



Hershey Presbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

December 3, 2023
First Sunday in Advent

Front Cover Artwork

Relief with the Annunciation, Italian, ca. 1180-1200. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.
On view at The Met Cloisters in Gallery 03. In the public domain.

“This relief is one of seven panels from a pulpit in the church of San Piero Scheraggio in Florence, which was dismantled sometime between 1410 and 1755. In medieval Italy, pulpits were used for the reading of the Gospels and the Epistles and were located on the south side of the choir. Here, the Virgin and the archangel Gabriel stand in separate niches under a city wall. The fluid treatment of the drapery, the form of the figures, and the combination of narrative reliefs with a background of inlaid serpentine are characteristic of Florentine sculpture around 1200.”

The Annunciation from Luke 1:26-38:

“In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!’ ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ ³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, ‘How will this be, since I am a virgin?’ ³⁵ And the angel answered her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.’ ³⁸ And Mary said, ‘Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.’ And the angel departed from her.”



Hershey Presbyterian Church (PCA) desires to be a welcoming, grace-filled, all-nations community of Jesus Christ in the Presbyterian tradition. We seek to love God and our neighbor as we make disciples of Jesus Christ who are learning to worship God, proclaim Christ, and love others.

Preparing to Worship God

Welcome

Welcome to Hershey PCA! We are glad to have you join with us in the worship of God through Jesus Christ, our Savior and King.

Thank you to all those who participate in making this worship service possible (worship service participants may include in alphabetical order): Ephraim Church (leading worship and violin), Laura Church (vocals), David Kertland (preaching), Mark Linstedt (vocals), Pam Linstedt (vocals), Nathanel Marengo (sound), Grace Salyards (French horn), Jared Salyards (piano), and Don Wood (vocals).

A **Nursery** for children age infant through 3 years old is provided in Room 110.

Junior Church for children aged 4-Grade 3 is held in Room 111 during the sermon.

Children are dismissed during the hymn before the sermon and will return to their parents during the final hymn.

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle

Les and Ruth Adams

Isaiah 11:1-6:

*There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
2 And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.*

