



# PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

**Worship in the Episcopal Tradition  
February 27, 2022**

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

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



**NOT EVERYTHING  
THAT IS FACED  
CAN BE CHANGED  
BUT NOTHING CAN  
BE CHANGED UNTIL  
IT IS FACED.**

**JAMES BALDWIN**



## PRELUDE

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

## CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Lord, open our lips.

**ALL: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## 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.

## PSALTER

*Psalm 99 New Revised Standard Version*

The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! The Lord is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!

Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. Extol the Lord our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he!

Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name. They cried to the Lord, and he answered them. He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them.

O Lord our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

Extol the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the Lord, our God is holy.

ONE: The Lord has shown forth his glory:

**ALL: Come let us adore him.**

## **HYMN**

**SCRIPTURE** Luke 9:28-36 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

## **MESSAGE**

*Exodus*

## **HYMN**

*PVEC Choir*

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **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*

*At this time let us lift up names of those who need prayers.*

*Silence*

**Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.**

*Silence*

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

### **THE 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.

When we give our tithes and offerings, we are witnesses to the transforming love of God in Christ. I invite you to give as generously as you have received.

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom, and you are exalted as head over all. With gladness we present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.**

## **CLOSING PRAYERS**

**O God, who on the holy mount revealed to chosen witnesses your well-beloved Son, wonderfully transfigured, in raiment white and glistening: Mercifully grant that we, being delivered from the disquietude of this world, may by faith behold the King in his beauty; who with you, O Father, and you, O Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Christ, whose glory fills the skies, fill us with radiance and scatter the darkness from our path. Amen.**

**Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, gladden our eyes and warm our heart. Amen.**

**Christ, the Dayspring from on high, draw near to guide our feet into the way of peace. Amen.**

**And the grace of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with us and remain with us always. Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION** *(from Ephesians 3:20,21)*

**Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **POSTLUDE**

***Flowers are donated by Betty Schultheis in honor of her son Stephen Schultheis's 45<sup>th</sup> birthday.***

***Credits: The liturgy is from The Book of Common Prayer***

***Image: JESUS MAFA. Transfiguration, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48307> [retrieved February 22, 2022]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).***

***Hymn:***



### **Stewardship Snippet** (Transfiguration Sunday - Year C)

Luke 9:43: "And all were astounded at the greatness of God" (NRSV)

A final word on the Transfiguration gospel story. If the story itself and/or the heart of listening as it relates to our action as stewards and disciples doesn't seem to excite you about stewardship, perhaps this last included verse will help - While everyone was amazed at all that he was doing. Focusing on this verse might be an easy way to think about our reaction to God's work for us, promises for us, and God's presence and activity all around us. **Are we amazed at what God is doing? And if so, how do we share that amazement?** Because Peter, James, and John were understandably amazed and terrified at the awesomeness of God on display in the Transfiguration; I could only imagine and hope that we would be likewise. Your forty-day Lenten chart has been mailed to you - begin on Ash Wednesday (March 2) and study and learn how you can do amazing things during this time of self-transformation. Donna Weinberg

### **Announcements & Upcoming Events**

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

Kristina in hopes her back heals, Richard Hawkins recovery from a heart attack, Greg Weinrich, Adam, Ninabeth & The Metcalf Family, The PVEC Congregation

#### **The Council is looking for volunteers to serve on a Discernment and/or Search Team to find a new minister.**

These people will have a very important job to do in a relatively short amount of time (approximately 3 months). We would hope to get active church participants who are willing to commit time to work collaboratively via weekly zoom meetings and/or in-person retreats/events to discern who PVEC is and then to put out a call for a new minister. We want to form a diverse group that will represent our unique church. **Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve PVEC and contact Cylvia if you are interested.**

**WE STILL HAVE SOUP IN THE FREEZER FOR PURCHASE FROM SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY. Stop by and take some on your way home.**

There will be a short **Congregational Meeting next Sunday, March 6** following church service to vote on the 2022 budget.

**NEW! Lunctime Meditation Wednesdays begin next week from 12:30pm-1:00pm in the Sanctuary.** Join us on your lunchbreak for a guided meditation to gain clarity and reduce anxiety. Each week we will explore a different meditation practice.

**Calling all vendors and crafters!** PVEC Spring Fling is April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 2-6pm. If you are interested in renting a table, contact Elizabeth Efremov at 973-975-8248 or pvec.events1@gmail.com.

Greetings PVEC Members and Friends, the Worship Commission is excited to bring back, after our Covid hiatus, our **Ash Wednesday Soup Supper and Ash Wednesday Service** on Wednesday night March 2nd. The Soup Supper will be served in Fellowship Hall at 6:30 pm and will be followed by our Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Please plan to join us to welcome the Lenten Season.

**Rummage Sale in April - Donations are now being accepted.**

4/22, Sat 4/23, Sun 4/24 *for Congregation only*, Sat 4/30. Contact Liz Silva with questions at 908-343-1305.

**Event Dates**

- Sun. 2/27* Moving Outward & Forward in Love meeting - FH/Zoom 11:45am & April Rummage Sale Meeting for Volunteers after worship
- Wed. 3/2* Ash Wednesday Soup and Supper 6:30pm, Service 7pm
- Sun. 3/6* Congregational Meeting for Budget Vote after worship & Sacrament Class
- Sun. 3/13* Deadline to Order Easter Flowers, Moving Outward & Forward in Love
- Sun. 3/20* Sacrament Class 11:45 am
- Sun. 3/27* Moving Outward & Forward in Love
- Sat. 4/2* PVEC Spring Fling Vendor Event & Chicken Slider Dinner 2-6pm
- Sun. 4/10* Moving Outward & Forward in Love
- Th. 4/14* Maundy Thursday Service 7pm
- Fri. 4/15* Good Friday Service 7pm
- Sun. 4/17* Easter Sunrise 6:15am, Communion 10:30am
- Fri. 4/22* Chicken Lunch/Dinner 12-6pm, First day for Rummage Sale 9am-6pm
- Sat. 4/23* Rummage Sale 9am-2pm
- Sun. 4/24* Moving Outward & Forward in Love & Rummage Sale after worship *for Congregation only*
- Sat. 4/30* Last day for Rummage Sale 9am-2pm



AND

LET US NOT GROW WEARY  
WHILE DOING GOOD,  
*for in due season*  
WE SHALL REAP IF WE  
DO NOT LOSE HEART.

GALATIANS 6:9 NKJV



## **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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**FAMILY ~ FAITH ~ FRIENDS**

