like to host a picnic during Fellowship after church on Father's Day, June 20th. Each person would bring their own chair and sandwich or entrée. Chairs would go outside of the door to the rear of Fellowship Hall. Worship will have a table with individually packaged snacks, desserts, water and soda to accompany your sandwich or entree.

The question is are you interested?

Please let us know **YES** via email or call the office so we may prepare enough accompaniments. We think it's worth it if even 6 people want to have fellowship, so, please give us feedback!

VBS returns this year from August 2nd- August 6th! **We do need volunteers** so if you would like to help in anyway, please email aewasher221@yahoo.com or call/text her at 973-459-0574 ASAP.

Church Website We are adding more to the site. There will be ways to **sign up electronically for altar flower donations, and to volunteer as an usher or to read scripture during service.**

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

Email: pvecpastor@gmail.com

Music Director: Diane Van Dongen

Church Administrator: Nikki Nicinski

Email: pvecsecretary@gmail.com

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

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

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Friends • Family • Faith