



PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

**Worship in the United Methodist Tradition
September 12, 2021**

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

*Our Worship can be viewed on our website
PantherValleyChurch.org*

PRELUDE

We invite you to begin your personal preparation at the beginning of the prelude.

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Here we gather, where the echo of God's Voice still moves in the air.

ALL: Lord, open our ears to hear You speak to us.

ONE: Now we meet, as eternity is expressed in time.

ALL: Lord, open our eyes to see You smile on us.

ONE: Once again, the Word of God is revealed among us in physical form.

ALL: Lord, open our hearts to welcome You into our lives.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, we have come this day to hear your words of healing love and hope. Enter our hearts and our spirits and teach us to follow you. Give us the courage and strength to be your faithful disciples. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Mark 8:27-38 from the Common English Bible

Jesus and his disciples went into the villages near Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?"

They told him, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others one of the prophets."

He asked them, "And what about you? Who do you say that I am?"

Peter answered, "You are the Christ." Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then Jesus began to teach his disciples: "The Human One must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and the legal experts, and be killed, and then, after three days, rise from the dead." He said this plainly. But Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him. Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, then sternly corrected Peter: "Get behind me, Satan. You are not thinking God's thoughts but human thoughts."

After calling the crowd together with his disciples, Jesus said to them, “All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me and because of the good news will save them. Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? What will people give in exchange for their lives? Whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this unfaithful and sinful generation, the Human One will be ashamed of that person when he comes in the Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

MESSAGE

Jack Tironi

HYMN

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

One: In our daily choices and relationships, in our homes and communities,

All: May we align ourselves with your love, O God.

One: In our citizenship and country, in our national discourse and social participation,

All: May we align ourselves with your love, O God.

One: In our world and on the earth, in our care for the planet, and our sharing of its resources,

All: May we align ourselves with your love, O God.

One: And may your love fill the globe, so that followers and leaders, poor and wealthy, weak and powerful, servant and served,

All: May live aligned to your love. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

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 Traditional text written in the 16th century for the Book of Common Prayer. This prayer is utilized by the Episcopal Church and the United Methodist Church.

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The simplest word, easy to say and quickly forgotten, can leave a legacy of pain, or a long-lingering joy.

Yet we fill the air with our words, oblivious, or simply dismissive, of their impact, of the lives changed, for better or worse, by our careless chatter. Forgive us, gracious and creative Word of God.

Teach us the wisdom of careful speech, the power of blessing, the healing of forgiving, the gift of truth-telling;

And give us the courage to speak out, to do our part in filling the world with words of life. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

It may be hard to believe, which may be why it is hard to accept; but God loves us, God has mercy on us, and God is with us. Thanks be to God. We are forgiven! 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

Loving God, Jesus taught us “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” We offer our gifts to you knowing they are part of our treasure, and we do so with the hope that our hearts, our voices, and our actions will be used to care for all of your children. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Go in peace and know that God walks with you on this journey. Bring the good news of Christ’s healing love to all whom you meet. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Credits: Call to Worship and Opening Prayer by Nancy Townley. Prayer of Confession, Response to the Word is written by John van de Laar.

Image: Carrying A Cross

Hymn

Announcements & Upcoming Events

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The people of Louisiana & The Gulf Coast and all recently affected by the damaging flooding, Emergency workers & volunteers, our world with COVID, the health of children and staff returning to school, Healthcare workers, Essential workers, our mental & physical health, the innocent people of Afghanistan & the refugees, our military personnel, Lila Minervino’s grandson - he is 1st Lt. Brian Wilson with the 82nd Airborne and worked in the Kabul Airport, control of the 10 major wildfires raging in CA right now, churches as they try and do ministry in a new time, our friends at Heath Village & Colonial Manor, Frank Gibbs, Mark Simon’s baby named Benny, Dave (Rick’s brother) & Sue, Carol D., Derek Fleming, The Willet Family, The Tamarco Family, The Calandriello Family, The Miller Family, The Ward Family, Rich Pearson & Family, Lisa who is hospitalized with Covid, Lauren, Faye's college friend Bridget, Tom & Lisa Grillo, Jaylyn & Savanna, Brian, Vinnie Candito, Dee Lartie, Anne, Robyn, Diane, Amy, Charles, Laura, Bonnie Sue, Keith, Nick, Leslie M., Jackie, Mike, Danielle, Carolyn, Patrick, Anne, Maggie, Lila, Giselle, Judy, Marianne (**Please let us know when to remove a name.**)

Ninabeth will be back from vacation tomorrow.

To see ways you can help those in desperate need nationally and internationally, see last week's e-news.

Youth Group/Youth Squad (Ages 10 and up) Come join us!

REMINDER that masking is required. Dates are 9/24, 10/29, 11/21, 12/17.

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

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Office hours: Mon. – Fri. 9:00am – 2:00pm

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FRIENDS ~ FAMILY ~ FAITH