

Welcome to the Panther Valley Ecumenical Church

We are glad you are worshiping with us today!



# **PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH**

**October 16, 2022**

**Worship in the Episcopal Tradition**

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

*Our Worship can be viewed on our website*

*[PantherValleyChurch.org](http://PantherValleyChurch.org)*

**FAITH ~ FAMILY ~ FRIENDS**



## 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### PRELUDE

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

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ.

### HYMN #526

### What A Friend We Have in Jesus

#### Verse 1

What a friend we have in Jesus  
All our sins and griefs to bear  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer  
O what peace we often forfeit  
O what needless pain we bear  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer

#### Verse 2

Have we trials and temptations  
Is there trouble anywhere  
We should never be discouraged  
Take it to the Lord in prayer  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
Who will all our sorrows share  
Jesus knows our every weakness  
Take it to the Lord in prayer

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

LEADER: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**ALL: 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 upon us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

### **THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER**

LEADER: Lord, open our lips.

**ALL: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

LEADER: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: Come let us adore him.  
Let us now say together:

### **VENITE Psalm 95:1-7**

**O come, let us sing to the Lord;**

**let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**

**Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;**

**let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

**For the Lord is a great God,**

**and a great King above all gods.**

**In his hand are the depths of the earth;**

**the heights of the mountains are his also.**

**The sea is his, for he made it,**

**and the dry land, which his hands have formed.**

**O come, let us worship and bow down,**

**let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!**

**For he is our God,**

**and we are the people of his pasture,**

**and the sheep of his hand.**

**O that today you would listen to his voice!**

**COLLECT** (see insert)

## **THE LESSONS**

LEADER: The first lesson is from the Old Testament: Jeremiah 31:27-34.  
(see insert)

LEADER: The Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM #119:97-104** (see insert)

LEADER: The second lesson is from 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5.  
(see insert)

LEADER: The Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL: ALL STAND, Luke 18:1-8.**  
(see insert)

LEADER: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**ALL: Glory to you Lord Christ.**

LEADER: The Gospel of the Lord.

**ALL: Praise to you Lord Christ.**

## **SERMON**

### ***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.*

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

And now as our Lord Jesus Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**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.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

LEADER: Show us your mercy, O Lord;

**ALL: And grant us your salvation.**

LEADER: Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

**ALL: Let your people sing with joy.**

LEADER: Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

**ALL: For only in you can we live in safety.**

LEADER: Lord, keep this nation under your care;

**ALL: And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

LEADER: Let your way be known upon earth;

**ALL: Your saving health among all nations.**

LEADER: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

**ALL: Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

LEADER: Create in us clean hearts, O God;

**ALL: And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

## **JOYS & CONCERNS**

## **HANDBELL ANTHEM**

## **PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING**

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;**

**for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.**

**And we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **MINUTES FOR MISSION**

Christian Outreach

Cylvia Ultz

## **THE OFFERING**

Ascribe to the Lord and bring honor and gifts unto His name.

## **OFFERTORY**

## **CHOIR ANTHEM**

## **THE DOXOLOGY**

**(unison)**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

## **HYMN #526**

## **What A Friend We Have in Jesus**

### **Verse 3**

Are we weak and heavy laden  
Cumbered with a load of care

Precious Savior still our refuge  
Take it to the Lord in prayer  
Do thy friends despise forsake thee  
Take it to the Lord in prayer  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee  
Thou wilt find a solace there

## **BENEDICTION**

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

## **THE DISMISSAL**

LEADER: Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Credits:* Image by Ninabeth Metcalf.

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The Collects, Psalms, and Canticles are from the Book of Common Prayer, 1979.

Music: CCLI Song # 27714, Charles Crozat Converse | Joseph Medicott Scriven

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## **Announcements & Upcoming Events**

### **Please pray for:**

Victims of Hurricane Ian, Ken & Ninabeth - recovering from Covid, Steve, Ellen, Stephanie & Ryan, Scott, Jake & Brandon, Kathy, Bob MacFarland, Phil, Rick, Sally, Lois



## **2022 ANNUAL REPORT & BUDGETS**

Cylvia is advising that all Committee & Commission Chairs begin working on their section(s) of the annual report at this time. **Reports are due to Nikki by Friday, October 28, 2022.** Thank you!

### **Council Enews, Submitted by Cylvia Ultz, Council Chair**

The Council had decided that to address the issue of increased communication, we would write a monthly message to the congregation following our meeting. We are up to issue #4. Good news! The Rev. Deacon Jeanette Hile will continue to be our guest preacher through the end of 2022 and into 2023 for a while. This allows us to have some continuity as we continue our search for a new pastor. We have 2 more guest preachers lined up for November and December to do communion on the first Sunday of each of those months. We are almost finished giving our Minutes for Mission, highlighting our commissions and their work. All have been incredibly inspiring, so we have been trying to include the written versions in the enews for those unable to hear the messages in person. If you decide that any of these speeches have inspired you, please be sure to volunteer to help out. Our work is fun and gratifying. Give it a try.

Our Search Team has met and are setting up procedures as they wait for applicants. None yet. Obviously, interested parties have not yet read our very fine "Call" document!

On a sad note, have you noticed the damage our local feral pigs have been doing to our lawn? Animal Control is diligently working to catch them. They seem to be a family - pregnant mama and doting papa. Mama was caught, but before papa could be, someone released Mama from the cage?!

We are set for our fall slate of activities - Sunday School, Bible Study, Soup Sale, and Rummage Sale. Every one of these could use lots of new volunteers, so be ready to speak up if you wish to help.

This beautiful fall weather has all of us excited for the upcoming holidays. They will be here sooner than you think. Peace and blessings to everyone.

### **Help is requested for the November Rummage Sale.**

Please contact Penny or Cylvia if you can assist. Thank you!

**Sun. 10/16** 11am-1pm Fall Soup Sale

**Sun. 10/30** Trunk or Treat for Sunday School

**Fri. 11/4** 9am-3pm Rummage Sale

**Sat. 11/5** 9am-12pm Rummage Sale

(Bring your donations on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am-2pm.)

**Sat. 11/19 3:30-6:30pm** Family/Friends Thanksgiving Dinner hosted by Youth Squad - All are welcome! RSVP by 11/12/22.

**Sun. 12/4** Hanging of the Greens

# **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.

**Guest Preacher:** Rev. Deacon Jeanette Hile

**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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