



# PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

**Worship in the Episcopal Tradition  
January 23, 2022**

*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

### *God Is Here*

God is here! As we your people  
meet to offer praise and prayer,  
may we find in fuller measure  
what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us,  
all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of the Spirit  
into open minds and hearts.

Lord of all, of Church and kingdom,  
in an age of change and doubt,  
keep us faithful to the gospel;  
help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication,  
all we have to give, receive;  
we, who cannot live without you,  
we adore you! We believe!

## THE COLLECT

**Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE Luke 4:14-21 New Revised Standard Version

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

**MESSAGE** “The Power of Today”

**HYMN**

*Stand Up and Bless the Lord*

*PVEC Choir*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations;  
and for the well-being of all people.  
Pray for justice and peace.**

*Silence*

**I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the  
oppressed, and those in prison.  
Pray for those in any need or trouble.**

*Silence*

**I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper  
knowledge of him.  
Pray that they may find and be found by him.**

*Silence*

**I ask your prayers for the departed.  
Pray for those who have died.**

*Silence*

*Members of the congregation may ask the prayers or the thanksgivings of those present*

*I ask your prayers for \_\_\_\_\_.*

*I ask your thanksgiving for \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Silence*

**Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored [especially for those whom we remember today].**

**Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.**

*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, saviour 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 Grace

**Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

For Mission

**O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find You; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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**

***Today's flowers are given by Carol Phillips***

***in memory of Nick.***

***Credits:*** *Call to Worship* by Nancy Townley. *Prayer of Confession* the *Collect*, *Offertory Prayer*, *Prayers of the People*, and *The Collects* are from *The Common Book of Prayer*. *The Power of Today* inspired by the writings of *Diana Butler Bass*.

***Image:*** *Day of Pentecost Mosaic*.

***Hymn:*** *God Is Here*, CCLI #223549, © 1979, *Hope Publishing Co.*, *Stand Up and Bless the Lord*, CCLI #86652, *Public Domain*

## ***Stewardship Snippet***

**Jan 23, 2022 (Third Sunday after Epiphany - Year C)**

### **1Corinthians 12:12-13 NIV**

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

Paul describes what spiritual gifts are, who receives them, and what they are for. His emphasis is that particular spiritual gifts do not make believers spiritual. Every believer is spiritual because every Christian has God's Spirit with him or her. In addition, the Spirit gives one or more spiritual gifts to each believer to be used to serve the church. The church is like a body, in which every part is needed, and all the parts exist to serve one another. Every believer must discover how they are gifted by the Spirit and value the function they serve in Christ's body.

My Stewardship self thinks of body parts and remembers this, "The open palm holds more than the closed fist." Give Generously!

Blessings, Donna

## **Announcements & Upcoming Events**

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

Scott Churchill, Healthcare Workers, Scott Churchill, Ray, Janeen, John, Barbara Hokledge, Faye, People of Tonga & Pacific Islands, Diane, Addison, Jennifer, The Yengst Family, Kelly & Dan

As per the recommendation of our four denominations, at our January meeting the **Council voted to renew our mask mandate for all those who are entering the PVEC building**. Thus, beginning Monday, January 17, masks will be required once again. We will continue to monitor the situation and make further decisions as we proceed through the pandemic.

The **"BUSY HANDS" group** will be meeting on Mondays at 12:30 starting on Jan. 24. Bring your favorite project: knitting, crocheting, sewing, quilting embroidery, or whatever you like to do...lots of good conversation too!

**Christian Outreach will be having their annual "Souper Bowl" fundraiser again this year despite Covid.** We'll be selling soup to-go in pint and quart containers. Anyone who would like to contribute soup to this fundraiser please let Cylvia or Carol know what you'd like to make. All contributions are greatly appreciated. Further information will be coming soon.



**Classes on The Sacraments of Baptism & Holy Communion** - will be held on Sundays @ 11:45 in person or online on these four dates: 2/20, 3/6, 3/20, 4/3. For more information please see Pastor Ninabeth.

## **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

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***FRIENDS ~ FAMILY ~ FAITH***