



PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

Worship in the Episcopal Tradition
September 5, 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: Lord, open our hearts this morning to hear your words of compassion.

ALL: Lord, help us to truly listen to you.

ONE: Lord, open our spirits this morning to strengthen our faith.

ALL: Lord, help us to work for you.

ONE: Lord, make us ready to serve.

ALL: Lord, make us ready to witness to your healing love. Amen.

HYMN

O Master Let Me Walk With Thee

**O Master, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.**

**In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,
in peace that only thou canst give,
with thee, O Master, let me live.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought,
word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our
neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your
Name. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus
Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us
in eternal life. Amen.

THE COLLECT

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PSALM 146 *Spoken In Unison*

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

Gospel: Mark 7:24-37

From there Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears,

and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

MESSAGE

Rev. Jeanette Hile

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ONE: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

ALL: That we all may be one.

ONE: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

ALL: That your Name may be glorified by all people.

ONE: We pray for all bishops, priests, pastors, deacons, and lay servants;

ALL: That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

ONE: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

ALL: That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

ONE: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

ALL: That our works may find favor in your sight.

ONE: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

ALL: That they may be delivered from their distress.

ONE: Give to the departed eternal rest.

ALL: Let light perpetual shine upon them.

ONE: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

ALL: May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

ONE: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

Rev. Jeanette Hile: O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. 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 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

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.

OFFERATORY PRAYER

God of life, savior of the poor, receive with this money gratitude for your goodness, penitence for our pride and dedication to your service in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COLLECTS

For the Nation

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace. Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

For Peace

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us now and forever more. Amen.

POSTLUDE

***Credits:** Call to Worship by Nancy Townley and Prayer of Confession the Collect, Prayers of the People, Offertory Prayer, and The Collects are from The Common Book of Prayer.*

Image: Migrant Farmer Workers Mural. Art in the Christian Tradition, Jean & Alexander Heard Libraries.

Hymn: O Master Let Me Walk With Thee, CCLI #158243, Public Domain.

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 **(Thank you and please keep sharing & praying! Let us know when to remove a name.)**

Ninabeth will be on vacation from Saturday, September 4th - Monday, September 13th. ***Nikki will also be out a few days next week so the church office will be closed Tuesday & Wednesday but Donna will be in the kitchen all day Thursday cooking and taking orders.***

Donna **needs brownie bakers** for next week's Thursday 9/9 \$5 Chicken Dinner. Please let her know if you can bake, thank you!

Next week on September 12th, **Jack Tironi is leading worship**. He is Methodist, a Certified Candidate for Ordination and Drew Theological School student.

Plastic Bags Needed

If you have extra grocery store-sized plastic bags we could use them here at church for the Food Pantry Wawa Food Harvest pick-ups. Thank you!

To see ways you can help those in desperate need nationally and internationally, see this past week's e-news or our website for information.

Return to Sunday School! On Sunday September 12th join us downstairs at 10:30am for a welcome back get together! Kids in K-6th grade are welcome to take part in a kid friendly service as we return to our classrooms. Sarah & Dan will be there at 10:15 if you want to arrive early with any questions. After you drop your child off you can exit the side door and head upstairs for worship. We can't wait to see you! **REMINDER that masking is required.**

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.

Arlene Metrione's new address is: 335 Kellie Lane Drive
Spartanburg, SC 29301

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