



PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH
Sunday, April 16, 2023

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

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

FAITH ~ FAMILY ~ FRIENDS

PRELUDE

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Though darkness seems to envelop us

All: Jesus breaks through with a word of peace

One: Fears are banished!

All: Hope is more than restored

One: Rejoice! The Lord is with us!

All: We rejoice in the peace and blessings he brings. AMEN.

One: May we find your favor God, at all times & be protected.

All: God is our shield from all things earthly.

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious Lord, Easter was such a high point. We walked through the weeks of Lent and then boldly marched with Jesus into Jerusalem. Our steps hesitated and faltered during Holy Week when we ate with our Lord and then ran from his crucifixion. It was so hard for us to really believe in the miracle of Easter when our Lord Jesus was raised from the dead. We, like Thomas, wonder if it was real or something made up from desperate longing. help us to listen to your words with our hearts and our ears. Remind us that the Lord brings his peace to us all. AMEN.

HYMN #304

Easter People, Raise Your Voices

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We listen to the news, read the newspapers, and wonder if peace will ever reign in your world, Lord. Today we have been invited to be with the disciples in that hidden place where they also wondered about peace and hope. You broke through. You shattered the darkness and they were astonished again. Help us to understand that you will bring peace to each one of us. Forgive all those times when we treat this moment of revelation as though it was impossible. Give us the courage to reach out to you and touch our hearts once again. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Open your hearts and ears, beloved people of God. You are loved, forgiven and chosen to be called disciples. Be at peace!

Scripture Reading

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

John 20:19-31

MESSAGE

Dan Ledwith

HYMN #310

He Lives

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

We invite you to pray the prayer in the language you are used to speaking.

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; 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

Prosperity is given to the greater community of believers, so that all of God's children may benefit. Let us demonstrate that we are the body of Christ through our extravagant sharing of God's blessings this day. Let us give out of our joy, rather than out of a sense of obligation, as we offer to our God the gifts of our hearts. We offer several ways that you can give your fiscal pledge: dropping it into the "church" located in the Narthex, by mail, through our website, or add PVEC to your online bill pay. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY

Choir

DOXOLOGY

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Lord, we offer to you this day, token of our lives and our substance. Take these lives and these gifts and cause them to work in this world which you have loaned us, for the healing and reconciliation of all people to you.
Amen.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Today's Altar Flowers are given by Carol Phillips in honor of Loretta Masterson & Lauren Tosh

Credits: Image by Ninabeth Metcalf.

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Announcements & Upcoming Events

Please pray for: Our Church, the parishioners of PVEC, our world, our families and friends, the Pflugfelder & Schaffer Families, Kim & family, Sue, Laura, Walter, Charles, Lori, Ann, Bonnie Sue, Myrna & Simon, Bruce, John, Diane, Pam, Rob, Cecelia, Ellie Brady, Laura, and Helene

4/23	James Vespoli preaching
4/30	Dan Ledwith preaching
4/21, 4/22, & 4/29	Spring Rummage Sale
Sun. 5/7	Rev. David Snyder preaching
Sat. 5/20	Craft Fair
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.

Pastor: TBA, transition period

Email: pvecpastor@gmail.com

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>

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