



# PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

Worship in the Tradition of the Presbyterian Church USA  
Celebration of the Lord's Supper  
October 3, 2021

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

*Our Worship can be viewed on our website  
[PantherValleyChurch.org](http://PantherValleyChurch.org)*



## PRELUDE

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

## INTROIT

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

PVEC Bell Choir

## CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In the beginning, when God created, God looked at the world and called it good.

**All: Not only way back when, but even now, God is creating, calling us to join the work of making the world good.**

One: Earth and water and air, plants and animals and people, made from dirt and word and love.

**All: God gifts us all this and more, so that we can glorify and enjoy God forever.**

One: Come, let us worship God together.

## CALL TO CONFESION

God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and God's mercy endures to all generations. When we confess our brokenness, God's grace offers us a glimpse of healing. Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, let us confess with open and honest hearts our failure to live up to God's call. Let us pray.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Creator God, you made us to live together with you. We confess that we are sorely tempted by the opportunity to be our own gods. We admit to you that we have tried shortcuts to wisdom—we think we know what is best, when really we know just enough to do harm to your creation and your beloved people. Forgive us for acting so arrogantly out of our limited human perspective. Forgive our disobedience, and give us ears to hear your word, and hearts ready to obey your will. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: In the beginning, God breathed life into being, and every morning God's mercies are new. Know that you, child of God, made in God's image, are forgiven, loved and free. Believe and live the good news:

**All: God's goodness is planted more deeply than all that is wrong. Thanks be to God!**

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Holy Spirit, bless this our reading of your word that we might neither add to it or take anything away from it. (Deut. 4:2)

Help us to keep your commandments and plant them within our hearts. Amen.

## **PSALM 8**

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**SERMON** Donna Weinberg

## **HYMN**

### Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear;  
things I would ask him to tell me if he were here:  
scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,  
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

First let me hear how the children stood round his knee,  
and I shall fancy his blessing resting on me;  
words full of kindness, deeds full of grace,  
all in the lovelight of Jesus' face.

(cont.)

Into the city I'd follow the children's band,  
waving a branch of the palm tree high in my hand;  
one of his heralds, yes, I would sing  
loudest hosannas, "Jesus is King!"

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

- ONE: O Lord our Sovereign, how exalted is your name in all the world!  
You created the heavens and the earth and placed us in your world to glorify and enjoy you forever. We pray for those who are most vulnerable among us, especially the children who look to us for loving care.
- ALL: Give us boldness and compassion to care for those who are most in need.**
- ONE: We pray with wonder as we celebrate the intricate vastness of your creation.
- ALL: We rejoice in the glory of the heavens and the beauty of the earth, and we are grateful to be a part of your design.**
- ONE: We pray for your people who are in need, for the sick, the lonely, the broken, and the grieving, who are especially close to your heart, as they are to ours.
- ALL: Clothe your people with healing, with gladness, with hope.**
- ONE: We pray for the wholeness of this earth you have entrusted to us.
- ALL: For peace, for the harvest, and for the well-being of every creature, we pray.**
- ONE: O Lord our Sovereign, how exalted is your name in all the world!
- ALL: We give you glory in Jesus' name. 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](http://www.panthervalleychurch.org), or add PVEC to your online bill pay. Thank you for your generosity.

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**O Lord, you have filled the earth with good things and invited us to share freely in the blessings of life. By sharing our gifts with others, we proclaim your grace. May the offerings we present be a sign of the abundant life you intend for all your people. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**ONE: The Lord be with you.**

**ALL: And also with you.**

**ONE: Lift up your hearts.**

**ALL: We lift them to the Lord.**

**ONE: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

**ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

With our whole heart and our very being we praise you for you are a wise and wonderful God. With nothing more than a word, you created the whirling planets and breathed life into all of creation. You made us in your image, that we might be stewards of this good earth.

Together, with all of creation, we sing your majesty:

**ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

You blessed us with the promise of abundance and grace if only we lived within the bounds of your mercy. But we pushed those boundaries and neglected your earth, mistreating one another and failing to care for creation. So you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to redeem us for we were unable to redeem ourselves. In the flesh he came among us and preached the Gospel not only in word but in deed.

