



# PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

**Worship in the Ecumenical Tradition  
January 30, 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** (from Psalm 71.1-6)

ONE: In you, O Love, I take refuge;

**ALL: deliver me and rescue me;**

ONE: listen to me and save me.

**ALL: Be to me a rock of refuge,**

ONE: for you are my rock and my fortress.

**ALL: For you, O Holy One, are my hope, my trust.**

**My praise is continually of you.**

### **PRAYER OF ADORATION**

God whose love is vast and measureless, wider than the universe, unlimited and infinite: In wonder

**WE WORSHIP YOU.**

God whose love will never run dry, will never fall short, will never fail: In wonder

**WE WORSHIP YOU.**

God whose love knows nothing of our distinctions, our notions of 'deserving' and 'undeserving,' and which encompasses everyone: In wonder

**WE WORSHIP YOU.**

**We praise you that your love reaches us, in our struggles and our joys, in our hidden place of fear and shame, in our sorrow and disappointment. We praise you that in your love you meet us as we are, where we are, sweeping aside any sense of inadequacy, overturning misplaced dependencies, and opening a window of light and hope, until we see in you our one true home. We praise you that your love comes gently, a warm scented breeze in the winter hurricane, a creeping tide smoothing rough sand, a depth of stillness to a heart in turmoil.**

**God your love is beyond all we can tell, yet we know that you are here with us, and that you care for every detail of our lives. We offer you hearts filled with gratitude. In wonder WE WORSHIP YOU. Amen.**

## HYMN

### *God of Love and God of Power*

God of love and God of power,  
grant us in this burning hour  
grace to ask these gifts of thee,  
daring hearts and spirits free.

Refrain:

God of love and God of power,  
thou hast called us for this hour.

We are not the first to be  
banished by our fears from thee;  
give us courage, let us hear  
heaven's trumpets ringing clear.  
(Refrain)

God of love and God of power,  
make us worthy of this hour;  
offering lives if it's thy will,  
keeping free our spirits still.  
(Refrain)

## SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 1:4-10 Good News Translation

The Lord said to me, "I chose you before I gave you life, and before you were born I selected you to be a prophet to the nations."

I answered, "Sovereign Lord, I don't know how to speak; I am too young."

But the Lord said to me, "Do not say that you are too young, but go to the people I send you to, and tell them everything I command you to say. Do not be afraid of them, for I will be with you to protect you. I, the Lord, have spoken!"

Then the Lord reached out, touched my lips, and said to me, "Listen, I am giving you the words you must speak. Today I give you authority over nations and kingdoms to uproot and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

## MESSAGE

*The Stories We Tell Ourselves*

### PRAYER OF RESPONSE

In a cynical and despairing world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your hope.

In a violent and angry world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your peace.

In a dismissive and disinterested world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your compassion.

In a lonely and inhospitable world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your love.

In a grieving and weeping world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your joy.

May we be so captivated by your hope, O God, that we cannot help but to whisper, to sing, and to enact, the message of your reign which is always coming into our world;  
And may our quietly prophetic lives, be channels of your restoring grace wherever we may go. Amen.

## HYMN

*My Life Is In You Lord*

*PVEC Choir*

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray to our God saying:

**Lord, in your righteousness, deliver us and set us free.**

Holy God, you knew us before we took our first breath.

You uttered your living Word and brought forth light, love, and life.

You gathered us from the dust of the earth and called us your people.

You sent us into the world to proclaim your mighty and wondrous deeds.

You are with us even now as we continue our call.

**Lord, in your righteousness, deliver us and set us free.**

Mighty God, you have done great things; who is like you?

You alone are our rock of refuge.

You alone are our strong fortress.

You alone are our hope and in you alone is our trust.

**Lord, in your righteousness, deliver us and set us free.**

Merciful God, your love never ends.

We confess to you that we do not always share your love as we should.

Where you have called us to live as one body, we exist as divided members.

Where you have called us to give our Spirit-given gifts, we ignore your call.

Where you have called us to forgive, we have forgotten your mercy.

**Lord, in your righteousness, deliver us and set us free.**

Gracious God, do not be far from us!

Strengthen us that we might be givers of your grace and  
may your steadfast love be known to all of your children.

Send your Holy Spirit to empower our hands to

clothe the naked, feed the hungry, and love all as you have first loved us.

**Lord, in your righteousness, deliver us and set us free.**

Loving God, hear today the prayers that we lift up to you.

Be with those of us who are gathered here.

Give us hearts of courage and songs of your grace

to tell others of your righteous acts and deeds of salvation.

**Lord, in your righteousness, deliver us and set us free.**

Abundant God, be with those of us that yearn for your restoration and healing.

Today, we ask your blessing upon [*list names of those in need of healing*].

We also lift up to you those who we bring before you within our hearts...

**Lord, in your righteousness, deliver us and set us free.**

Faithful God, your power and your righteousness reach the heavens.

Hear us, your servants, as we follow you to the day when

faith, hope, and love will be upon the lips of all of us, your children.

These things we pray in the name of your Son who taught us to pray saying...

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

## **OFFERATORY PRAYER**

**Collaborative Creator God, you call us to join in your work of love in the world, and you equip us with all we need to follow your lead. Now make us generous of hand, heart, and mind, as you are. As we return to you a portion of your gifts, we pray you would receive them as a sign of our gratitude for your unending love, and guide us as we offer our whole selves in your service, seeking your abundant life for all. 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**

*Flowers are donated in honor of Donna Weinberg's  
granddaughter Hope's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.*

**Credits:** The Prayer of Adoration was written by Louise Gough. Quietly Prophetic was written by John van de Laar. Prayers of Intercession was written by Stephen Fearing. Prayer of Dedication is written by Rev. Teri Peterson.

*Image: Ninabeth Metcalf, 2017*

*Hymn: God of Love and God of Power, CCLI#7071956, 1941 Abingdon Press  
My Life is in You, Lord, CCLI#17315, 1986 Integrity's Hosanna! Music*

### **Stewardship Snippet**

**Jan 30, 2022 (4th Sunday after Epiphany - Year C)**

#### **Psalm 71:1-6 - An Old Man's Prayer**

In you, Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame. In your righteousness, rescue me and deliver me; turn your ear to me and save me. Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go; give the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress. Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel. For you have been my hope, Sovereign Lord, my confidence since my youth. From birth I have relied on you; you brought me forth from my mother's womb. I will ever praise you.

Whether you are an "Old Man/Woman" or a "Young Woman/Man" Every aspect of Christian discipleship can be defined in terms of stewardship. Thus worship is stewardship of the faith God has given us. Worship in its fullest sense is our response to, and expression of, that gift. It is more than a weekend obligation. It's the stewardship of our relationship with God, creature connecting with Creator, the giving of ourselves to God through praise, prayer, **and acts of commitment.** Think about your relationship with God as you support his church! Blessings,  
Donna Weinberg

### **Announcements & Upcoming Events**

#### **Please pray for:**

Tommy Kepler & Family, Beau, Arlene Bailey, Sarah & Dylan who just had baby Ian and now have Covid, Hermine with Covid pneumonia, the loss of Officers Rivera & Mora from the NYCPD

The first Vacation Bible School meeting this Sunday after worship in Fellowship hall! If you would like to volunteer and help us out in any way, please join us in person or via zoom: see link on next page

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88670393857?pwd=dHc0Um1CbmROcUZKRvdrMWhWcjJLdz09>

Meeting ID: 886 7039 3857

Passcode: pvec

## **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

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

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**FAMILY ~ FAITH ~ FRIENDS**