

Welcome to the Panther Valley Ecumenical Church

We are glad you are worshiping with us today!



PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

November 6, 2022

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

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

FAITH ~ FAMILY ~ FRIENDS

Thank you to Elder Mel Prestamo who will be leading today's service.

Mel is married to his wife Phyllis of 45 years. He is Papa to Josh, Ava, Evan and Zoe. He is a member of the Long Valley PC, serving as their Clerk of Session. He and Phyllis sing in the choir. Mel is a past Moderator of Newton Presbytery and is currently serving on the Permanent Judiciary Committee and the Committee on Representation for the Highlands Presbytery. He is retired from the business world and devotes himself full-time to Pulpit Supply and Golf.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: O Sing to the Lord a new song...

ALL: ...for He has done marvelous things.

ONE: Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the earth;

ALL: ...break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

ONE: Sing praises to the Lord with the Lyre and the sound of melody.

ALL: ...With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the Lord.

ONE: Come, let us worship the Lord, our God. (Psalm 98)

HYMN

Morning Has Broken

Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing
Praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the world

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven
Like the first dewfall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass

Mine is the sunlight
Mine is the morning
Born of the one light Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning
God's recreation of the new day

CALL TO CONFESSION:

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us." 1 John 1:9

CONFESSION: (Unison)

We know that you continuously shower your mercies and grace upon us. You provide us comfort and healing. You have given all, including your Son, so that we can be made righteous and come to stand in your presence.

But Father, we confess that we take your gifts and mercies and grace for granted. It is almost as if they are expected, and we forget that we need to give glory to your name and thanksgiving to the One whose sacrifice and blood has cleansed us.

Forgive us our audacity in believing that when you do these things it is simply because it is what you do and that our part is done. Remind us that glorifying your name and giving thanks needs to be our essential response to your love and grace.

SLIENT PRAYER & PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

My Friends, as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. Know that your sins are forgiven.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (Unison)

May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you O Lord, our rock, and our redeemer.

First Reading: 2 Timothy (selected verses)

I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. ⁸ So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord.

2 You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others...⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, descended from David, was raised from the dead. This is my gospel, ⁹ for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. ¹⁴ Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. ¹⁶ Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. ¹⁷ Their teaching will spread like gangrene...

3 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ² People will be lovers of themselves, ...boastful, proud, abusive, ... ungrateful, unholy, ³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, ... not lovers of the good, ⁴ treacherous, ... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God — ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people...¹⁰ You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, ¹¹ ...the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. ¹² In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ **But as for you**, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed ... ¹⁷ so that the servant of God^[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

GOSPEL **ALL STAND**, Luke 20: 27-38

MESSAGE But As For You...

Elder Mel Prestamo

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

THE APOSTLES' CREED

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

HONORING THE SAINTS THAT HAVE GONE BEFORE

The Congregation is invited to come to the Table to light a candle in remembrance of the Saints that have passed on to the glory of God's Kingdom in Heaven. [Come forward. Light a candle and mention the name of a loved one whom you want to honor either aloud or in your heart.]

Redeemer God, you said "the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Gospel." You gave us existence and revealed even greater blessings in the world to come. Today, we celebrate Your servants who have already attained that blessed state. And while we remember Your holy servants, we should not forget that with you anything is possible, even our participation in Your divine life. Let us, by honoring Your Saints in heaven, be not only grateful to you for what you have done in them but to amend our own lives and imitate them to reap the same rewards.

Almighty and everlasting God, we remember before you those who have lived among us, who have directed our steps in your Way, opened our eyes to the Truth, inspired our hearts by their witness and strengthened our wills by their devotion. We rejoice in their lives dedicated to your service. We honor those who

have passed and pray that we may be united with them in the glory of Christ's resurrection.

You gave us Saints so that we can honor You by recognizing Your redemptive work in them, and that we could have shining examples and powerful intercessors in our lives. They received blessings and righteousness from You because they belonged to You. Allow us today to appreciate them for their past merits and their present prayers offered in the sight of Your divine majesty so that our lives too may become pleasing to You. For our prayers we pray the prayer that he has taught us...

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

SHARING OF COMMUNION

Communion Litany

Luke tells us that on the day of Jesus' resurrection, two of his disciples were walking on the road to Emmaus returning home from their pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the Passover feast. They were discussing between themselves the events of the week in Jerusalem. While they were walking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them but they did not recognize him.

