



PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

**Worship in the United Methodist Tradition
October 17, 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.

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 10:32-45

Jesus and his disciples were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, with Jesus in the lead. The disciples were amazed while the others following behind were afraid. Taking the Twelve aside again, he told them what was about to happen to him. "Look!" he said. "We're going up to Jerusalem. The Human One will be handed over to the chief priests and the legal experts. They will condemn him to death and hand him over to the Gentiles. They will ridicule him, spit on him, torture him, and kill him. After three days, he will rise up."

James and John, Zebedee's sons, came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask."

"What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.

They said, "Allow one of us to sit on your right and the other on your left when you enter your glory."

Jesus replied, "You don't know what you're asking! Can you drink the cup I drink or receive the baptism I receive?"

"We can," they answered.

Jesus said, "You will drink the cup I drink and receive the baptism I receive, but to sit at my right or left hand isn't mine to give. It belongs to those for whom it has been prepared."

Now when the other ten disciples heard about this, they became angry with James and John. Jesus called them over and said, "You know that the ones who are considered the rulers by the Gentiles show off their authority over them and their high-ranking officials order them around. But that's not the way it will be with you. Whoever wants to be great among you will be your servant. Whoever wants to be first among you will be the slave of all, for the Human One didn't come to be served but rather to serve and to give his life to liberate many people."

MESSAGE

HYMN

Are Ye Able, Said the Master

Are Ye Able

"Are ye able," said the Master,
"to be crucified with me?"

"Yea," the sturdy dreamers answered,
"to the death we follow thee."

Lord, we are able. Our spirits are thine.
Remold them, make us, like thee, divine.
Thy guiding radiance above us shall be
a beacon to God, to love, and loyalty.

Are ye able? Still the Master
whispers down eternity,
and heroic spirits answer,
now as then in Galilee.

Lord, we are able. Our spirits are thine.
Remold them, make us, like thee, divine.
Thy guiding radiance above us shall be
a beacon to God, to love, and loyalty.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

There are so many people of influence in our world, Jesus, those with loud voices and deep pockets, those with large lives and wide networks.

But, where are the leaders?

As we struggle to keep our broken humanity from splintering into countless irreparable fragments;

**As we wrestle with our greed and arrogance,
our ignorance and short-sightedness,
our violence and coldness,
our carelessness and narcissism,**

Where are the leaders?

**Raise up for us, O God,
leaders worthy of the name, men and women who like Christ
are unafraid of challenge,
unashamed of serving,
and unattached to their own personal gain;
men and women who like Christ call to the best within us, and then lead the
way. And, in our own small spheres, God, may we be the leaders we seek.
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.

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

You have been called to serve the Lord with gladness. Go from this place knowing that God’s blessings have been poured on you so that you may be a blessing to others. Be at peace and bring the good news of God’s love and peace to all whom you meet. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Questions to consider this week

As disciples of Jesus Christ, who are the ones God put around you to serve?

What are specific ways you can be a great leader for them?

How are we, the church, serving the communities around us?

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: Geese, Pixaby from Pexels.

Hymn: Are Ye Able, Said the Master Public Domain

Announcements & Upcoming Events

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Joe & Eileen O' Reilly, Eloise Mial, Dong-Hee Nam, Angus-Rick Wilson's father, Lisa and Brandon in the passing of Brandon's father, Kathy Pflugfelder, Bruce, Keith, Laura, Kailynn, The DeLaCruz Family, Rich K., Ann Custard, Anne Ellis, George Capola, Joe & Suzanne McCarthy, Smardar & Joe for healing, Bridget, The Gibbs Family, Betty Schultheis, Meghan Rose, Anne, Julie, The Hal Loss Family, Zachary, churches as they try and do ministry in a new time, The Tamarco Family, The Miller Family, Rich Pearson & Family, Carol D., Derek Fleming, Lauren, 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, Michelle, Giselle, Judy, Marianne

Thank you and please let us know when to remove a name from the list.

A Message from Anne Ellis

Thank you to everyone for your prayers, good wishes, positive energy, support, cards, texts, emails, calls, and ice packs. A special thanks to Terri, Henry, Penny, and Zoe who volunteered to help me get to outpatient PT when I start that. I feel truly uplifted by your love and blessed to be part of the PVEC family. I am healing nicely following knee surgery and hope to see you in person sometime in November.

PVEC Kids Creations for Community

Please take a flyer located in the narthex for more information

Stewardship Snippet

Oct. 17, 2021 (21st Sunday after Pentecost, Year B)

Mark 10:42-44—Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all.

Jesus gives us a reality that's topsy-turvy from what we know! We achieve greatness by serving others? Why is this so hard? What kind of heart-transformation does it require?

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

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FRIENDS ~ FAMILY ~ FAITH