We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus, on the night before he died, took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, broken for you.

In the same way Jesus took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

We gather this day, God of all majesty and power, to lift up your holy name and proclaim the mystery of faith:

**ALL: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Giver of Every Mercy, send us the presence of your Spirit that she might bless us in this holy meal, sending us forth into the world to be both hearers and doers of your Word.

Unite us this day with our sisters and brothers around the world as we preach the Gospel and grow in our understanding of discipleship.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, all glory and honor are yours, Holy God, both now and forever more. 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 17<sup>th</sup> century and used by reformed and Presbyterian churches.*

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

## **WE SHARE THE MEAL**

Behold the mystery - The Bread we break is the Bread of Life.

Behold the mystery - The Cup we Share is the Cup of Love

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**God of grace, you have given us all things, and you have fed us with Christ's presence through this sacrament. We commit ourselves to you now, and we give ourselves to the work of your kingdom, which is upon us in Jesus' life. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

May the holy wisdom of God guard your ways and guide your paths.  
May the living truth of God enlighten your hearts and open your minds  
And may the living Spirit of God give you life, and life to the full!  
Amen!

## **POSTLUDE**

***Credits:** Call to worship and Prayer of Confession are written by Teri Petersen. Prayer of Illumination and Communion liturgy is written by Stephen M. Fearing. Prayers of the People and Prayer of Dedication are written by Nathan Williams.*

*Image: Pittman, Lauren Wright. Raise Your Head, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57076> [retrieved September 28, 2021]. Original source: <http://www.lewpstudio.com> - copyright by Lauren Wright Pittman.*

*Hymn: CCLI #2627445, Public Domain*



## **Announcements & Upcoming Events**

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

The Gibbs & Family, Betty Schultheis, Nikki's sister Samantha, Meghan Rose, Anne, Julie, Josephine Fracasso, The Hal Loss Family, Ann Custard, Henry Newbold, Zachary, Mark Simon's baby, Benny, health & safety in our schools, our mental & physical health, churches as they try and do ministry in a new time, our friends at Heath Village & Colonial Manor, The Willet Family, The Tamarco Family, The Calandriello Family, The Miller Family, The Ward Family, Rich Pearson & Family, Carol D., Derek Fleming, Dave & Sue, 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, Michelle, Giselle, Judy, Marianne

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

Donna & Penny are planning Fellowship Hour on the first Sunday of each month \*(Communion Sunday). Join us today for chicken noodle soup.

**Love is the Way Bible Study today** after worship in person or via Zoom 11:45 am. See e-news for link information.

**We are grateful to Friends & Neighbors for their donation of \$200.**

### **STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET - Oct. 3, 2021 (19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, Year B)**

**Psalm 8:4, 6** –What are human beings that you [Lord] are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet.

*God gives us dominion over God's creation, which means we're in charge. But that also means we have a duty to treat the created world respectfully and use its resources responsibly. How do you think we're doing? As steward-disciples, how can we do better?*

## Stewardship Prayer

**M**y church is composed of people like me.  
I help make it what it is.

**I**t will be friendly, if I am.

**I**ts pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

**I**t will do great work, if I work.

**I**t will make generous gifts to many causes,  
if I am a generous giver.

**I**t will bring other people into its worship and fellowship,  
if I invite and bring them.

**I**t will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness  
and faith, and a church with a noble spirit,  
if I, who make it, am filled with these same things.

**T**herefore, with your help, Lord, I shall dedicate myself  
to the task of being all the things that I want my  
church to be.

Amen.



## **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](mailto:pvecpastor@gmail.com)

**Music Director:** Diane Van Dongen

**Church Administrator:** Nikki Nicinski

Email: [pvecsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:pvecsecretary@gmail.com)

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

Website: <http://www.panthervalleychurch.org>

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***FRIENDS ~ FAMILY ~ FAITH***