



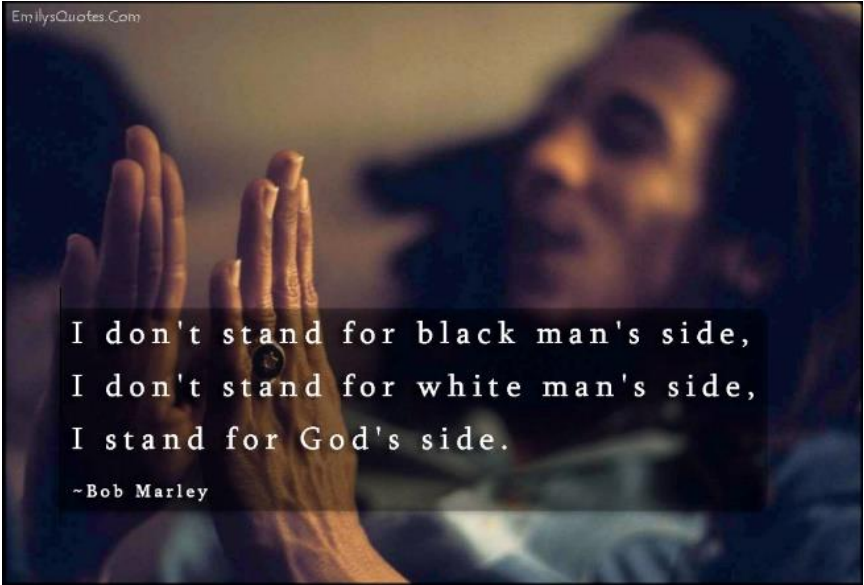
PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

Worship in the United Methodist Tradition
February 13, 2022

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

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

EmilysQuotes.Com

A photograph of Bob Marley with his hands clasped in prayer. The image is dark and moody, with a focus on his hands in the foreground. A semi-transparent black box with white text is overlaid on the center of the image.

I don't stand for black man's side,
I don't stand for white man's side,
I stand for God's side.

~Bob Marley

PRELUDE

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Creator God, you are a stream of living water; we are trees planted nearby, rooted in your deep, flowing love.

All: We drink from your blessing; we grow in your grace.

ONE: By the gentle presence of Christ with us we avoid the ways of selfishness and cynicism, even when they are all around us.

ALL: We fill ourselves with your Word, and we delight in your ways; rooted in your Creation, we flourish in your love.

ONE: All of our evil perishes in your grace. It becomes like dry leaves, blown away in the wind of your Spirit.

ALL: In closeness with you, we bear the fruit of love for the healing of the world. Flow in us, God of life, and once again transform us by your grace. Alleluia!

HYMN

Lord, I want to be a Christian

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be more loving, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be more holy, in my heart;

Lord I want to be like Jesus, in my heart;

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us open our hearts to the Lord.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we confess the poverty of our spirits. We lift up to you the hunger of our souls, and our broken hearts. We need you. Turn us away from the riches of this world, to receive the riches of your grace. Forgive our sin, heal our hearts, renew our hope; create us anew.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The realm of God is yours.

Your poverty, your hunger, your mourning are circumstances.

The presence, the fulfillment, the joy of God are yours no matter what.

Your failures are mere passing breezes.

But the grace given to you is eternal as the stars.
Your riches, your fullness, your merriment, they too, are passing.
But your belovedness is eternal.
Let the winds blow. Let them.
You remain the beloved.

LISTENING PRAYER

Beloved, we thank you: out of poverty, abundance.

We open to you: out of hunger, fullness.

We trust you: out of weeping, laughing.

May your grace well up in us, out of our dying, your rising.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 1: 1-3 New Revised Standard Version

Happy are those

who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;
but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate day and night.

They are like trees

planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.

In all that they do, they prosper.

Jeremiah 17:7-8

Blessed are those who trust in the Present One,
who entrust themselves to Love.

They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;

in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

Luke 6:17-21 New Revised Standard Version

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

“Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

MESSAGE Rooted in a topsy-turvy world

HYMN Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet *PVEC Choir*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE 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

God of grace, you have raised us up from death to life. When we are weak you are strong. Give us deep trust in your grace, and send us out as hollow, fragile vessels of your inextinguishable grace; to be light in the darkness and healing in the hurt, to be among the poor and powerless with hope and courage; to love at all costs, knowing our life is in you alone. We pray, as we go, in the name and the company of Christ. 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

***Flowers are donated in celebration of Zoe Milelli's
son Joe's birthday.***

Credits: *The liturgy is written by Steve Garnaas-Holmes.*

Image: Leuthold, Julie. Tree of Hope, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://digilib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57033> [retrieved February 9, 2022]. Original source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/julieleuthold/7521645058>

Hymn: Lord, I want to Be a Christian, CCLI #3184437, Words: Public Domain, Music: 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

Stewardship Snippet (6th Sunday after the Epiphany - Year C)

Jeremiah 17:7-8: *Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and whose trust is the Lord. "For he will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; but its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought, nor cease to yield fruit."*

Okay, here's what jumps out at me... There must be something in the water! So, what's in this water to get us to that extra level of trust?

Spending time in God's Word - and probably lots of time (Check out Psalm 1 - also one of this week's Lectionary readings). So as PVEC faces new challenges, be sure that God will be with us in our struggle. Read your Bible daily! Blessings, Donna

Announcements & Upcoming Events

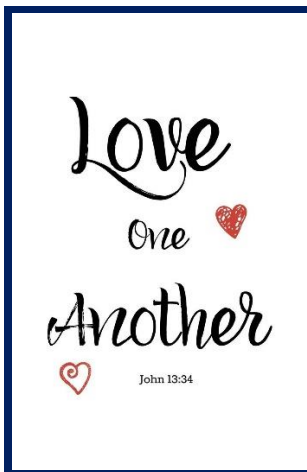
Please pray for:

Greg Weinrich, The Efremov Family, Ninabeth & The Metcalf Family, The PVEC Congregation

YUMMMM Souper Bowl Sunday TODAY! Pickup from 11:45 am - 1:30 pm

Upcoming Events as previously posted in e-news & bulletin:

- 2/12 PVEC Kid's Creations for Community - FH 3:30-5:30pm
- 2/13 Moving Outward & Forward in Love meeting - FH/Zoom 11:45am
- 2/13 Souper Bowl Sunday - 11:45am to 1:30pm pick up
- 2/20 VBS Meeting, Sacrament Class
- 2/27 Moving Outward & Forward in Love meeting - FH/Zoom 11:45am
- 2/27 April Rummage Sale Meeting for Volunteers after worship



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

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

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FAMILY ~ FAITH ~ FRIENDS