



## **PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH**

**Worship in the United Church of Christ Tradition  
February 20, 2022**

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

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



**"You can pray until  
you faint, but unless  
you get up and try to  
do something, God is  
not going to put it in  
your lap."**

**– Fannie Lou Hamer**

selfloveguru

## PRELUDE

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

## CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Where do we find you, Holy One, and how do we follow?

ONE: Find me at your table,

**ALL: We'll share your food.**

ONE: Find me in your resources,

**ALL: We'll share your riches.**

ONE: Find me in your power,

**ALL: We'll share your mercy.**

ONE: Find me in your pain,

**ALL: We'll share your forgiveness.**

ONE: Find me in your generosity,

**ALL: We'll share all, and expect nothing in return.**

ONE: In community, seek my holiness,

**ALL: We follow you in love, generosity and joy.**

ONE: In the world, share my desire,

**ALL: We follow you in justice, mercy, peace for all.**

## HYMN

### Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

#### Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love

## Refrain

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

## Refrain

### **INVOCATION**

Holy One, you are deep within our world, calling us to join you in creating abundant life for all. Open our hearts to recognize you. Free us to trust your call and follow. Enable us to repent, and forgive, and join in your work to make “all things new.” In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Holy One, your call is deceptively simple:

“Do to others as you would have them do to you.”

And yet we cling to self-serving ways which separate us from your beloved creation. You call us to turn our lives around, to risk repentance and learn forgiveness, to work with patience and diligence to prepare the way for your Reign, but we get discouraged and give up too soon.

**Lord, have mercy.**

You call us to be full of joyful confidence to create community where all have enough for abundant life, but we burden ourselves with anxiety and fear.

**Christ, have mercy.**

You call us to speak out in the presence of injustice, but too often we do not challenge words and actions rooted in hate.

**Holy One, have mercy**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Our God is good, and generous, and loving.

Trust in Jesus’ promise.

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

## **SCRIPTURE**

### **Luke 6:27–38**

“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

**MESSAGE**      *Sitting with Judas*

**HYMN**

Hymn of Promise

*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 Ecumenical Text which was developed in contemporary language by the English Language Liturgical Consultation in 1988.*

**Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name,  
Your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
Now and for ever. 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.

When we give our tithes and offerings, we are witnesses to the transforming love of God in Christ. I invite you to give as generously as you have received.

### **BLESSING OF THE GIFTS**

**Accept these gifts, we humbly pray, O God.**

**Let them give you honor and glory as we serve the needs of your people. And let the called and redeemed of God say, Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION**

**Send us into the world, O Holy One,**

**Ready to witness to your generosity and forgiveness.**

**Ready to be recognized as those who follow your Way.**

**Ready to shape a world of justice, peace and joy.**

### **POSTLUDE**

***Flowers are donated by Betty Schultheis in honor of  
her sister Janet Miller's birthday.***

***Credits:*** The liturgy is from Worship Ways of the United Church of Christ and is written by Rev. Susan Blain.

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Hymn: Great Is Thy Faithfulness, CCLI # 18723, Public Domain,

Hymn of Promise, CCLI# 126529, 1986 Hope Publishing Company.

## **Stewardship Snippet (7th Sunday after the Epiphany - Year C)**

Luke 6:37: Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give and it will be given to you.

So how can we be merciful? The best way to be merciful toward others is to remember one simple phrase. When you are tempted to look down, or be critical of others, just remember that the only reason you are not in their same situation is because of the grace and mercy of God upon you. The phrase I like to repeat to myself is "There, but for the grace of God, go I." Donna Weinberg

## **Announcements & Upcoming Events**

### **Please pray for:**

Adam, Eleanor, Bridget & Mike for Bridget's transition to God, Joe & Stevie, Elizabeth & Family

### **The Council is looking for volunteers to serve on a Discernment and/or Search Team to find a new minister.**

These people will have a very important job to do in a relatively short amount of time (approximately 3 mo.). We would hope to get active church participants who are willing to commit time to work collaboratively via weekly zoom meetings and/or in-person retreats/events to discern who PVEC is and then to put out a call for a new minister. We want to form a diverse group that will represent our unique church. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve PVEC.

There will be a short **Congregational Meeting on Sunday, March 6** following church service to vote on the 2022 budget.

### **Christian Outreach is very grateful to our 12 cooks who made the delicious soups for our annual "Souper" Bowl event!**

We raised \$662 for Operation Chillout; a Long Valley based group who helps homeless veterans. Many thanks to all who were involved by cooking, organizing, and buying for this mission. We still have some leftover soup in the freezer (Tomato Orzo, Lentil, Chicken Noodle, Kielbasa, Squash with Potato & Beef, Vegetarian Chili). Please call the office if you are interested in buying more or trying some.

\*Don't forget to let the Nikki in the church office know if you prefer ***NOT*** to receive the **upcoming Easter Packet delivery** so we can remove you from the list. Otherwise the Worship Committee folks will make sure you receive them. Thanks!

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

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

3/6 Congregational Meeting for Budget Vote

**Rummage Sale coming in April ~ Start your Spring cleanout early!**

Fri. 4/22, Sat 4/23, Sun 4/24 for congregation, Sat 4/30

Contact Liz Silva with questions at 908-343-1305. Volunteers to help would be greatly appreciated for set up cashiers, clean up, etc. - meeting for those interested in participating is scheduled for Sunday, 2/27 after worship. Donations are now being accepted. Items can be dropped off at church during business hours or put neatly in bins outside near the Library entrance/exit heading down the outside ramp towards the office.

Donna is also going to do a Chicken Lunch/Dinner on Friday, April 22 from 12-7pm.



# 30 BIBLE VERSES

*about*

# CHANGE

Hebrews 13:8

2 Corinthians 5:17

Jeremiah 29:11

Colossians 1:6

Malachi 3:6

Hebrews 11:8

Romans 12:1-2

Joshua 1:9

2 Peter 2:9

2 Peter 3:9

Matthew 6:27

Hebrews 7:12

1 Corinthians 15:51

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Ezekiel 36:26

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Deuteronomy 31:6

Deuteronomy 31:8

2 Corinthians 3:18

Jeremiah 7:5

Romans 12:2

1 Corinthians 6:14

Proverbs 3:5-6

Romans 5:4

Jeremiah 13:23

Daniel 4:16

James 4:7

Philippians 1:6

Hebrews 6:19

Psalms 32:8

## **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

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**FAMILY ~ FAITH ~ FRIENDS**