



PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

Trinity Sunday May 30, 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: The Word you spoke, and keep speaking, O God

ALL: is the life, the sustenance, of all that is – seen and unseen.

ONE: The Life you gave, and keep giving, O Christ

ALL: is the recreation, the renewed birth of every broken, wounded and sinful creature.

ONE: The breath you breathed, and keep breathing, O Spirit

ALL: is the inspiration for creativity, compassion and community that connects and unites all that God has made.

ONE: Life-giving, Life-restoring, Life-fulfilling God,

ALL: Our worship seeks to honor you, our hearts are devoted to you, and our lives are completely given over to you.

GATHERING PRAYER

You are beyond our grasp, yet closer than our breath, refresh your Holy Spirit in all who gather to share in the gifts and the obligations of love.

You have chosen us; give us the courage to claim our new name, “Beloved.” Bind us to Jesus and free us in service with and for all. Amen.

HYMN

God of the Ages

God of the ages, whose almighty hand
leads forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past;
in this free land with thee our lot is cast;
be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay,
thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

Refresh thy people on their toilsome way;
lead us from night to never-ending day;
fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

In the mystery of creation, Imaginative God, you shaped beauty and goodness, yet we damage it by our selfishness and anger. In the mystery of life, Child of Hope, you became one of us, yet all too often we turn our back on you. In the mystery of peace, Breath of Life, you would gentle our natures, yet we cling tenaciously to our bitterness and hurt.

In the mystery of grace, Holy God, you forgive us our sins, that we might embrace others. In the mystery of mercy, you touch our lips, that we might speak gently to others. In the mystery of hope, you claim us as family, sisters and brothers of the One who brought new life for all, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Silence

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: Here, in this moment and in this place, the Spirit of gentleness moves in our midst. Mercy, hope and joy are the gifts of God to each and every one of us.

ALL: **No longer lost, we have found our way home, surrounded by God's peace, by God's grace, by God's love. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING:

Psalm 29 Common English Bible

You, divine beings! Give to the Lord—

give to the Lord glory and power!

Give to the Lord the glory due his name!

Bow down to the Lord in holy splendor!

The Lord's voice is over the waters;
the glorious God thunders;
the Lord is over the mighty waters.

The Lord's voice is strong;
the Lord's voice is majestic.

The Lord's voice breaks cedar trees—
yes, the Lord shatters the cedars of Lebanon.

He makes Lebanon jump around like a young bull,
makes Sirion jump around like a young wild ox.

The Lord's voice unleashes fiery flames;
the Lord's voice shakes the wilderness—
yes, the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
The Lord's voice convulses the oaks,
strips the forests bare,
but in his temple everyone shouts, "Glory!"
The Lord sits enthroned over the floodwaters;
the Lord sits enthroned—king forever!

Let the Lord give strength to his people!
Let the Lord bless his people with peace!

Romans 8:1-14 Common English Bible

So now there isn't any condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. God has done what was impossible for the Law, since it was weak because of selfishness. God condemned sin in the body by sending his own Son to deal with sin in the same body as humans, who are controlled by sin. He did this so that the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us. Now the way we live is based on the Spirit, not based on selfishness. People whose lives are based on selfishness think about selfish things, but people whose lives are based on the Spirit think about things that are related to the Spirit. The attitude that comes from selfishness leads to death, but the attitude that comes from the Spirit leads to life and peace. So the attitude that comes from selfishness is hostile to God. It doesn't submit to God's Law, because it can't. People who are self-centered aren't able to please God.

But you aren't self-centered. Instead you are in the Spirit, if in fact God's Spirit lives in you. If anyone doesn't have the Spirit of Christ, they don't belong to him. If Christ is in you, the Spirit is your life because of God's righteousness, but the body is dead because of sin. If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your human bodies also, through his Spirit that lives in you.

So then, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation, but it isn't an obligation to ourselves to live our lives on the basis of selfishness. If you live on the basis of selfishness, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the actions of the body, you will live. All who are led by God's Spirit are God's sons and daughters.

MESSAGE *A Debt of Gratitude*

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

ONE: People of God, as we come to prayer let us remember that we do not have to twist the arm of a reluctant God to seek good things for this world, nor find ways to persuade a distant God to come near and listen to us.

Let us remember that as we pray we kneel alongside Jesus Christ, in the presence of God, with the help of the Spirit.

So let us bring to mind now those people who are in need of our prayers:

**ALL: those who are ill, or anxious;
those who are lonely or sad;
those who are despairing or defeated;
those who are hungry or homeless;
those whose relationships are breaking apart;
those who are bullied or abused;
those who cannot find work;
and those who are over-worked.**
In silence now, let us make our own specific prayers
for those on our hearts and minds today.

Silence

In the presence of God, alongside Jesus Christ, with help from the Spirit may we go into this week to live out our prayers through our lives. 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

Most giving God, accept this offering from our lives. In God we trust. Lord, we believe. Help our unbelief. Dedicate these gifts to holy human use. Take what seems ordinary: a handful of coins, some cash, a collection of checks, and make them be for others evidence of love that’s seen. Accept what we hold up for blessing, for we offer ourselves in union with Christ’s offering for us. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Go in peace and confidence, knowing that the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit goes with us.

POSTLUDE

Credits: Today’s liturgy is adapted from: Call to Worship is written by John van de Laar. Opening prayer and prayer of Dedication is written by Heather Murray Elkins. Prayer of Confession is written by Thom M. Shuman. Prayer of Intercession is written by Ann Sidel.

Hymn: God of the Ages, Public Domain

Cover artwork: God’s Hands and the Holy Spirit

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.**

Please pray for: The Family, Friends & Congregation of Dr. Rev. Frank Fowler, Judy, Catherine, Marianne, Betty, Jane Cirotti, The Sass Family, The Washburn Family - medical tests, Vincent Candido - recovering from hip surgery, Adam - open heart surgery, Samantha - medical condition & surgeries, Joy for Sherry & Stevie Sass, The Rowe Family for the birth of their daughter, The Family of Fred Senn, Family & Friends of Kristina Corriveau, for those struggling with loss, Zoe's nephew Rich Pearson who had his heart transplant last weekend and for the family who lost a loved one so he may live.

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

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.

7 Week (biweekly) Book Group Love is the Way by Bishop Michael Curry meets next on Sunday, May 30th at 11:45 in person or via Zoom.

Rummage Sale Thank you for all of the donations, the gift of your time and energy, and your purchases. There were 112 visiting shoppers. ***The total profit is \$3,206.***

Help is needed anytime soon to pack boxes of unsold items, or to transport them by car or truck to First Presbyterian in Hackettstown, or to ReStore in Washington. After boxes are packed, they will be labeled with either destination. You can just go to Fellowship Hall, pick some up, and transport them at your convenience.

Care & Nurture The Care & Nurture members have determined the required COVID restrictions are not attainable to host Fellowship Hour at this time. Therefore, Care & Nurture's Kick-off Fellowship Hour scheduled for June 6th is cancelled. Fellowship Hour will be postponed until the Fall. The Care & Nurture members wish everyone a safe and healthy summer and look forward to getting together in the Fall.

Chicken Dinner Last month's Chicken dinner raised \$427 on 96 meals. The next \$5 Chicken Dinner is next week on Thursday, June 3.

Donna is requesting brownie donations please.

Pastor Ninabeth Metcalf will be on vacation June 5th-14th.

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>

Tel: 908-852-5444

Email: panthervalleychurch@gmail.com

Friends • Family • Faith