



PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

June 20, 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: When the waves of doubt threaten us

ALL: God is with us.

ONE: When fears seem to swamp our lives

ALL: God is with us.

ONE: Awake! God is here!

ALL: Rejoice! We are loved!

ONE: Get ready! There is much to be done!

ALL: Prepare us, Lord, to work for you. Amen.

GATHERING PRAYER

Lord, we have come this day, seeking your presence and healing love. Be with us as we hear the words of hope and compassion. Give us courage to learn and grow that we might serve you faithfully all of our days. Amen.

HYMN

Be Still My Soul

Be still, my soul! The Lord is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain:
leave to your God to order and provide,
in every change God faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul! Your God will undertake
to guide the future, as in ages past.

Your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.

Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
the Christ who ruled them while he dwelt below.

Be still, my soul! the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.

Be still my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

God of love and power, we listen to the stories of miracles and doubt that these things can happen today. We look at the waves of misfortune, distress, misery, distrust, and anger and wonder how we can still those waves. We feel the pressures of power and fear flooding into our lives, threatening to drown us and wonder where you are. Forgive us for the littleness of our faith. Forgive us for our doubts. Help us to place our trust in you, Lord Jesus. Help us to fix our eyes on you and on the ministries to which you have called us. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Silence

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Fear not! God is with us, stilling the storms and raging fears in our lives. Place your trust in God always. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 4:35-41 NIV

That day when evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

MESSAGE

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Lord of wind and water, of calmness and peace, be with us this day. Calm our fears as we face uncertain futures. Help us to relinquish control and to place our trust totally in you. Remind us to continue to faithfully work for good, with gratitude for the many blessings you have poured upon us. When the waves and torrents threaten us, let us again turn to you, remembering

your saving mercies and love. Give us courage to become disciples who can calm the seas of doubt and anger, bringing hope and peace. As we have brought before you situations that require help and healing mercies, remind us again that you are with each person and situation, offering your love and mercy. We thank you for the many ways in which you have healed us. For all the goodness you have poured on us, we offer prayers of gratitude and love, as we ask these things in Jesus' Name. 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

Merciful God, we thank you for the many ways that gifts are offered in your service; we especially thank you for fathers and elders whose love and wisdom have touched our lives and our church.

Help the elders among us nurture the young in our midst. Help the young among us honor their elders.

Accept our gifts, we pray, and bless now this morning's offerings, that we might do your will in this place and in all the world. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

ONE: The Lord be with you.

ALL: **And also with you.**

ONE: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

ONE: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere give thanks to you almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

And so, with all your people on earth and all the company of heaven who have gone before us we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

...

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

...

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, gathered here,

...

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **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.

WE SHARE THE MEAL

The Bread we break is the Bread of Life.

The Cup we Share is the Cup of Love

Here at this table we share the abundance of God's gifts.

ALL: Thanks be to God

BENEDICTION

Christ, our redeemer, we thank you for delivering us from the storms of life. Help us now to go out into the world, sharing our faith with our community. Now, with the power of the living God, go into the world, shining God's light into the darkness. Go, transform the world!

POSTLUDE

***Today's flowers are dedicated by Betty Schultheis
to all the fathers in the congregation.***

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 adapted from Ministry Matters. Benediction is written by Sheila Beckford.

Hymn: Be Still My Soul, CCLI#96910, Public Domain

Cover artwork: God's Hands and the Holy Spirit

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Please pray for: Congratulations to the Graduates, Praise God for Cylvia's new grandchild Rhys Payton, the loving fathers we miss dearly, Betty Schultheis, Giselle, Carolyn, Jayne, Judy, Catherine, Marianne, Jane S., Barbara McConnell Family, The Sass Family, The Washburn Family - medical tests, Adam - open heart surgery, Samantha - medical tests & surgeries, for those struggling with loss, Zoe's nephew Rich Pearson who had his heart transplant and for the family who lost a loved one so he may live.

The Worship Commission, instead of presenting boutonnieres to the fathers today will instead be contributing \$25 toward a campership in honor of the fathers of PVEC.

Rummage Sale transport help is needed. Boxes of unsold items are packed and ready for transport at your convenience. There's not many left to move. If you can pick some up by car or truck and take them to ReStore in Washington we would be very appreciative. You will find them in Fellowship Hall. Contact Penny with questions at 908-619-8119.

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

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Music Director: Diane Van Dongen

Church Administrator: Nikki Nicinski

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

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Friends • Family • Faith