Praising God

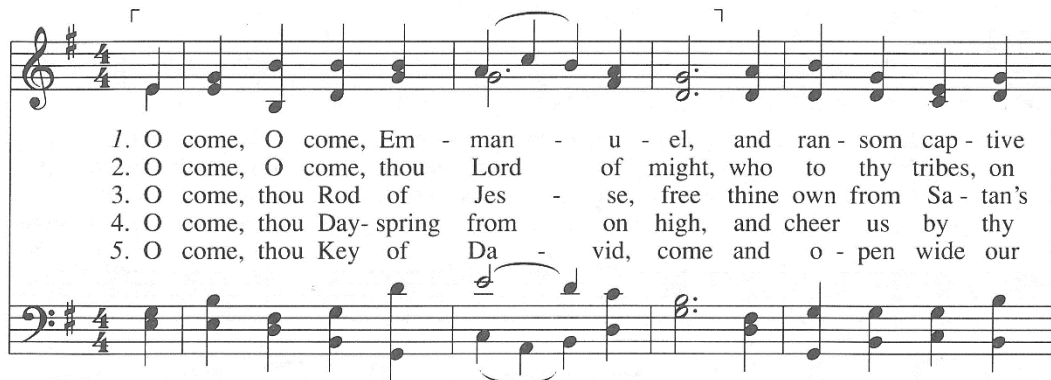
***Call to Worship:**

Isaiah 59:20

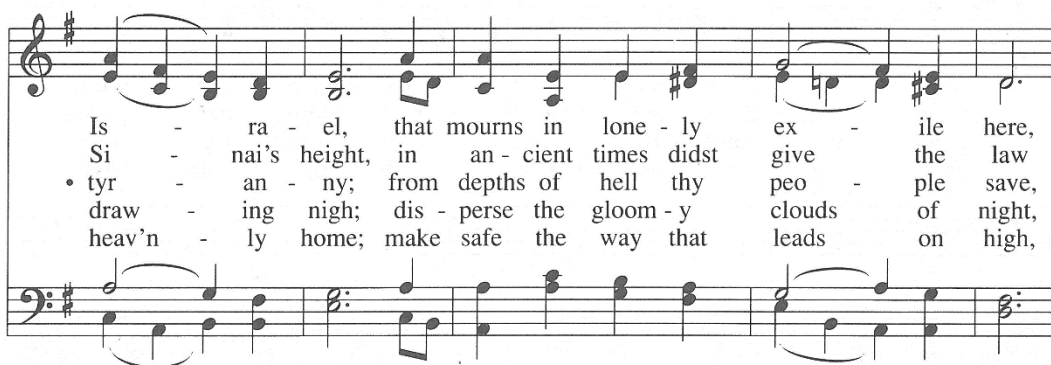
*“And a Redeemer will come to Zion,
to those in Jacob who turn from transgression,”
declares the LORD.*

*Response of Praise:

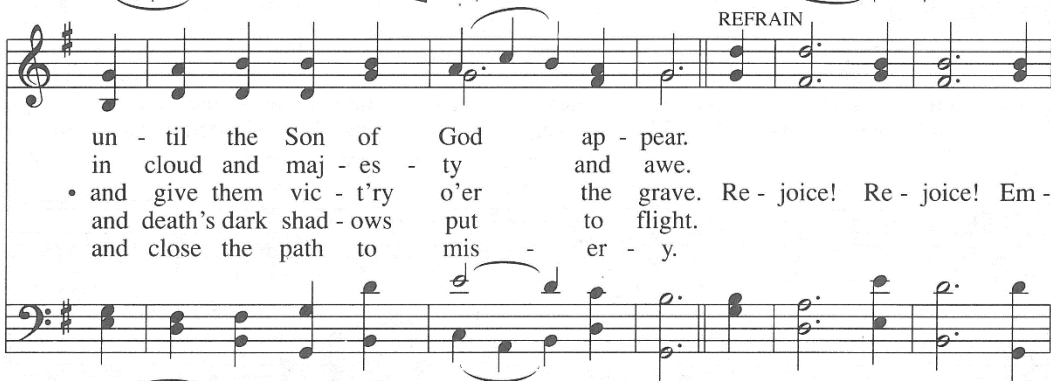
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



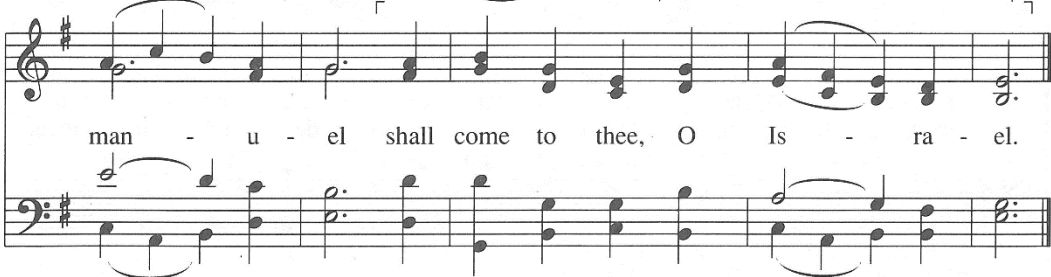
1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on
 3. O come, thou Rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's
 4. O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us by thy
 5. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come and o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,
 Si - nai's height, in an - cient times didst give the law
 • tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save,
 draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 • and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
 and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 and close the path to mis - er - y.



man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

VENI EMMANUEL. L.M. ref.
 Plainsong, 13th cent.
 Arr. by Thomas Helmore, 1856

Latin antiphons, 12th cent.
 Latin hymn, 1770
 Tr. by John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1961

***Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

***Confession of Faith:**

The Apostles' Creed

We confess our faith together using the Apostles' Creed. It is an ancient summary of what the Bible teaches about God, our need of a sufficient Savior, and our dependence on the work of God's Spirit.