As they walked, he asked them, "What are you discussing?"

They responded, "Are you the only one in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there? The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth who was a mighty prophet before God and how the chief priests had him handed over to have him crucified?" Jesus walked with them and explained why it was necessary that the Messiah suffer these things and then enter into his glory. He began with Moses and then all the prophets and interpreted for them things about himself.

As they approached their village, they urged him to stay with them. So, he entered into their home and sat with them to eat. When he was at the table, he took bread, blessed it and broke it and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him.

My friends, let us pray that as we come to the table that our eyes will be opened to see the risen Lord.

My friends, this is the Lord's table. It is not a Presbyterian table nor one belonging to any religion or denomination. The Lord Jesus welcomes all who believe in him to join with him in the sharing of this meal that he has prepared for us.

One: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to our Lord our God.

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

You are holy of God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, whom you sent to save us. He came with healing in his touch and was wounded for our sins. He came with mercy in his voice and was mocked as one despised. He came with peace in his heart and was met with violence and death.

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 given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. [PAUSE – allowing the people to eat the bread]

In the same way he 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. [PAUSE – allowing the people to drink]

When they had done this, he said to them, "I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." This is a foretelling to us of our promised place in the Kingdom of God when Jesus will greet us in all his Glory. Let us rejoice in the promise of the Word of God.

Father God, as we take this bread and this fruit of the vine from the gifts you have given us, we celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the one crucified and risen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE OFFERING

Ascribe to the Lord and bring honor and gifts unto His name.

SPECIAL MUSIC

THE DOXOLOGY

(unison)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

OFFERING PRAYER, ALL STAND

Father God, you have been gracious to us, lavishing us with your gifts of Grace and Mercy. We offer these gifts cheerfully and gratefully returning to you a measure of what we have received to display our desire to participate with you in your ministry to our community and the world. Amen.

HYMN

Take My Life

Verse 1

Take my life and let it be consecrated
Lord to Thee
Take my moments and my days
Let them flow in ceaseless praise
Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee

Verse 2

Take my voice and let me sing
Always only for my King
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee
Take my silver and my gold
Not a mite would I withhold
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry power as You choose

Chorus

Here am I all of me
Take my life it's all for Thee

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

My friends, my charge to you this morning is to take a good look in the mirror and ask yourselves, have you been tempted by the allure to give up? The demands of the good works of the Christian Life are hard. They challenge us. They push us to our limits. But they are the purpose for which we have been saved. So I say again, "But as for you"...stay steadfast in the faith that you have learned and firmly believe. Proclaim the Good News but remember that your faith is borne out in good works. You are his hands. You are his feet. You are his heart.

May the Lord that gives you breath and life watch over and protect you and guide you on your way this day and every day. Amen.

DISMISSAL

One: Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Credits: Image by Ninabeth Metcalf.

The Collects, Psalms, and Canticles are from the Book of Common Prayer, 1979.

Music: Gaelic Melody with Arrangement by Dale Grotenhuis [1985], Take My Life CCLI Song # 4162843, Chris Tomlin | Frances Ridley Havergal | Henri Abraham Cesar Malan | Louie Giglio © 2003 sixsteps Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Please pray for:

Our Church, Our World, The loss of life in India & Seoul, Korea, The Reese & Hanson Families, Kim & Family, Phil, Rick, Sally, Lois, Sharon Belden recovering from brain tumor surgery, age 30

A warm thank you to all who donated items for the church sale! Cylvia & Penny appreciate the help of everyone involved.

Please welcome Nancy back to the Church Office as she covers for Nikki who will be out for about 2 weeks.

Upcoming Events

Sat. 11/19 3:30-6:30pm Family/Friends Thanksgiving Dinner hosted by Youth Squad. All are welcome! **RSVP by 11/12/22.**

Sun. 12/4 Guest Preacher, Rev. Mike Atzert & Communion
Hanging of the Greens, **Annual Congregational Meeting 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.

Guest Preacher: Elder Mel Prestamo

Music Director: Diane Van Dongen

Church Administrator: Nikki Nicinski

Email: pvecsecretary@gmail.com

Office hours: Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri 9:00am – 2:00pm

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