



PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

For the Beauty of Creation

“Let There Be Light”

July 25, 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: God is good!

ALL: All the time!

ONE: And all the time!

ALL: God is good!

MOMENT OF GRATITUDE

Today, we gather to celebrate the goodness of God and all of God's creation. I invite you to take a few deep breaths. Become aware of all that you see, light and shadow, color, natural and human made things, creatures and people. Let us say together: "**For this, I am grateful.**"

OPENING PRAYER:

(you are invited to face each of the four directions as you share in this prayer)

ONE: Holy One, Send us wisdom from the east.

ALL: Remind us always to give thanks for the gift of our lives with every sunrise.

ONE: Holy One, Send us wisdom from the south.

ALL: Remind us always to give thanks for the gift of each other with every warm wind.

ONE: Holy One, Send us wisdom from the west.

ALL: Remind us always to give thanks for the sacred gift of rest with every sunset.

ONE: Holy One, Send us wisdom from the north.

ALL: Remind us always to give thanks for strength and understanding with every cool breeze.

ONE: Christ, our Light, is the center of this community! And when we turn to face that light in our midst, we see one another.

ALL: For each one is created in the image and likeness of God and so when we see one another, we see more of the Divine shine through.

HYMN

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

**For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies.**

Refrain:

**Lord of all, to you we raise
this, our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light,**

Refrain

**For the joy of human love,
[sibling, cousin], parent, child
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,**

Refrain

SCRIPTURE Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. Now the earth was unformed and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the spirit of God hovered over the face of the waters. And God said: 'Let there be light' And there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night, and there was evening and there was morning, one day.

MESSAGE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**Lord you give life to life, from day one; your Spirit brooding over the deep,
your wind rushing, your breath filling. As creatures of the earth we rejoice
in life using our breath, our being, to raise this hymn of praise:
Hallelujah to the sun whose radiance gives us light and warmth.**

Hallelujah for water who quenches our thirst and gives us life.

**Hallelujahs for the growth from seed to plant greening the earth; its fruit—
beauty and food!**

**Hallelujahs for generations of life tumbling one after another. Life creeping,
swimming, flying, running, below, above, upon, within.**

**All the world sings, calls, signals, speaks praise to God whose glory grows
in all that breathes!**

**Knowing your power, knowing your love for us, we bring requests this
morning;**

**We pray for all we know who are sick, in mind or body, or who suffer from
chronic conditions.**

We pray for all who have lost loved ones.

We pray for all who struggle with addiction.

We pray for those who are lonely.

**We long for reconciliation with those we have harmed with harsh words or
harsh actions, and for peace among our warring nations.**

**Fill us, enliven us, to be ambassadors of life abundant, breathing out your
song in harmony, singing to you, our Creator, whose glory shines through
all the world. 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

**God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share.
Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks and our concern
for all in need in Your world.**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost
Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind always be at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
May the rains fall soft upon your fields,
And may God hold you in the palm of God's hand.

POSTLUDE

*Credits: Today's liturgy is adapted from: Prayer of the People is adapted from
Carol Penner.*

Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth, CCLI# 43200, Public Domain

***Today's flowers are given by Renee Lundy in loving memory
of her grandson Dominick's birthday.***

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Thank you for coming to church today. We are glad to see you ~ continue to stay safe and healthy!

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

Please pray for: For those who could not be with us today, for the hungry, sick, and oppressed, The Sass Family in the loss of John Sr., The Miller Family, The Ward Family, Leslie M., Maureen Bloom – upcoming surgery, Jackie, Mike, Betty Schultheis – life transition, Danielle, Carolyn, Patrick, Anne, Maggie, Michelle, Lila, Eleanor, Giselle, Jayne, Judy, Catherine, Marianne, The Washburn Family, Rich Pearson & Family – heart transplant, and for those struggling with loss. (Let us know when to remove a name from the list please.)

PVEC SUMMER 2021 SERMON SERIES - For the Beauty of Creation

Join us as we explore the first chapter of Genesis:

Israel's Poem of Creation

July 25th ~ Let there be Light

August 1st ~ Let the Waters gather together

August 8th ~ Let the earth put forth vegetation

August 15th ~ Let the waters and the earth bring forth living creatures

August 22 ~ Let us make humankind in our image

August 29th ~ God rested

Come celebrate **Ali Bancroft's Bridal Shower** today after worship! Sandwiches, salad, and cake will be served.

COVID UPDATE - July 2021, from the Highlands Presbytery. The Pandemic is not over...we need to keep reminding ourselves. Lisa Allgood is the Executive Presbyter for Cincinnati Presbytery, an elder and an immunologist. She has been providing science and data updates about COVID to the congregations in the Cincinnati Presbytery and she also shares the info with other Presbyteries. See last Friday's e-news for the rest of her update.



Be the Reason
Someone
Smiles
TODAY

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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