



# PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

**July 11, 2021**

*Connecting with the Community,  
Growing Disciples, and Serving Jesus Christ*

*Our Worship can be viewed on our website  
[PantherValleyChurch.org](http://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 of peace, fill our hearts.

**ALL: We welcome your peace, O God.**

ONE: God of life, make us lively in worship.

**ALL: We long to live in you, O Christ.**

ONE: God of righteousness, walk before us.

**ALL: Holy Spirit, lead us in your ways.**

## HYMN Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord the Almighty  
The King of creation  
O my soul praise Him  
For He is thy health and salvation  
All ye who hear now to His temple draw near  
Praise Him in glad adoration

Praise to the Lord Who doth prosper  
Thy work and defend thee  
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
If with His love He befriend thee

Praise to the Lord  
O let all that is in me adore Him  
All that hath life and breath  
Come now with praises before Him  
Let the amen sound from His people again  
Gladly for all we adore Him

## GATHERING PRAYER

**We enter your holy place, O God, seeking to worship you in truth. Help us to know your will for us. Give us courage to open our hearts and lives to you, as we sing and speak and hear your word. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**O God, we want to come into your presence as honest and loving people. But we swing back and forth on opinions. We find it easy to take ourselves more seriously than we take you. Forgive us, merciful God. Examine our hearts and minds and show us where we fall short of your truth. Show us where our thoughts need to be pruned, our attitudes brought into the light of your love. Show us our neighbors, and help us to respond to their needs, becoming your hands and your heart in the world.**

## **ASSURANCE**

Hear the good news: The God of compassion knows where we are out of balance and will bring us into alignment through God's transforming love.

## **SCRIPTURE READING:**

Amos 7:7-15

This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. And the Lord said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,

"See, I am setting a plumb line  
in the midst of my people Israel;  
I will never again pass them by;  
the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,  
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,  
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said,

'Jeroboam shall die by the sword,  
and Israel must go into exile  
away from his land.'

And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'

## MESSAGE

### PRAYER OF RESPONSE

Holy One, help us to live into Your ways of holiness. Help us to cultivate a practice of holiness in our life, setting aside time for You. Guide us into ways of living that are sustainable, that care for the earth and all of creation, and do not waste resources for others. Lead us into Your ways of deep compassion for ourselves and for one another. Help us to find the holy in our everyday lives—in the dandelion that grows between the cracks of cement, in the simple acts of kindness that someone has shown us, in the pauses between the busy. Remind us to breathe, for this simple act is the first act of human life, when You breathed Your spirit, Your breath, into the first human being. May we cultivate holiness in our daily life, and be holy for You. Amen.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;

**ALL: For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For this community, the nation, and the world;

**ALL: For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;

**ALL: For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

**ALL: For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

**ALL: For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For all bishops and other ministers;

**ALL: For all who serve God.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*In silence add your own petition*

Hear us, Lord;

**ALL: For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*In silence add your own thanksgiving*

We will exalt you, O God our King;

**ALL: And praise Your name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*In silence add your own petition*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

**ALL: Who put their trust in you.**

And now let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us, saying:

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your Name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those**

**who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours,**

**now and for ever. 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](http://www.panthervalleychurch.org), or add PVEC to your online bill pay. Thank you for your generosity.

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Generous and Giving God, you have poured your blessings on us as the rain soaks the sun-parched grass of our lawns. You have lavished us with redemption, forgiveness, and grace. When you send the rain to water the grass, you expect growth in return. Remind us this day, as we make our gifts to you, that we have been blessed for a purpose – that we might be a blessing to others. May we grow in compassion, in mercy, in longing for justice and love, as Christ loved us. In that holy name, we pray. Amen.**

## **SENDING FORTH**

Align yourself with God, take the truth of God’s love from this place out into the world.

## **POSTLUDE**

*Credits: Today’s liturgy is adapted from: Call To Worship, Gathering Prayer, Prayer of Confession and Benediction are written by Laurie Zelman. Prayers of the people is from the Book of Common Prayer.*

*Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, CCLI #43073, Public Domain*

## **Announcements & Upcoming Events**

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

We care about all our congregants and look forward to seeing everyone when they are comfortable returning to inside worship.

### **Please pray for:**

Those injured, lost, and affected by the condo collapse in Surfside, FL, Mike, Samantha, Betty Schultheis, Danielle, Carolyn, Patrick, Anne, Maggie, Michelle, Lila, Eleanor, Giselle, Jayne, Judy, Catherine, Marianne, The Sass Family, The Washburn Family - medical tests, Rich Pearson & Family, and for those struggling with loss. Thank you and please keep sharing & praying. Let us know when to remove a name from the list please.

Please join us after worship **today** in Fellowship Hall for a farewell luncheon for Arlene Metrione. Arlene is moving to South Carolina this week. Donations are gladly accepted to cover the cost of the food.

Wishing Betty Schultheis a **Happy & Healthy 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday** on 7/14.

We will be having a **Bridal Shower for Alison Bancroft** on Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup> after worship in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to celebrate!

An additional e-news was sent this past Wednesday for those of you who like gardening. **Join Us for a PVEC Weed-A-Thon!** We have 7 different gardens to choose from. Stake out a claim on one and go to town (at church). For those of you who would rather tackle one project, we have: a large tree branch that needs to be removed, trash on the perimeter of our field, and a vine that needs to be cut out of a blue spruce. Our Weed-A-THON has begun and lasts until the first frost. Let us know which garden/project you choose and if you need any help. Pictures and descriptions are posted in that e-news.

FYI – Pastor Ninabeth Metcalf will be **on vacation** from Saturday, July 17-Sunday, July 25.

## **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](mailto:pvecpastor@gmail.com)

**Music Director:** Diane Van Dongen

**Church Administrator:** Nikki Nicinski

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