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

***Gloria Patri**

**Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther,
and to the Son,
and to the Ho-ly Ghost:
as it was in the be-gin-ning,
is now, and ev-er shall be,
world with-out end.
A-men, a-men.**

* "'Catholic' here means universal; that is, there is one church across all times, places, and peoples."
It is confessed in recognition of the believing church throughout the world; it is not a reference to what is today called the *Roman Catholic Church*.

Reading of God's Standard

Romans 3:10-20

¹⁰ *as it is written:*

"None is righteous, no, not one;

¹¹ *no one understands;*

no one seeks for God.

¹² *All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;*

no one does good,

not even one."

¹³ *"Their throat is an open grave;*

they use their tongues to deceive."

"The venom of asps is under their lips."

¹⁴ *"Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness."*

¹⁵ *"Their feet are swift to shed blood;*

¹⁶ *in their paths are ruin and misery,*

¹⁷ *and the way of peace they have not known."*

¹⁸ *"There is no fear of God before their eyes."*

¹⁹ *Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.*

Confession of Sin

Declaration of Pardon in Christ

Romans 6:22-23

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Offering Our Prayers to God

Prayer of Intercession & the Lord's Prayer

This week in our time of intercession, we are taking time to thank God and to pray for the PCA. Our first General Assembly was held 50 years ago this week. We will be using a prayer that has been recommended to us by our General Assembly. Many other PCA churches throughout the nation and world are praying a similar prayer today in their worship services.

Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving for the 50th Anniversary of the PCA

(See insert for specific items of praise, thanksgiving, and prayer.)

- **Praise for the Enduring Church**
- **Thanksgiving for God's Faithfulness to the PCA for 50 Years**
- **Prayer for the PCA**

The Lord's Prayer: We will close with this version of the Lord's Prayer in unison.

"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.

Presentation of Our Tithes & Offerings

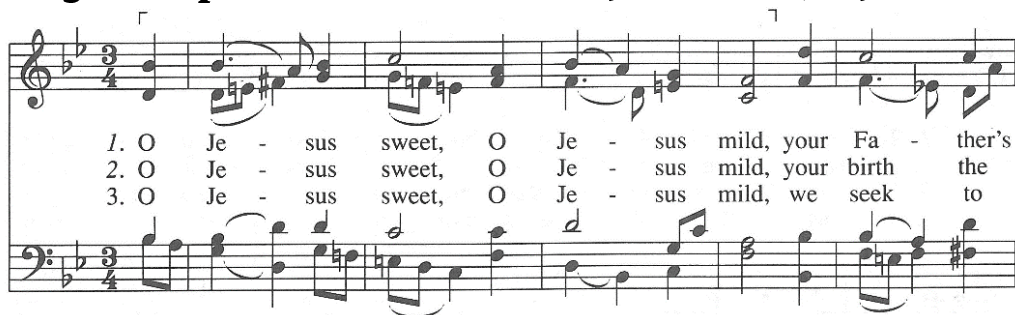
Offertory: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

arr. Molly Ijames

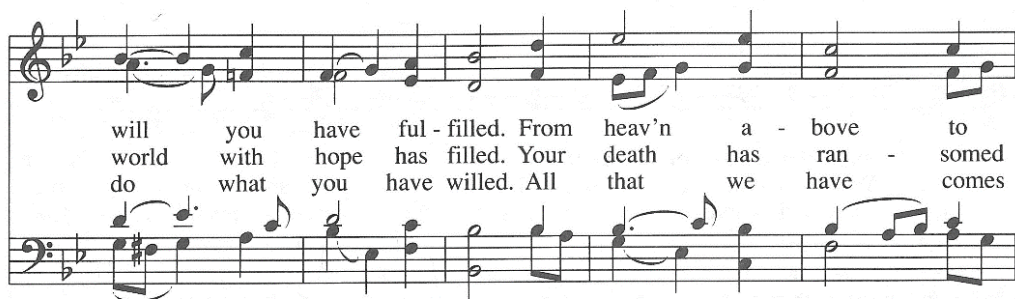
During this song, children from 4 years old to 3rd grade are dismissed
to attend Junior Church in Room 111.

