



PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH
Third Sunday of Easter May 1, 2022
Holy Communion

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

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

FRIENDS ~ FAMILY ~ FAITH

PRELUDE

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

Today We Are Worshiping In The United Methodist Tradition

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE : Christ is risen.

ALL: Christ is risen in deed!

ONE: Risen Christ, you come to us, hidden and unrecognized, and you bless us.

ALL: We greet you with awe and wonder.

ONE: You give us your gifts and nourish our souls.

ALL: We welcome you with gratitude and joy.

ONE: You give us the spirit of your peace and call us to love.

ALL: We serve you with faith and hope. Alleluia!

HYMN

Christ Whose Glory fills the Skies

UMH #173

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return,
till thy mercy's beams I see;
till they inward light impart,
cheer my eyes and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine;
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, Radiancy divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of love, you have raised Christ from the dead, yet we don't recognize the Beloved among us. Speak to us and awaken our hearts. Open our eyes to see your presence, to hear your call, and to follow you, in the power of your Spirit of love. Amen.

GOSPEL READING: John 21:1-19

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin,^[a] Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards^[b] off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Jesus and Peter

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time,

“Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

MESSAGE *Are you willing to cast your net in a different way?*

SPECIAL MUSIC *We Will Glorify the King of Kings*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

I'm not really sure I want to admit it, God,
but I am a person with gifts. Oh, I'm not one of those super-talented, can-do-it-all, people, but there are things I'm good at, things that might even be useful to You and others.

But, here's the problem – if I admit it, then I have to do something;
then there are no more excuses;
no more comfortable inadequacies to hide behind.

If I acknowledge the abilities and strengths You have placed in me
I'm going to have actually use them;
I'm going to have to serve, and be accountable,
and maybe even make commitments...
and stick to them.

But, if I pretend that I'm not gifted at all, I lose something of myself,
I allow myself to be less than I really am, to experience less, to learn less,
to be less alive.

So, thank you, God, for making me a gifted person, and thank you that my gifts can make a difference, can, in some small way, help to make Your dream for my world a reality. 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: dropping it into the “church” located in the Narthex, by mail, through our website, or add PVEC to your online bill pay. Thank you for your generosity.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

May the gifts we offer this day, Kind God, bring joy to those whose mornings are hopeless, feed those whose noontimes are filled with hunger, and bring peace to those whose nights are surrounded by fears and worries. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ONE: God is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Lift up your heart.

ALL: We lift them up to God.

ONE: Let us give thanks to the Holy One, our God.

ALL: It is good and beautiful to give God our praise.

Eternal Creator, Unfailing Liberator, Steadfast Lover, we thank you. Like then sun rising on the sea you shine on us with beauty and hope. When we think we are alone you are with us. When we think we are empty handed you provide nets full of fish. You feed us; you call us your children; you set us free from fear and despair. You give us bountiful gifts, and we thank you. You set this table before us and invite us to feast with you in the morning light of resurrection. So we come to your table, with all your Beloved singing your praise.

**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.

Blessed are all who come in your name, and blessed is Jesus, your Christ.

He fed the hungry and healed the broken. He suffered with us and for us. In Christ you are faithful to us; you walk through death to be with us, in love and blessing.

On the night in which he gave himself for us Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, blessed it with thanks and gave it to them, saying, "Drink of this, all of you. This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, in a new Covenant, which is the forgiveness of sin." As long as we break this bread and share this cup, we remember his death and resurrection, until he comes again.

As he did at that table, and so many other times, Jesus did again on the seashore: he took bread, blessed it, and gave it to his friends. We feast on the miracle of your presence. As long as we break this bread and share this cup we remember Christ's death and resurrection, until he comes again. Therefore, remembering these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves as a living and holy sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

ALL: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and cup, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ. Pour out your Spirit on us, that we may be for the world the Body of Christ, taken—drawn up in the net of your grace, blessed—awakened by the light of your love, broken—stripped of all but our love for you, and given to the world, in the resurrecting power of your Spirit.

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 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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, we thank you for this mystery in which you have given yourself to us. You have fed us with grace that can't be predicted, with abundance that is hidden until it is received. Send us into the world now to follow Christ, to feed your sheep, to embody your love, in the name and Spirit of Christ. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Holy One, blessed by your presence and fed by your love, we give you thanks. You have drawn up from the depths of mystery gifts we did not know we have. Send us now in the power of those gifts to feed your sheep, to tend your Beloved, to live for the well-being of all who long for life, in the name and the Spirit and the presence of the risen Christ. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Today's Altar Flowers are given in celebration of Victoria Rosselot receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Stewardship Snippet (3rd Sunday of Easter - Year C) May 1, 2022, Revelation 5:11-14

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, "To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

I love the Book of Revelation, the mysterious future told to us! We learn that worship is the future toward which we are headed. When we worship, we are living in God's future. It is God who calls us forward to worship. It is God who forms us through worship: practicing unity, compassion, forgiveness, mercy, love. It is God who scatters us from worship to live as Christ's representatives in the world. We are called together for worship. We are transformed by worship. We are sent from worship. When the end comes, Jesus will say to us: "Wonderful! You are good and faithful servants. I left you in charge of only a little, but now I will put you in charge of much more. Come and share in my happiness!" (Matt 25:21 CEV) Donna Weinberg, Stewardship

Credits: Call to Worship. Opening prayer, The Great thanksgiving and Sending is adapted from: Steve Garnaas-Holmes. Prayer of Confession is written by John van der Laars.

Hymn: Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies. CCLI#808926, Public Domain

Image: Loaves and Fishes from the First Presbyterian Church Asheville website

Announcements & Upcoming Events

The Ukrainian People & Our World, Refugees Everywhere, Adam, Syndie & Family, Steve, Dale Hooey & Family, Ron McKinnon & Family, Glenn McFall, Evelyn in her twilight transition

Penny and Donna invite you to **coffee hour** immediately following worship.

THANK YOU TO ALL THE ORGANIZERS, HELPERS, CHEF & SERVERS, BAKERS, SHOPPERS, AND SUPPORTERS OF THIS SALE!

FYI – **Nikki will be on vacation from May 11-27.** Zoe and Penny will be volunteering a few days each until Nancy (the former temp admin) can cover the office starting May 17.

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

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

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FAMILY ~ FAITH ~ FRIENDS