



PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

Sunday After Christmas

“Believe This: The Time Has Come”

December 27, 2020

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

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

FRIENDS ~ FAMILY ~ FAITH



PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Make yourself ready!

ALL: Raise your voices, change your hearts,

ONE: get ready to be transformed, because now is the time.

ALL: Let us embrace peace that we can do what needs to be done to bring more light into the world.

OPENING PRAYER

Holy One,
we thank you for the glimpses we have caught
throughout this season of Advent and Christmas
of your gifts of hope, love, joy, and peace.
Even in the midst of fear,
of challenge, of struggle—
even when we have not been sure of tomorrow,
you have ignited the Light within us,
and we have glowed with its brilliance
from the inside out.

I believe in the sun,
I believe in the sun,
even when... even when...
it's not shining.

Choral response

Help us continue to proclaim far and wide
that the time has come for light to be among all people.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!
Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for he commanded and they were created.
He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike,
old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.
He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the Lord

Luke 2:25-35

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

MESSAGE *Do You Hear What I Hear*

SONG *I Believe*

PRAYERS FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD

One: I invite you to get in a comfortable position of rest. I invite you to get as quiet and still as you can. I invite you to a deep breath and a deep listening posture—perhaps eyes closed or fixed on a candle—as we prepare for a time of prayer. *[pause for a breath]*

ALL: The gentle pull of God is often lost amidst the rush of all the obligations which lay a claim on us. Yet just beyond the frantic pace our restless feet have trod lie deep still pools of quietness— the dwelling place of God. Meet me in the stillness, Lord Be the air I breathe Meet me in the stillness, Lord Free me to receive. O take me to that secret place where lost in wonder and in awe, the moment comes and I rejoice to be and be with God. Meet me in the stillness, Lord Be the air I breathe Meet me in the stillness, Lord Free me to receive.

We invite you at this time to lift up Prayers for the World.

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Believe, with a peaceful heart! Believe, and shine your light!
Believe, because the song we sing is sung for all!
And now let the weak say, “I am strong;” let the poor say, “I am rich
because of what our God has done for us.” Believe!**

BENEDICTION

“When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flock,
the work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among others,
to make music in the heart.”

~ Howard Thurman

Go into your lives humming the tunes that keep that goodness alive in you
and that spur you on in your work of justice and reconciliation.
“do not be afraid!” Amen!

POSTLUDE

Credits: Today's Liturgy is adapted from: Worship Design Studio, Advent Candle liturgy is from SALT Project, *Opening Prayer*, "Singers for "Crossing the Threshold" Haylee Coburn, Jared Pugh, Katie Ledsinger, Ryan Rose; music by Mark A. Miller; mixed by Jared Pugh, Claremont UMC. Used with permission. www.worshipdesignstudio.com",

"I Believe" written by Mark A. Miller, permission granted by University of LaVerne Chamber Singers to use online/streaming worship. Used with permission. www.worshipdesignstudio.com,

I Believe Handbell Benediction, Mark A. Miller/ arr. Stephanie Rhoades, used by permission. Played by the PVEC Handbell Choir.

PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

1490 Route 517 Hackettstown, NJ 07840

Pastor: Ninabeth Metcalf, Music Director: Diane Van Dongen
Church Secretary:

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

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

Tel: 908-852-5444 Email: Panthervalleychurch@gmail.com