



PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

Easter Sunday April 4, 2021

*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.

INTROIT

Morning Has Broken

PVEC Bell Choir

OPENING WORDS

ONE: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

ALL: CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!

ONE: Darkness has been vanquished!

ALL: THE BRILLIANT LIGHT OF HOPE HAS COME!

ONE: Come let us worship and celebrate the Good News!

ALL: ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN! AMEN!!

GATHERING PRAYER

Jesus, on this grand day you defeated sin and death and rose to new life. In this time of worship, come to us, minister to our fears and doubts and raise us to new life. May we, in this hour, not only sing about your resurrection victory but come to believe in your triumph. May we not only adore you in our worship but follow you forth into the world as we show in our lives and in our words that “We have seen the Lord! He is risen!” Amen.

HYMN *Up from the Grave He Arose*

1. Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior,
waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

Refrain:

Up from the grave he arose;
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
he arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

2. Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus my Savior,
vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord!

(Refrain)

3. Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior;
he tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!

(Refrain)

SCRIPTURE READING: *PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24*

GOSPEL READING: Mark 15:1-8

MESSAGE *Galilee!*

SPECIAL MUSIC

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

**We give you praise, O God,
in faithfulness you have raised up Christ for us,
and your mercy knows no end.**

**God of life, we pray for those who are bowed down
under the weight of hunger, injustice, uncertainty, or despair.
You who provide every good thing,
uphold your people.
Open your hands wide
and satisfy the needs of every living thing.**

**God of hope, we trust in your righteousness
and depend on your love.
Be near to those on whose behalf we call upon you;
to those who face sorrow, illness, injury, or death.
Fulfill our longings for wholeness, healing, and new life;
hear and answer all who cry out to you.**

**Steadfast God, preserve us in your love,
that we might speak your praise
and bless you forever
in the name of the holy one, the Risen Christ. 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: by mail, through our website www.panthervalleychurch.org, or add PVEC to your online bill pay. Thank you for your generosity.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Together or alone, we continue to offer our gift to others – to those who hunger for hope in a time of uncertainty, to those who long for community to replace their loneliness, for those who seek faith instead of fears. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Christ has risen and we have risen to new life with him. Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you have walked patiently with us throughout our Lenten journey. You have celebrated our successes and our growing understanding of your love; and you have mourned our failures and rejections of your healing mercies. This day, as we have gathered to celebrate the joy of Easter, let us remember that we are to become “Easter People,” people of the Resurrection; people who know that what was thought to be impossible has been conquered. Forgive our stubbornness and fears. Fill us with your healing love and help us to become the disciples that you need to serve in this world. For we ask this in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Darkness is gone! Light floods into our souls! Christ is Risen! His love and mercy are poured out for you. Rejoice! You have been saved through the gift of Jesus Christ. AMEN.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and good and joyful thing, ...

... And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full – full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, ...

... as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, ...

...all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and forever. Amen.

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.

*We invite you to come forward
to receive the bread of life at the direction of the ushers.*

BENEDICTION

Go forth in peace. May the grace of the Risen Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Credits:

Today's Liturgy is adapted from: Opening Words and Prayer by Nancy Townley, Prayer for Reconciliation written by Greg Scheer.

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Children's faith formation is being offered on Class Dojo and at PVEC on Sundays.

Sunday School teachers are needed for preschoolers.

Bible Studies are being held on Zoom. Email or call the office if you are interested in joining these studies.

- 1st Corinthians - Monday evenings at 7pm via Zoom
- Spiritual Guides for the 21st Century; Protestant Reformers - Wednesday mornings at 10am via Zoom

PVEC Rummage Sale May 14 – 22nd! We are looking for volunteers! Please contact Penny Newell or Cylvia Ultz if you are interested in helping in any way!

Care and Nurture Prayer Shawls and Palm Prayer Squares are in the coat closet outside Fellowship Hall. People can take a bag to give to anyone who is in need of support and comfort.

The Lord's Pantry needs brown paper bags please.

The Church Directory has been updated and hard copies are available. We can also send them electronically. Let Nikki know if you have any changes.

Christian Outreach is looking for a new chair.

We are looking for someone to film services.

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

Email: pvecsecretary@gmail.com

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

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Friends • Family • Faith