



# PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

Worship in the Episcopal Tradition  
November 14, 2021

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

*Our Worship can be viewed on our website  
[PantherValleyChurch.org](http://PantherValleyChurch.org)*

## PRELUDE

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

## CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: With you, O Lord, all things are possible.

**ALL: We bless you and praise your name forever.**

ONE: In you, O Lord, we find our home.

**ALL: We bless you and praise your name forever.**

ONE: Through you, O Lord, we are made one in Christ.

**ALL: We bless you and praise you, O Christ, for your saving love.**

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Most 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; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

## HYMN

### *How Firm a Foundation*

"How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!  
What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through deep waters I call thee to go,  
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;  
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,  
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

## THE COLLECT

**Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE

Mark 13:1-13

New Revised Standard Version

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

## **MESSAGE**

*Of Dinosaurs and Humans*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**There is fear O God, and there is uncertainty in many human hearts—  
even in our hearts today—and for some—every day.**

**There is aimlessness in the hearts of others—  
senseless excitements about the details of the end of time,  
about the signs that are around us, for us to read and to understand—  
and yet they have no peace in this knowing  
and often argue about the meaning of things with others  
instead of breathing in the strength of earth and sky  
and breathing out love and compassion upon their own selves  
and the self of the world around them—the world you have made.**

**O Great God,  
you know about Fear, Aimlessness, Senseless excitements,  
and deep depressions of the soul.  
You understand the afflictions of the lonely—  
of those who have no one to draw close to.  
We pray especially today for these O God,  
that they may know your presence and see your power  
and be consumed by your glory  
and so find that which we all need...**

**Shine your light, we pray, upon those we name before you in our hearts  
now, be it ourselves, or the person next to us, or one we left at home,  
perhaps one we heard about on TV or the one who is our neighbor.  
Peace, O God, to them as we lift them up before you now...**

*Silence*

**Lord, hear our prayer...**

### **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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.**

### **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](http://www.panthervalleychurch.org), or add PVEC to your online bill pay. Thank you for your generosity.

### **OFFERATORY PRAYER**

**God of life, savior of the poor, receive with this money gratitude for your goodness, penitence for our pride and dedication to your service in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **THE COLLECTS**

A Collect for Guidance

**Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being; we humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

For Mission

**Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace; so clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us now and forever more. Amen.

## **POSTLUDE**

### **Questions to Consider**

How do Jesus's words resonate with you this week?

Am I willing to sit with the fact that things fall apart? (Things I love, things I built, things I cried and prayed and strived for.)

How can we hold each other tight?

Can I embrace a journey of faith that includes rubble, ruin, failure and new beginnings?

What is being born in you this day?

***Credits:*** *Call to Worship* by Nancy Townley. *Prayers of the People* is written by Rev. Richard J. Fairchild. *Prayer of Confession* the *Collect*, *Offertory Prayer*, and *The Collects* are from *The Common Book of Prayer*.

*Image: Living Word*, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56650> [retrieved October 6, 2021]. Original source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/denisecarbonell/2106528380/> - Denise Carbonell.

*Hymn: How Firm a Foundation*, Public Domain, CCLI#107816

## **Announcements & Upcoming Events**

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

Joy that Diane's son Jonathan is officially engaged!, Our Leaders, Relief from rising costs, Rick Nelson, Keith, Gordon, Heath, Friends @ Heath Village, Mike, Ellie, Cindy & Family, Katie, Joe & Elaine O'Reilly, Amy Testa, Jim, Adam, Kailin (surgery) and her parents, Marie, Jim & Michelle, Charles, Walter, Laura, Bonnie Sue, Yvonne, Helen, Claire, Grey, Bernadette Jacobus, The abducted missionaries in Haiti, Eloise Mial, Dong-Hee Nam, Lisa & Brandon in the passing of Brandon's father, Kathy Pflugfelder, Bruce, Angus, Rick Wilson's father, Kailynn, The De La Cruz Family, Rich K., Ann Custard, Anne Ellis, George Capola, Bridget, Refugees and those seeking asylum, Zachary, Churches as they try and do ministry in a new time, The Tamarco Family, The Miller Family, Meghan Rose, Anne, Julie, The Ward Family, Rich Pearson & Family, The Willet Family, Carol D., Derek Fleming, Lauren, Tom & Lisa Grillo, Jaylyn & Savanna, Brian, Dee Lartie, Robyn, Diane, Amy, Nick, Leslie M., Jackie, Mike, Danielle, Carolyn, Patrick, Anne, Maggie, Giselle, Judy, Marianne

**Some names have been on our list for an extended time. Please let us know when to remove them, thank you.**

### **SPECIAL DELIVERY COMING SOON TO YOUR DOOR**

**The 2021 Annual Reports** will be available for your review soon.

Around Thanksgiving you should expect **Advent packets** to be delivered by the Worship Commission.

The Annual Report will be distributed at this time if you don't receive it before then.

### **\*\*Our Annual Congregational Meeting is December 5th\*\***

All are invited to attend after worship at 11:45am (in-person OR via Zoom).

Fellowship Hour will follow the meeting at 12:15pm.

Please note that Nikki will be out of the office from November 18th - December 3rd.

Nancy (who was our previous temporary secretary) will be working in the office during that time.

### **Stewardship Snippet - Nov. 14th 2021 (25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, Year B)**

**Mark 13:1-8** - When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs. Mark 13:7-8

Humans still misplace hope in power, money, and might. Life is still chaotic. In spite of our great scientific and technological advances, many of the world's people are

oppressed, live in poverty, and suffer great violence. Wars, rumors of war, famine, and earthquakes continue. Mark reminds us that we are to be alert and watchful. We are to rely fully on God, and we are to care for our neighbors as ourselves. We are not to let widows, orphans, and others on the margins suffer want. We are not to go off alone wringing our hands, reacting to every provocative and distorted tweets and posts we see and hear. We are to be the people of God and be about God's business in this world—right here, right now.

## **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](mailto:pvecpastor@gmail.com)

**Music Director:** Diane Van Dongen

**Church Administrator:** Nikki Nicinski

Email: [pvecsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:pvecsecretary@gmail.com)

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

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

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***FRIENDS ~ FAMILY ~ FAITH***