

Welcome to the Panther Valley Ecumenical Church

We are glad you are worshiping with us today!



# PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

## April 23, 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 James Vespoli who will be leading today's service.**

**PRELUDE**

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

**AN ANGEL AMONG US**

**CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 9: 1-2)**

One: I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;

**All:** I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.

One: I will be glad and exult in you;

**All:** I will sing praise to your name, O Most High

**OPENING PRAYER**

Lord, let us come together today in repentant joy to worship you. Give us eyes to see all of your mighty blessings in the smallest of things this morning. Never taking for granted how you work in our world, despite the chaos that we know all too well. Let us worship you today, the God of peace, justice, and life, the one who takes away the sins of the world. Forgive us our sins, merciful God, and give us the strength and courage this morning to open our eyes, ears, and hearts so that we may see the presence of Christ as we walk through the world today and every day. Amen.

**HYMN #175**

**“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (Unison)**

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read, we may hear with joy what you say to us this day. Amen.

**First Reading:**

Acts 2:14, 36-41

**Reading of the Psalms:**

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

**Second Reading:**

1 Peter 1:17-23

**Gospel Reading, ALL STAND:**

Luke 24: 13-35

## MESSAGE

“Hope abounds; all we have to do is look”

James Vespoli

## 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.**

## MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

### 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.

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE OFFERING

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

## **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.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER, ALL STAND**

Living God, you are ever blessing us with so many gifts that surpass the material things of this world. Yet we are called to preserve the Church which you have so graciously given to us. So, by the works of our hands and our tithes and offerings we return to you our very best. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

## **HYMN #454**

**“Open My Eyes, That I May See”**

## **BENEDICTION**

## **DISMISSAL**

Leader: 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 Catherine Fletcher in memory of her husband, Sylvester J. Fletcher*

*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, Charles, Walter, Laura, Lori, Myrna, Ann, Bonnie Sue, Helen, Rob & Cecelia, Laura, Barbara & Rosselot, John Sammans, sense for gun safety, John, Mariane, and Anne

<b>4/30</b>	Dan Ledwith preaching
<b>4/29</b>	Spring Rummage Sale (Last Day!)
<b>Sun. 5/7</b>	Rev. David Snyder preaching
<b>Sat. 5/20</b>	Craft Fair
<b>Sat. 6/24</b>	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:** James Vespoli

**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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