***Song of Preparation:**

O Jesus Sweet, O Jesus Mild



1. O Je - sus sweet, O Je - sus mild, your Fa - ther's
2. O Je - sus sweet, O Je - sus mild, your birth the
3. O Je - sus sweet, O Je - sus mild, we seek to



will you have ful - filled. From heav'n a - bove to
world with hope has filled. Your death has ran - somed
do what you have willed. All that we have comes



earth you came, and born as man you took our
our lost race, for on the cross you took our
from a - bove; Lord, keep us walk - ing in your



name. O Je - sus sweet, O Je - sus mild.
place. O Je - sus sweet, O Je - sus mild.
love. O Je - sus sweet, O Je - sus mild.

O JESULEIN SUSS, 8.8.8.8.8.
Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750

Samuel Scheidt, 1650
Tr. by Mark E. Hunt, 1976; alt. 1990
Text © 1978, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. Used by permission.

Listening to God's Word

***Prayer for Illumination**

In this prayer, we ask the Lord to open our eyes and hearts to his Word.

***Reading of Scripture:**

Genesis 3:8-15

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."

¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

*¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent,
"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.*

*¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring^[e] and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."*

*¹⁶ To the woman he said,
"I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be contrary to your husband,
but he shall rule over you."*

*¹⁷ And to Adam he said,
"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you,
'You shall not eat of it,'
cursed is the ground because of you;*

*in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
19 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”*

2 Corinthians 5:17

*“[I]f anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”*

John 8:36

“[I]f the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

***Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

Sermon: Advent 2023: What Do You Most Want This Christmas? (1) Freedom!

Today's Texts: Various

Pastor David Kertland

1. Set free to _____ .
2. Set free to _____ .
3. Set free to _____ .

Prayer of Application

The sermon concludes with a prayer asking the Lord to help us to be those who listen to his word and obey it. “...be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” (James 1:22)

Ruling Elder Installation of Gregory James Moore

Warrant & Nature of the Office; Character and Duties of a Ruling Elder

Today Gregory James Moore will be installed to serve on the Session of our church as a ruling elder. Greg has been previously ordained as a ruling elder in the PCA. He will be asked to reaffirm the following questions from *The Book of Church Order of the PCA*:

Installation Questions:

1. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as originally given, to be the inerrant Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
2. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the *Confession of Faith* and the *Catechisms* of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures; and do you further promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with any of the fundamentals of this system of doctrine, you will, on your initiative, make known to your Session the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow?
3. Do you approve of the form of government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in America, in conformity with the general principles of biblical polity?
4. Do you accept the office of ruling elder in this church, and promise faithfully to perform all the duties thereof, and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the Gospel in your life, and to set a worthy example before the Church of which God has made you an officer?
5. Do you promise subjection to your brethren in the Lord?
6. Do you promise to strive for the purity, peace, unity and edification of the Church?

The elder elect having answered in the affirmative, the minister shall address to the members of the church the following question: which you should answer in the affirmative by raising your right and saying, “we do.”

Do you, the members of this church, acknowledge and receive this brother as a ruling elder, and do you promise to yield him all that honor, encouragement and obedience in the Lord to which his office, according to the Word of God and the Constitution of this church, entitles him?

