



PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH
Sunday, July 30 , 2023

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

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

FAITH ~ FAMILY ~ FRIENDS

***Please stand if able**

PRELUDE

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Redeeming God, we come before you today carrying our crosses of pain, sorrow, and sin.

All: We ask you today to silence our hearts so that we may see and hear the depth of your love.

Leader: Give us the faith, Lord, to grow our mustard seed of faith and nourish it so that we may grow closer to you today and every day.

All: Allowing us to be ever in your care as we walk through the turmoils and triumphs of life.

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, we ask you today to plant within our hearts a tiny mustard seed that from there may grow a faith that is as strong as roots of the tallest trees. For those of us who already have such a faith, let it be continually nourished at the wellspring of your grace. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

***HYMN # 540**

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

Prayer of Confession

**All: Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart and soul
and mind and strength.**

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

**In your mercy,
forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.**

(From the Presbyterian Church U.S.A's Book of Common Worship)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

When Jesus left the disciples, he gave us a promise:

“I will not leave you orphaned!”

For we, his disciples, live in him and he in us—

the presence of God within and around all.

What a promise! Take courage! Take comfort!

Blessed be God!

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (Unison)

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read, we may hear with joy what you say to us this day.
Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Romans 8:26-39

Psalm 105:1-11

Matthew 13:31-33

SERMON – James Vespoli,

“All We Need is a Mustard Seed of Faith”

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

(Dawn Charlton, Ann, Helen, Myrna, Laura, Charles, Walter, Bobby, Rob and Celia, Sherry)

LEADER: Show us your mercy, O Lord;

ALL: **And grant us your salvation.**

LEADER: Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

ALL: **Let your people sing with joy.**

LEADER: Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

ALL: **For only in you can we live in safety.**

LEADER: Lord, keep this nation under your care;

ALL: **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

LEADER: Let your way be known upon earth;

ALL: **Your saving health among all nations.**

LEADER: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

ALL: **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

LEADER: Create in us clean hearts, O God;

ALL: **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

LORD'S PRAYER

We invite you to pray the prayer in the language you are used to speaking. 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.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross. We meet in his name and share his peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

THE OFFERING

We are called to take care of God's church doing our very best in time, treasure, and talent. Allow for Your Spirit to guide us and grow our mustard seeds of faith into bulwarks of love capable of withstanding all the troubles of the world. Let us now return to God our tithes and offerings. Thank you for your generosity.

***DOXOLOGY**

**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.**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Loving God, with our tithes and offerings we pray that you may work in our world. So that through our hands the hungry may be fed, the naked clothed, and sick healed all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN #405**

Seek Ye First

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The mission of our church is to welcome all people into our multi-denominational church as we connect with the community, grow disciples, and serve Jesus Christ.

Announcements & Upcoming Events:

Join the Community Presbyterian Church of Chester, NJ, Saturday, August 5th , 9am-3pm. For The Annual Peach Festival. Free Admission Rain or Shine

4-H Fair on the Farm, this year join us at [High View Farms](#) in Mt Olive, NJ Friday-Sunday, 7/28-30.

Please join us in welcoming the following guest preachers to lead PVEC in worship:

August 6- DaraSue Braun, Aug. 13- Rev. Will Joseph, Aug. 20 & 27 - Dan Ledwith

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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: TBA, transition period
Email: pvecpastor@gmail.com

Music Director: Diane Van Dongen

Church Administrator: Pat Twining
Email: pvecsecretary@gmail.com

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

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

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