

Good Enough:

Embracing the Imperfections
of Life and Faith

Lent 6

"You are a group project."



PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

Palm Sunday

Sixth Week of Lent

April 10, 2022

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

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

PRELUDE

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

Longing to Praise

I dare you! Thought the stone really hard.

I dare you to keep your praises silent.

Because then, Then, THEN, it will finally be MY turn.

My praises have been kept in for far too long!

Praises to my dear creator who crafted the mountains

that formed around me, compressing me,

squeezing me tighter and tighter until I emerged . . .

whole and strong.

Praises to my dear creator who crafted the rivers that swished over me,

sometimes trickling, sometimes rushing until I emerged . . .

gleaming and smooth.

Praises to my dear creator who carved me out of the earth,

chiseling and cutting, pulling and tugging,

fine tuning and chipping until I emerged . . .

healed and beautiful.

I dare you to keep silent. Because my praises need only a voice to cry out!

CALL TO WORSHIP Based on Psalm 118

Leader: Let us pray together:

**ALL: Holy One, God of Goodness,
we call out to you at the Gates of Righteousness,
sometimes in praise, sometimes in distress—sometimes both at
once.
We long to be in your house in the presence of beloveds,
binding the festal procession with branches.
Open us this day to your love
in and through the webs of our relationships—
and in the simple and good enough moments that fill our days.
Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

HONEST QUESTIONS, COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE

Today we will hear Jesus ask his disciples to go into a village and there “You will find a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’”

A humble donkey, not glamorous or powerful, maybe not even noticed, but exactly what Jesus needs. We overlook so many parts of ourselves – an extraordinary talent, a simple presence, a broken heart – gifts that we have been given that we undervalue. But Jesus needs them for purposes we can not see. What gifts of yours does Jesus need to bring healing and wholeness to this world? How might you untie the “humble donkey” that Jesus requires?

Let us take a moment of silent reflection...

Silent Reflection

Hear this compassionate word from the Letter to the Philippians: “Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus...”

Know that already, God embraces our beauty and our woundedness and forgives us when we fail to recognize or use these gifts.

Come with Jesus on the Way of Love, ... and fail ... and be forgiven ... and come again. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are being forgiven, even now.

**ALL: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Glory to God! Amen.**

THE PEACE

HYMN

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

UMH #278

Hosanna, loud hosanna,
the little children sang,
through pillared court and temple
the lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them
close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed
mid an exultant crowd,
the victor palm branch waving,
and chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of earth and heaven
rode on in lowly state,
nor scorned that little children
should on his bidding wait.

"Hosanna in the highest!"
that ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer,
the Lord of heaven our King.
O may we ever praise him
with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence
eternally rejoice!

Gospel Reading Luke 19:28-43a

After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

"Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.” As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, “If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace!

MESSAGE *And the Stones Cry Out – Hosanna!*

HYMN *Hosanna! Hosanna!* *PVEC Choir*

PRAYERS FOR THE LIFE OF OUR WORLD

ONE: Holy One, in your love and mercy: hear our prayer.
Holy One, Spark of Life,
creation was envisioned by you and is sustained by you;
in gratitude we pray for the world:
that its riches and resources be used responsibly and fairly;
that its rulers and leaders may govern with justice, compassion and
humility;
that humankind may live with understanding and respect,
noticing what unites us.

ALL: In your love and mercy: hear our prayer.

ONE: Holy One, Prophet of Love,
you lived among us to teach us – to show us – how to love;
in humility we pray for siblings around the globe:
for those dehumanized by their struggle for existence, may we listen;
for those overshadowed by the constancy of death, may we notice;
for those besieged by fear, anger and relentless peril, may we show up;
for those ensnared by systems beyond their control, may we demand
change.

ALL: In your love and mercy, hear our prayer.

ONE: Holy One, Breath of Being,
you are here – in this very moment – as constant presence and insistent
voice;
in gratitude we pray...with boldness we pray:
inundate the world with humility,
overwhelm the world with truth,
flood the world with kindness,
upset our indifference,

accelerate our action,
fortify our resolve,
compel us to authentic discipleship
that nurtures creation, embodies love and breathes life.

ALL: In your love and mercy, hear our prayer.

