

Welcome to the Panther Valley Ecumenical Church

We are glad you are worshiping with us today!



PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

March 5, 2023

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

*Our Worship can be viewed on our website
PantherValleyChurch.org*

FAITH ~ FAMILY ~ FRIENDS

Thank you to Rev. Mike Atzert who will be leading today's service.

PRELUDE

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: People of God, where do we put our trust? Where do we find wholeness and meaning?

ALL: **We lift up our eyes to the hills. Our help comes from the Creator of heaven and earth.**

ONE: We are sons and daughters of Abraham and Sarah. We trust in God, who neither slumbers nor sleeps.

ALL: **We are followers of Jesus, who proclaimed God's realm. We are born of the Spirit, born from above.**

ONE: Our lives are a gift from God, who loves us. By the grace of God, we are born anew each day.

ALL: **God loved the world in the gift of Jesus Christ. Through faith in Christ, we receive eternal life.**

HYMN #98 "To God be the Glory"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

O God, we confess that we have been far more ready to say we believe than to trust you to lead us to new ventures of faithfulness. We are afraid of the evil that surrounds us. We fear rejection, failure, and ridicule. We admire Jesus, but it is difficult to follow in footsteps that lead to a cross. In the midst of life as we know it here, how can we catch glimpses of eternity? Save us, we pray, from our timidity, and use our doubts as an entry to deeper faith. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

SILENT PRAYER AND PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (Unison)

Living God, help us so to hear your holy Word that we may truly understand; that, understanding, we may believe, and, believing, we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

LENT ANGEL

Michelle Visco

First Reading:

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Second Reading:

Genesis 12:1-4a

MESSAGE: *“When God Calls”*

Rev. Atzert

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH- *The Nicene Creed*

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the prophets.

I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

SHARING OF COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

ONE: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

ONE: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

... and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

... Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (Unison)

Lord God, in gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the living bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. So Lord, may we live to your glory. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

CHOIR

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 #116

“The God of Abraham Praise” (vv. 1 & 4)

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*Today's Altar Flowers are given by Betty Schultheis in honor of her son
Stephen Schultheis' 47th birthday.*

Credits: Image by Ninabeth Metcalf.

The Old Testament, New Testament & Gospels readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, 1995, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

The Collects, Psalms, and Canticles are from the Book of Common Prayer, 1979. Music: CCLI Song # 23426, Fanny Jane Crosby | William Howard Doane, © Words & Music: Public Domain; CCLI Song # 2688219, Thomas Olivers, © Words & Music: Public Domain

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Please pray for: Our Church, the parishioners of PVEC, our world, our families and friends, the Deibel Family, Jan, Rob & Cecelia, Kim & family, Phil & Sue, Ann, Taylor, Jen-3 kids, and all those affected by the earthquake in Turkey.

- Sun. 3/5** First Vacation Bible School meeting after Worship to discuss a date and theme
- Sat. 3/11** Daylight Savings Time (2am on 3/12)- turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed
- Sun. 3/12** Dan Ledwith is preaching
- Sun. 3/19** Dan Ledwith is preaching
Fish & Chips Meeting after service (If you would like to volunteer & cannot attend this meeting, please reach out to Elizabeth Efremov.)
Spring Potluck Coffee Hour after service
- Sun. 3/26** Darasue Braun is preaching
- Sat. 4/1** Pancake breakfast and Easter Event
- 4/21, 4/22, & 4/29** Spring Rummage Sale
(Donations can be dropped off at the Church Office M-F, 9:30am-1:30pm.)
- Sat. 6/24** Fish & Chips Dinner

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. Mike Atzert

Music Director: Diane Van Dongen

Church Administrator: Judy Jepsen

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