

Welcome to the Panther Valley Ecumenical Church

We are glad you are worshiping with us today!



# PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

## April 2, 2023

*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**



**Thank you to Mark Hontz who will be leading today's service.**

## **PRELUDE**

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

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENT**

## **AN ANGEL AMONG US**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 118: 25-29)**

One: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.

**All: From the house of the LORD we bless you.**

One: The Lord is God, and he has made his light shine on us.

**All: With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession....**

One: You are my God, and I will praise you.

**All: You are my God, and I will exalt you.**

One: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

**All: His love endures forever.**

### **OPENING PRAYER (from Harry Emerson Fosdick)**

**Eternal Spirit, we remember, with the gratitude of those who have been redeemed, the life of him who for our sakes died on Calvary. We confess our infidelity to him, we who like ancient Jerusalem have often welcomed him with protestations of loyalty, and ere the week ended have crucified him. Amid the waywardness of a violent world, that has denied his faith and forsaken his way, we turn afresh to him. Grant us a fresh vision of his way of living, a resolute decision to let him be our Master, and a new willingness to take up our cross and follow him.**

## **CHILDREN'S PROCESSIONAL**

**HYMN #278**

**"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (from Harry Emerson Fosdick)**

**Eternal Spirit, you unseen source of peace and power, we worship you. Often we have strayed from your straight path, walking not kindly with one another, or humbly with you, or honorably with ourselves, afraid of that which we should not fear, and seeking that we should not desire. We come to you for your correction and redemption. You, the fountain of all grace, arise within our hearts with cleansing pardon, healing strength, steadying resource, and overflowing joy.**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON (from Psalm 118)**

**One:** In my distress I called to the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free. The Lord is with me, I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me? It is better to trust in the Lord than depend on people. It is better to trust in the Lord than depend on human leaders.

**All:** **The Lord makes me powerful and strong. The Lord has saved me.**

### **SCRIPTURE READING:                   Matthew 21:1-11 (Good News Translation)**

As Jesus and his disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to Bethphage at the Mount of Olives. There Jesus sent two of the disciples on ahead with these instructions: "Go to the village there ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied up with her colt beside her. Untie them and bring them to me. And if anyone says anything, tell him, 'The Master needs them'; and then he will let them go at once." This happened in order to make come true what the prophet had said: "Tell the city of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you! He is humble and rides on a donkey and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." So the disciples went and did what Jesus had told them to do: they brought the donkey and the colt, threw their cloaks over them, and Jesus got on. A large crowd of people spread their cloaks on the road while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds walking in front of Jesus and those walking behind began to shout, "Praise to David's Son! God bless him who comes in the name of the Lord! Praise be to God!" When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was thrown into an uproar. "Who is he?" the people asked. "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee," the crowds answered.

### **MESSAGE**

**"Who is He?" Mark Hontz**

### **HYMN #277 "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"**

## 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 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 PASSING OF THE PEACE

### THE OFFERING & NOISY OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC

“The Palms” (Faure)

Mark & Stephanie Hontz

### DOXOLOGY

HYMN #280

“All Glory, Laud and Honor”

### BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

*Today's Altar Flowers are given by Donna Weinberg, “Happy birthday to my son, Douglas!”*

### About Mark & Stephanie Hontz

Our worship today was led by Mark and Stephanie Hontz of Fredon. Mark is an elder law and estate planning attorney in Newton, a Certified Lay Servant in the United Methodist Church, and a Ruling Elder at the Yellow Frame Presbyterian Church. Stephanie teaches math and calculus at Kittatinny Regional High School. Mark and Stephanie come from musical families. Together with their children, Nathaniel, Thomas, and Susanna, they provide music for worship services, community events, and charity concerts as the Hontz Family Band. You can see and hear some of their live performances on their “Hontz Family Band” YouTube page.

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### **Announcements & Upcoming Events**

**Please pray for:** Our Church, the parishioners of PVEC, our world, our families and friends, Paul Rosa, Helen, Myrna, Patrick, Rob & Cecelia, Laura, Anne, Pam, Diane, the Rosselot Family, Pete Mason, Carol, Kim & family, Bill, John & Kathy, and Joy & Dan

**Sun. 4/2** Mark Hontz is preaching  
**4/21, 4/22, & 4/29** Spring Rummage Sale  
**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:** Mark Hontz

**Music Director:** Diane Van Dongen

**Church Administrator:** Judy Jepsen

Email: [pvecsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:pvecsecretary@gmail.com)

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

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