



PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

June 27, 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 (based on Psalm 30)

ONE: Sing praises to the LORD, and give thanks to God's holy name

ALL: for the LORD our God has healed us when we cried for help and restored us in times of deepest despair.

ONE: The LORD has turned our sorrow into dancing;

ALL: taken our sackcloth from us, and clothed us with joy.

ONE: Sing to the LORD without end,

ALL: and give thanks to the LORD forever.

ONE: Eternal and ever present God,

**ALL: sustain and excite our gathered community;
arouse our expectancy;
subdue our expectations.**

ONE: Come, silent Spirit, and embrace us.

ALL: Let the words we see and hear and speak and sing be transformed by the Word made flesh, that our worship may be wholly yours, Lord God. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

GATHERING PRAYER

Lord, we have come this day, seeking your presence and healing love. Focus our thoughts on the ways we can come to know you and feel your presence in our lives. Focus our minds on the ways we can hear the stories of Jesus once again, and in new ways. Focus our prayers on the ways our lives are transformed by the power of Jesus. Focus our words and our ways on you, O Lord. Amen.

HYMN

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,

Look full in His wonderful face,

And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,

In the light of His glory and grace.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God calls us in our lives to take a risk, to be like the woman in our gospel reading today who reaches out to Jesus for healing for herself; or the father who risks the scorn of others to bring Jesus to his dying daughter. Let us ponder for a moment the places in our lives where we may resist turning to God for healing and change.

(silence)

LITANY OF CONFESSION

When we resist your call to open our hearts to allow the freshness of your grace to enter:

God have mercy.

When we close our eyes to your new and unexpected possibilities of healing and reconciliation.

Christ have mercy.

When we let fear overwhelm us, and cling to the security of what we know instead of risking new steps toward your freedom and justice:

God have mercy.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God's mercies are fresh every morning.

In Christ God offers forgiving grace and welcome into a community of trust, abundance, and hope.

Let us give thanks for the mercy of God, and pass the peace of Christ in community among us.

SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 5:21-43

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live." So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no

better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

MESSAGE

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

**If we're honest, compassion does not come easy to us, God;
We see others who struggle;
those without homes, or food;
those dying from curable diseases, simply because
they can't get access to the medicine they need;
those who have lost loved ones through death or circumstance,
and long for human companionship;
those who are persecuted and judged because of their difference;**

**those who are facing the awful consequences of bad choices they have made;
and those who must live with the consequences of choices that others make that impact their lives;
It all just feels like it's too much, and there's nothing we can do.
But, we know that's not true – we know that compassion is enough;
that when we allow ourselves to feel, compassion will lead us to do what we can, and that this will make a difference.**

**And so, we pray first for ourselves:
that you would soften our hearts, and still our fears, and lead us into those acts of compassion that we are capable of doing.**

**And then we pray for all of these others whose lives can be changed through small, simple acts of care;
that you would disturb us, and others like us, until we finally step up and play our part in the saving of your world;
and that enough of us would answer your call, that the needs of the hurting ones may be met.**

In Jesus' Name, 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

Holy and Loving God, we offer you these gifts for the church and for the world. We offer our lives as your followers to impact others by living our faith. All things come from you and we give you thanks. Today we return our gifts to you. Bless them to do your will in the world. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Send us forth in love and grace to serve the Lord. Send us with thanksgiving on our lips. Send us with kindness in our hearts. Send us to live a life of prayer in our thoughts and deeds. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Credits: Today's liturgy is adapted from: Call to Worship is written by "© Jeff Shrowder (<http://thebillabong.info>) Used with permission." Litany of Confession is written by Rev. Susan A. Bain. Prayer of Intercession is written by John van de Laar. Gathering Prayer, prayer of dedication, and sending forth is written by Karyn L. Wiseman.

Hymn: Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus, Public Domain

Cover Image: Julia Stankova, The Healing of the Woman with the Flow of Blood, Painting on Wood, 2017.

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Thank you for coming to church today. We are glad to see you!

Please pray for: Those injured, lost, and affected by the condo collapse near Miami, Congratulations to the Graduates, Praise God for Cylvia's new grandchild Rhys Payton, Betty Schultheis, Danielle, Carolyn, Eleanor, Giselle, Jayne, Judy, Catherine, Marianne, Barbara McConnell Family, The Sass Family, The Washburn Family - medical tests, 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 next 2 Chicken Dinners will be held on the 2nd Thursday of the month, which will be Thursday, July 8 & Thursday, August 12.

The menus are listed on the church website, the e-news sent out Friday, and on Facebook. (July – Italian Chicken, August – Baked Cheeseburgers)

BROWNIE BAKERS NEEDED FOR JULY ONLY - Please & Thanks!

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

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Friends • Family • Faith