



**PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH**  
**Ash Wednesday Joint Service**  
**February 22, 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**



## **PRELUDE & WELCOME**

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

### **CALL TO WORSHIP - Dan Ledwith**

One: Come to the light!

**All: We know the darkness better. The light frightens us.**

One: Come into the presence of Love.

**All: Our fears and doubts overwhelm us. We feel unable to move.**

One: Come let God's love wash away your sorrow.

**All: Please help us. We are filled with fear & sorrow. Bring us healing.**

**AMEN.**

### **OPENING PRAYER - Dan Ledwith**

**Father in Heaven, the light of your truth bestows sight to the darkness of sinful eye. May this season of repentance bring us the blessing of your forgiveness and the gift of your light. Grant this through Christ our Lord.**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION - Rev. Will Joseph**

**Oh God of light, we confess we turn from the light you give to guide us.**

**God of love, we confess that we darken others paths with hatred.**

**God of justice, we confess that our lives are linked to oppressive systems.**

**God of peace, we confess there are violent movements in our hearts.**

**God of all people, we confess these sins to you.**

**[Silence]**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON - Rev. Will Joseph**

Leader: Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious & compassionate, slow to anger & abounding in love. Turn toward your God in the confidence that, through Jesus the Christ, your sins are forgiven.

**People: We turn to God this night.**

## **HYMN #395 “Take Time to Be Holy”**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION** - Rev. Will Joseph

**Spirit of all wisdom, we desire to be reconciled to your will in our world. Remove any obstacles before us that would keep us from understanding your word. On this 40-day journey, light our path that we may follow Christ to his cross. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE** Matthew 6:1-6 & 16-21 - Rev. Robin Ray

**MESSAGE** - Rev. Bronc Radak

**Imposition of Ashes** - Rev. Robin Ray

***Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality & penitence, & a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior sent from you. Amen.***

Imposition of Ashes - ALL

**PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE** - Rev. Robin Ray

**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.**

**Hymn #402 “Lord, I want to be a Christian”**

**BENEDICTION** - Rev. Bronc Radak

**POSTLUDE**

\*International Committee on English in the Liturgy

*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 # 93748, George Coles Stebbins | William Dunn Longstaff, © Words & Music: Public Domain; CCLI Song # 3184437, William Farley Smith, © Words: Public Domain, Music: 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

## **Upcoming Events**

- Sun. 2/26** Rev. Wil Joseph from Knowlton UMC is preaching
- Sun. 3/5** Rev. Mike Atzert is preaching and will serve communion  
First Vacation Bible School meeting after Worship to  
discuss a date and theme
- Sun. 3/12** Dan Ledwith is preaching
- Sun. 3/19** Dan Ledwith is preaching
- Fri. 3/24** Youth Squad Meeting 6-7:30pm
- Sun. 3/26** Darasue Braun is preaching
- 4/21, 4/22, & 4/29** Spring Rummage Sale  
(Donations can be dropped off at the Church Office M-  
F between 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.

**Pastor:** TBA, transition period

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

**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

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

Tel: 908-852-5444

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

FAITH ~ FAMILY ~ FRIENDS