



PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

**Worship in the Presbyterian USA Tradition
Celebration of the Lord's Supper
February 6, 2022**

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

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

Celebrating
Black History

"'Twant me, 'twas the Lord.
I always told him, 'I trust
to you. I don't know
where to go or what
to do, but I expect
you to lead me,'
and he always did."

- Harriet Tubman



PRELUDE

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: How lovely it is to be in the presence of God!

All: Better is one day in God's house than thousands spent elsewhere.

One: Our hearts and flesh sing for God, our souls long to know God.

All: Holy, holy, holy is God, the whole earth is full of God's glory!

One: Come, let us worship God together!

HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us turn to the most holy One and confess our sins, confident in God's faithful and steadfast love for us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the universe and Creator of all that is, we admit that we fail to be honest about our lives. Sometimes we are deceitful; other times we judge ourselves harshly and feel unworthy of your call on our lives. Touch us with your grace and dispel our fear, that we may arise with renewed spirits to serve you. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The promise is this: God is faithful and steadfast, eager to forgive and welcome us home. Grateful for the promise of joy and peace, let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION based on Psalm 138

Faithful God, we come into Your presence with thanksgiving, deeply grateful for the unfailing love and faithfulness You have shown toward us, Your people.

When we call out to You, You answer.

When we are exhausted, You give us the strength to go on.

When we find ourselves in trouble,

You are there, standing beside us.

And so we come before You gratitude and praise, offering You the worship of our hearts and lives. Open our eyes to see and know You here among us; open our ears to recognize Your voice. And then send us out from here, to live and work in the world as Your faithful disciples.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Luke 5:1-11 New Revised Standard Version

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

MESSAGE *“If You Say So”*

PRAYER OF RESPONSE

You are the God who makes extravagant promises. We relish your great promises of fidelity and presence and solidarity, and we exude in them. Only to find out, always too late, that your promise always comes in the midst of a hard, deep call to obedience.

You are the God who calls people like us, and the long list of mothers and fathers before us, who trusted the promise enough to keep the call.

So we give you thanks that you are a calling God, who calls always to dangerous new places. We pray enough of your grace and mercy among us that we may be among those who believe your promises enough to respond to your call.

We pray in the one who embodied your promise and enacted your call, even Jesus. Amen.

HYMN

Here I Am, Lord

PVEC Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Holy One, we give thanks for your generosity to us. Today, we offer our gifts, our lives, our compassion, our service to others, and to your creation.

Bless all that we offer, so that we might be blessings of hope, peace, and grace. In Jesus' name, we pray. 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.

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 17th century and is 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 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: *Prayer of Invocation* is written by Christine Longhurst, *Worship Prayer of Response* is written by Walter Brueggemann, in *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth: Prayers of Walter Brueggemann*, (Augsburg Fortress, 2003, p. 90).

Image: Altar cloth, photograph by Ninabeth Metcalf

Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

Stewardship Snippet

Feb. 6, 2022 (5th Sunday after Epiphany - Year C)

Isaiah 6:8: Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

Stewardship is the gift of being held accountable for just, equitable, fiscally and spiritually responsible and loving use of God's provisions for self and community. Using the elements of prayer, vision, wisdom, dialogue and planning, Holy Stewardship allows us to transcend desperation, greed, callousness, and guilt toward management of human and financial resources. We do so because, like Isaiah, the love of God compels us to work with and use these gifts justly. Stewardship is celebration, confessional, and liberating. When viewed in this fashion, then we know that we have a responsibility to give of ourselves for the greater good of others and the planet that houses all of us. Yes, many causes, churches, and organizations need money. However, what they often need even more are people who will tithe of their time to have an organizational dream flourish. Think about this as PVEC plans many community events in the coming months! Blessings, Donna

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Please pray for:

Frank Reitz upcoming surgery, Betty Schultheis, Sherry, a peaceful solution between Ukraine & Russia, Norma & Lenny, Healthcare Workers

The Worship Commission continues to try to enrich your personal worship

experience. We want to address three issues as Covid is going to be with us for a while and therefore it might be longer before we are able to worship in person in all the ways that we were able to do before. First, we want to thank those of you who have expressed your appreciation for the packets and the joy which they delivered to you. Just know that planning and putting them together brought us great joy too. Second, some of you were concerned that this was an unnecessary expense. The major cost would be paper (and recently a member had to move and donated all their card supplies to the church - probably about 5 years' worth of paper). Other members of our commission lovingly donate parts of the packet and members of the community have donated pumpkins, etc.

Henry, Zoe and Anne voluntarily deliver them to you so don't concern yourself with cost. Last, if you do not wish to receive the packet, just notify Nikki in the office and we will remove you from the list. Also, if any of you would like to join the Worship Commission, we welcome you with open arms.

Blessings, Betty and Carol

Souper Bowl - Sunday, February 13, 2022, from 11:45 am - 1:30 pm

Panther Valley Ecumenical Church is hosting it's annual "Souper Bowl" with proceeds from the soup sale going to Operation Chillout which supports homeless veterans in our area. There will be 12 soups available, including: Tomato Orzo, Lentil, Chicken Noodle, Bean & Bacon, Ground Beef & Barley, Kielbasa soup, Split Pea, BBQ Soup, Squash, Potato & Beef, Potato Leek, and Corn & Crab.

Vegetarian Chili will be available too. Prices are \$9.00/quart, \$5.00/pint or a sampler containing 4 different soups (8 oz. each) for \$10.00. Order by calling or emailing the church office Mon-Fri between 9am & 2pm.(908-852-5444 or pvecsecretary@gmail.com)

February 13th & 27th there will be meetings of the group **Moving Outward and Forward in Love** at 11:45am in Fellowship Hall (in person and via Zoom).

Reminder that there is a **February PVEC Council Meeting** on Tuesday, Feb. 15 at 7 pm via Zoom.

Sunday, February 20th is a **VBS meeting and a Sacrament Class after worship.**

Rummage Sale coming in April! 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, February 27 after worship service.

Fri. 4/22 from 9am-6pm

Sat 4/23 from 9am-2pm Bag Day (small \$5, large \$8)

Sun 4/24 after service congregation can shop, also Bag Day

Sat 4/30 from 9am-2pm Dollar Day

Beginning now donations are being accepted. No big box TVs, electronics must be in working order, no stained or torn clothing, no big stuffed animals, large furniture such as coffee tables & nightstands must be approved in advance. Items can be dropped off at church during business hours or put neatly in bins outside near the Library entrance/exit heading towards the office.

March 2: Ash Wednesday Service @ 7pm

When you're facing
a difficult situation,

Hang On!

The Word tells us to
wait on the Lord...

*"Wait on the Lord,
be of good courage,
and He shall strengthen
your heart."
Psalm 27:14*

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>

Tel: 908-852-5444

Email: panthervalleychurch@gmail.com

FAMILY ~ FAITH ~ FRIENDS