



PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

Sunday June 6, 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: Lord your lessons light our paths in life.

ALL: Let your influence make our paths peaceful.

ONE: Lord your love sustains us and makes us whole when we are broken.

ALL: Let your love influence the world.

ONE: Lord your disciples carry your message to many nations.

ALL: Let us be disciples today.

ONE: Lord your house is where we come today, let our worship together be pleasing to you.

ALL: When we leave this house let us be your influencers in our community.

GATHERING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, your name above every other name, we praise you.

We pray that your name is blessed now and forever, in good times and bad, from East to West. Your name is worthy of praise. Your name is influential.

Your name rules over the nations. Your glory is higher than the heavens.

Your name is beautiful. Let us praise the name of the lord together.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

HYMN

Here I Am, Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save
I who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord
Is it I, Lord?

I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord
If You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide
'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord
If You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart
I will hold Your people in my heart.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

One: You asked for my hands, that you might use them for your purpose.

All: I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard.

One: You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice.

All: I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.

One: You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty.

All: I closed them, for I did not want to see.

One: You asked for my life, that you might work through me to influence the world.

All: I gave a small part, that I might not get too involved.

One: Lord, forgive my calculated efforts to serve you, only when it is convenient for me to do so, only in the places where it is safe to do so, and only with those who make it easy to do so.

All: Father, forgive me, renew me, send me out as a usable instrument, that I might take seriously the meaning of your cross. Amen.

Silence

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: The good news in Christ is that when we face ourselves and God with the awareness of our faults, with our lack of doing his work and being the world's influence, we are given grace to grow & courage to continue this journey. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

ALL: In Jesus Christ we are always forgiven.

SCRIPTURE READING:

Psalms 111 NRSV

Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.

Full of honor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.

He provides food for those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations.

The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.

They are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.

Holy and awesome is his name.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.

His praise endures forever.

Romans Matthew 10:9-14 NRSV

Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town.

MESSAGE *Influence*

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

ALL: Lord of the Nations, thank you that you do not change, you remain the same from before the beginning of time into eternity. Your word says that you are good to all; you have compassion in all you have made. Give us your people, a great love for your body, the church. May we love, serve and worship together, being filled with faithfulness and joy. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To you be the glory, both now and forever. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Influential God, with these gifts make the world anew.

Help make real what your son declared. With these people, help make a world where everyone is loved, a world where justice and compassion roar like a mighty river. Make a world where all are fed, a world where the sick are healed. Do it now, God, through us, in the name of your son Jesus the Christ. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Go in love. Go in peace. Go with the word of God as your basis. Be the influence in this community.

Be an influence in the world today. Let Christ guide you in this mission. Be well. Be loved. Be you. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Hymn: Here I Am, Lord, © 1981, OCP Publications

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Please pray for: Giselle, Carolyn, Jayne, Judy, Catherine, Marianne, Betty, Jane Cirotti, Jane S., Barbara McConnell Family, The Sass Family, The Washburn Family - medical tests, Adam - open heart surgery, Samantha - medical condition & 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.

Pastor Ninabeth Metcalf will be on vacation Saturday, June 5th through Monday, June 14th.

On **Wednesday 6/9** there will be no Bible Study or Contemplative Worship.

Anne Ellis will be hosting the **6/13 Book Study**, Love is the Way.

The **next date of communion** is Sunday, June 20th.

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

Chicken Dinner was rescheduled due to bad weather until next Thursday, June 10. Donna is requesting brownie donations please. Thanks to those who have brownies in the freezer.

RUMMAGE SALE UPDATE *The total profit is up to \$3513.25, adding charged payments.* Volunteers are needed: Boxes of unsold items are packed and ready for transport at your convenience. If you can pick some up by car or truck and take them to First Presbyterian in Hackettstown, or to ReStore in Washington we would be very appreciative. You will find them in Fellowship Hall. Contact Penny with questions at 908-619-8119.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2021 HAS BEEN CANCELLED - After our meeting last Friday evening, Elizabeth and I have decided that due to the uncertainty of the pandemic and the lack of volunteers, we are going to postpone VBS this year until next Summer. We appreciate the help we did have, as well as the time and consideration it took to try to get this up and running this year. Ashley Washer & Elizabeth Efremov

COVID restrictions are being lifted! The PVEC Council met on Thursday May 27th to have a thoughtful and respectful conversation about the caring for and welcoming the church community and our surrounding neighborhood. We decided that the safest and most welcoming way to gather for Worship would be to continue to wear masks and sing while remaining seated. Our Sunday school teachers and children will continue to wear masks and practice physical distancing. Masks and hand sanitizers will continue to be available at all our entrances. Signing in is no longer required unless you are in the building for extended periods of time. Our Bibles and seat cushions have been returned to the sanctuary. While we no longer require physical distancing, we invite you to be respectful of others who may not be ready to sit close. We will continue to clean all surfaces before and after our gatherings. Pastor Ninabeth and Nikki will continue to sign in, take their temperatures, maintain physical distancing, wash hands, and wear masks while in the Church building.

There is a link to the [CDC Guidelines for Communities of Faith](#) in the e-news sent on Friday.

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

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Friends • Family • Faith