

Welcome to the Panther Valley Ecumenical Church

We are glad you are worshiping with us today!



PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

December 18, 2022, Angels Among Us

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

FAITH ~ FAMILY ~ FRIENDS

Advent 4 – Angels Among Us

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 #238

Angels We Have Heard on High

Verse 1

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains
In reply echoing their joyous strains, Gloria, in excelsis Deo

THE ANGEL

This Will Be A Sign – Love

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Rosselot Family

THE COLLECT (see insert)

HYMN #213

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Verse 1

Lift up your heads you mighty gates
Behold the King of glory waits
The King of kings is drawing near
The Savior of the world is here!

Verse 2

Fling wide the portals of your heart
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'ns employ
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

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: Isaiah 7:10-16.
(see insert)

LEADER: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18 (see insert)

LEADER: The second lesson is from Romans 1:1-7.
(see insert)

LEADER: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: ALL STAND, Matthew 1:18-25
(see insert)

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

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

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

THE OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY – *Please submit your pledge cards as part of your offering.*

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 #213

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Verse 3

Redeemer come with us abide
Our hearts to Thee we open wide
Let us thy inner presence let us feel
Thy grace and love in us reveal.

Verse 4

Thy Holy Spirit lead us on
Until our glorious goal is won
Eternal praise eternal fame
Be offered Savior to thy name!

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 – *Please remain seated and quiet until the end of the postlude.*

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Announcements & Upcoming Events

Please pray for:

Our Church's subsistence, Our World, Rick Wilson & Family in the passing of his brother Steve then his father Angus...Rest in Peace, Zoe, Terrie's sister Barbara – broken bone and surgery, JoAnn, Debbie, Carole, The family of Drew Calandriello in his passing, Elise from Calico Flowers whose husband died on Thanksgiving, The family of Steve Dipple in his death, Greg Weinrich's family in his passing, Kathy & John, Kim & Family, Ellen, Stephanie & Ryan

Please return your Pledge Cards right away. Thank you!

- Sun. 12/18** Christmas Angels due - wrapped or unwrapped, they will be delivered the next day
Holiday Fellowship after worship (pork loin, latkes, Asian cole slaw, dessert)
Christmas Gift Table in FH proceeds benefit The Bell Choir
- Wed. 12/21** 3rd Annual Blue Christmas Service 7-8pm
- Sat. 12/24** 3:30pm Family Service (Dan Ledwith) & Christmas Pageant
7pm Service, Rev. J. Hile - Lessons in Carols
- Sun. 12/25** The United Methodist Church and The Presbyterian Church have prerecorded services for Christmas Day (links to follow)
- Sun. 1/1** Guest Preacher
- Sun. 1/8** Guest Pastor Elder Lisa Gray & Communion
Council Meeting after worship
- Mon. 1/9** Monday Night Bible Study starts again
- Sun. 1/15** New Member Class
- Sat. 1/21** Craft N' Crop Event 9am-5pm in FH

A special thanks to the Manderly Family for reading and lighting the Advent Wreath, in place of the Rosselot Family who was ill last week.

PVEC is collecting donations for the **Pajama & Book Program** to help children in Foster Care. We are on our own this year, as Allamuchy School has other collections they are working on. We are accepting through January-February 2023 until we have enough items to make this donation to CASA SHaW. Sizes needed are from infant through young adult. Please do not wrap them. Thank you for your help!

Pointsettias have arrived and they are lovely. They will be available to take home after the Christmas Eve service. Thank you for your orders and dedications!

Monday night Bible study group will begin its next study, "Better Decisions, Fewer Regrets" by Andy Stanley, on January 9, 2023. Feel free to contact Terrie Newbold, 908-892-6474, or tnewbold47@gmail.com with questions or if you would like to join us.

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

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

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

Tel: 908-852-5444

Email: panthervalleychurch@gmail.com

FAITH ~ FAMILY ~ FRIENDS

Fourth Sunday of Advent