PRAYER OF DISCIPLESHIP

We pray that we may be at peace with Christ, our savior and our ruler.

We pray that we may be at peace with all that is wounded in us.

We pray that we may be at peace with all people, and all Creation.

We pray that we may be at peace with those who oppose us as we resist injustice.

We pray for those in need.

We pray for the work of your Spirit in our own lives.

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, 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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Generous God, in light of your extravagant blessings—
no matter what the state of the world or our imperfect lives—
we offer our gifts and ourselves, and know that you transform what we
plant into the produce of love. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

And now, may the God who loves all of creation, especially the ordinary parts, and Jesus, our companion along this crooked path called life, and the Holy Spirit, who loves to improvise in surprising ways, go with you, dwell among you, and give you joy. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Credits:

Longing to Praise is written by Katie Matthews Treadway and was posted on the “Gifts in Open Hands” WordPress.

Call to Worship and Benediction are written by Marcia McFee ©

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Honest Questions and Compassionate Response was inspired by a prayer written by Steve Garnaas-Holmes.

Prayers for The Life of Our World adapted from a prayer written by Katherine Kussmaul.

Prayer For Discipleship written by Steve Garnaas-Holmes.

Hymn: Hosanna, Loud Hosanna. CCLI#197280, Public Domain.

Stewardship Snippet(Liturgy of the Passion - Year C) April 10, 2022, Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

So here we are waiving our palms, knowing what's coming; what do we do now? Jesus has given us a visible example of a life of pure love—of pure service. He has shown us what it looks like—when someone puts aside his/her self-interest to do something for others. Even with his example always before us, we will never do these things perfectly

well—but with God’s help we can get better and better at bringing our lives into congruence with Christ’s life. His example is the real meaning of Stewardship. Blessings,
Donna Weinberg

Announcements & Upcoming Events

The Ukrainian People & Our World, Refugees Everywhere, Ninabeth & The Metcalf Family, The PVEC Congregation, Pastor Andrews Family & Congregation, The Weinberg Family in their loss of "Mr. Gershwin," Arlene Bailey, Steve, Don, Cayenne, Gordon, Lois, Sally, Donald, Mindy, Denise Romano Scafati

The 4/14 Maundy Thursday Service this week is cancelled.

Thanks to those of you who have written on **The Discernment Team's** PVEC timeline in Fellowship Hall. We hope to see many more responses between now and May 1st. Remember you can also share a longer story.

Important Note

As you are well aware Ninabeth is in a period of transition right now and working very hard to fulfill her responsibilities (and then some) in wrapping up her efforts here at PVEC. Time is moving too quickly and she is working in the past, present & future all at the same moment. You can imagine how challenging and draining that must be. She will be taking most Mondays off as she has no other days to herself. **Unless it is a truly urgent matter, please respect her day of Sabbath and her personal phone number.** Nikki is available in the office to take messages and help as needed. Thank you for your kind understanding.

Thank you for your **Rummage Sale donations** so far. We would appreciate ALL future donations be left in the classroom hallway, not put directly in any rooms. Liz is still in **need of assistance** (a range of jobs) from more people for the sale in 2 weeks. Please contact her at (908)343-1305. We still need canvas bags if you have extras and would appreciate any **bakers willing to make and donate treats** the first day of the sale.

Event Dates

Sun. 4/10 Moving Outward & Forward in Love meeting - FH/Zoom 11:45am
Fri. 4/15 Good Friday Service 7pm
Sat. 4/16 \$5 Bunny Breakfast, Photos & Egg Hunt 9-11am
Sun. 4/17 Easter "Sonrise" 6:15am, Communion 10:30am
Fri. 4/22 \$5 Takeout Chicken Lunch/Dinner 12-6pm, First day for Rummage Sale
9am-6pm
Sat. 4/23 Rummage Sale 9am-2pm
Sun. 4/24 Moving Outward & Forward in Love meeting - FH/Zoom 11:45am &
Rummage Sale after worship

Sat. 4/30 Last day for Rummage Sale 9am-2pm
Sat. 6/18 Fish & Chips Dinner 5-7pm, proceeds to VBS
8/1-8/5 VBS

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

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Music Director: Diane Van Dongen

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FAMILY ~ FAITH ~ FRIENDS