



PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH
May 21, 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 James Vespoli who will be leading today's service.

Handbells "All Things Bright & Beautiful"

PRELUDE

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Gracious God, we are called to be in unison with you in all that we do.

ALL: Give us the wisdom to look to Jesus to intercede for us both in times of hope and strife.

ONE: For through Christ, let us be assured that we are kept in the name of God throughout all the days of our lives.

ALL: Ever yearning for the day we are reunited with you, Lord, in the life of the world to come!

(John 17:1-11)

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, this day, we thank you for the gift of being together to worship and glorify you. Give us the humility to understand that while we may fall short of what you expect from us in loving you and our neighbors, we have a great intercessor through your son Jesus Christ. By whom all of our sins may be forgiven, and by drawing closer to him, we may be able to strive ever more toward doing your will today and every day. Amen

HYMN #157

Jesus Shall Reign

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

"I Am a C"

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 1:6-14

Reading of the Psalms: Psalm 68:1-10

Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14

Gospel Reading, ALL STAND: John 17:1-11

MESSAGE

“Jesus, Intercede for Us”

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

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 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

Let us return to God our tithes and offerings giving to God our very best.

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.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER, ALL STAND

Almighty God, thank you for your gift of your son Jesus who is our steadfast intercessor in all the blessings and trials of life. Today we return to you our very best so that you may continue to work through us and this community in all that we do. May our gifts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord our God. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor, and power and strength, be unto you our God forever and ever. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

HYMN #175

Come, Holy Ghost, Our Hearts Inspire

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

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

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Credits: 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 # 5475560, Isaac Watts, John C. Hatton © Words: Public Domain. Music: CCLI Song # 205842, Charles Wesley/Dykes © Words & Music: Public Domain

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Please pray for: Our Church, the parishioners of PVEC, our world, our families and friends, Walter, Charles, Laura, Lori, Bonnie Sue, Ann, Helen, Myrna & Simon.

Please complete the fellowship sheet at the end of the pew and pass it down. Note the names of those around you when it is returned.

Anyone who has had a loved one who died in a war, please let someone on the committee know, as we would like to recognize them. Feel free to call the office at 908-852-5444 and leave a message as well.

Upcoming Events

Sun. 5/21	James Vespoli preaching May Council Meeting (11:30am)
Sun. 5/28	Dan Ledwith preaching
Sun. 6/4	Joy Mounts preaching
Sat. 6/24	Fish & Chips Dinner
Fri. 7/14	Lifeline Screening

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: Melissa Zabriskie

Email: pvecsecretary@gmail.com

Office hours: M,W,Th & Fri. 9:00am – 2:00pm

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

Tel: 908-852-5444

Email: panthervalleychurch@gmail.com

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