



PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

*For the Beauty of Creation
“Let The Earth Put Forth Vegetation”*

August 8, 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: We have come to this holy place to worship our God;
yet sanctuary is not always built by human hands.

ALL: Everywhere I go is a sanctuary, every place a time to worship God!

ONE: When we live as if this planet and all creation, even ourselves, is a
sanctuary -- a holy place full of the Creator's presence -- we walk
differently upon this earth.

**ALL: I am always on sacred ground. I must move with reverence through
all creation, and I enter this holy place now to worship Creator!**

MOMENT OF GRATITUDE

Let us give thanks for this beautiful day, for it is a gift from Creator.

Let us give thanks for the water without which life would not be possible.

Let us give thanks for Grandmother Earth who protects and nourishes us.

We give thanks for earth, air, sun, and water, in which we see the hand of
Creator, even Creator Himself for He is in all He has made.

Let us give thanks for this life. It is a gift from Creator, and we have the possibility
of living it. Let us live it to His praise and glory!

FOUR DIRECTIONS PRAYER

ONE: Oh Great Spirit of the East, we turn to you where the sun comes up, from
where the power of light and refreshment come.

**ALL: In the dawning of this day let us know fresh shining in our soul. Let
there be light on the path we walk. Let there be light in our words. Let
us remember, always, to be thankful that You gave the gift of a new
day.**

**Oh Spirit of the East, in the growing colors of new beginnings all
around us let us know the first lights of our heart.**

ONE: Oh Great Spirit of the South, spirit of all that is warm and gentle and
refreshing, we ask you to give us the spirit of growth, of fertility, of
gentleness.

- ALL:** Caress us with a cool breeze when the days are hot.
Give us seeds so that the flowers, trees, and fruits of the earth may grow.
Give us the warmth of good friendships.
Oh Spirit of the South, let us know the seeds of life's goodness within us and between us.
- ONE:** Oh Great Spirit of the West, where the sun goes down each day to come up the next, we turn to you in praise of sunsets and in thanksgiving for changes.
- ALL:** You are the great colored sunset of the red west, which illuminates us. You are the powerful cycle, which pulls us to transformation.
We ask for the blessings of the sunset.
O Spirit of the West, keep us open to life's changes.
- ONE:** Oh Great Spirit of the North, we come to you and ask for the strength and the power to bear what is cold and harsh in life.
- ALL:** We come like the buffalo ready to receive the winds that truly can be overwhelming at times.
Whatever is cold and uncertain in our life, we ask you to give us the strength to bear it. Do not let the winter blow us away.
Oh Spirit of the North, wrap us in a blanket of love.

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.

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,

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

SCRIPTURE Genesis 1:11-19

Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

MESSAGE *Let the Earth Put Forth Vegetation*

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

We invite you to pray the prayer in the language you are used to speaking. Today we are highlighting the prayer in the Ecumenical Text which was developed in contemporary language by the English Language Liturgical Consultation in 1988.

**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 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

God of peace and love, may our offering of ourselves, our energies, and our prayers in these gifts bring You true worship and make us one with You in bringing to birth Your New Creation. Grant this through Christ the Lord. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

You were made for this earth, and this earth was made for you. Go forth to love and serve it, knowing in your deepest heart that you are blessed from the beginning of time. In the name of the One who called all things good. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Credits: Today's liturgy is adapted from: Call to Worship and Moment of Gratitude are adapted from Rev. Jeff Ramsland. Four Directions Prayer is anonymous a mix of Celtic and Native American. Prayer of the People is adapted from Carol Penner. Sending Forth is written by Kellyann Wolfe.

Image: Ohio Buckeye, Ninabeth Metcalf

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

***Today's flowers are given by Cylvia & Larry Ultz
to honor their 45th Anniversary.***

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Thank you for coming to church today. We are always 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, Diane's dear family friend in hospice care, Diana, Nick, Diane, Amy, Charles, Laura, Bonnie Sue, Keith, The Miller Family, The Ward Family, Leslie M., Maureen Bloom – surgery recovery, Jackie, Mike, Betty Schultheis – life transition, Danielle, Carolyn, Patrick, Anne, Maggie, Michelle, Lila, Eleanor, Giselle, 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.)

Wishing Cylvia & Larry Ultz a **Happy 45th Anniversary!**

Betty Schultheis has a new address: Colonial Manor 1627 County Rd 517, Room 214, Hackettstown, NJ 07840. New home phone #908-798-4417. Please add the updated info to your Church Directory.

Corn Shucking Party on Wednesday August 11 between 2 and 4pm if you can help (for the \$5 dinner on Thursday) come to the church, Donna would appreciate your help!

Christian Outreach Backpack Program collection bins are in the narthex and downstairs near the office. Thank you for your generosity! You can find the detailed list of items being requested on our website and in this past Friday's e-news.

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

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