Prayer

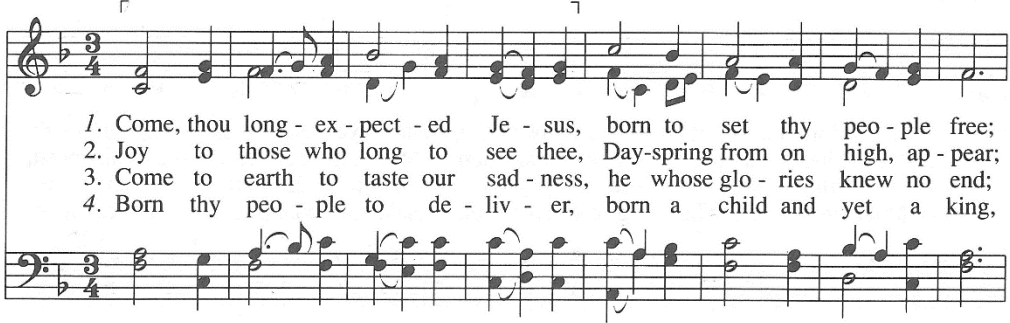
Welcome & Declaration

Exhortation

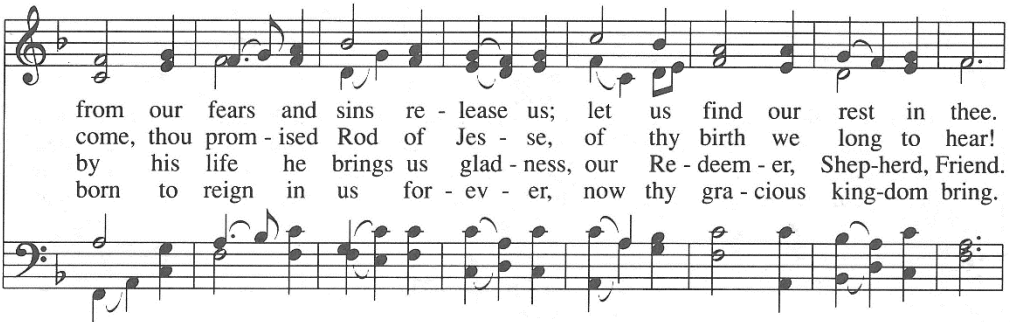
*The order of the Installation service is from the PCA's Book of Church Order, 24-6

Receiving God's Blessing

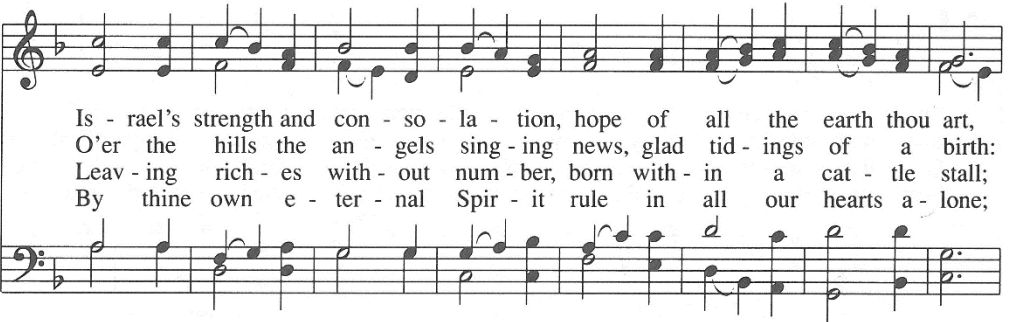
*Song of Dedication & Service: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus




1. Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, ap - pear;
 3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ries knew no end;
 4. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 come, thou prom - ised Rod of Jes - se, of thy birth we long to hear!
 by his life he brings us glad - ness, our Re - deem - er, Shep - herd, Friend.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
 O'er the hills the an - gels sing - ing news, glad tid - ings of a birth:
 Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber, born with - in a cat - tle stall;
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
 "Go to him, your prais - es bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."
 this the ev - er - last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

HYFRYDOL, 8.7.8.7.D.
 Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855

St. 1, 4, Charles Wesley, 1744
 St. 2-3, Mark E. Hunt, 1978
 Text of stanzas 2 & 3 © 1978, Intervarsity Christian Fellowship. Used by permission.

God's Blessing

*Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

*The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

*Postlude

To our guests this morning: We are very glad that you have joined us for worship today. We hope you can stay a little while for conversation with our pastor and other Hershey PCA members and friends.

After the service, greet someone you don't know. If you see someone sitting or standing alone, welcome them in the name of Christ! The time after worship is a great time for mutual, one-another ministry in Christ, feel free to sit down with someone for conversation or prayer.

* Congregation standing

Today's Service Information

- 1) **Artwork:** Front Cover: Relief with the Annunciation, Italian, ca. 1180-1200. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. On view at The Met Cloisters in Gallery 03. In the public domain.
- 2) **Music:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (194), "O Jesus Sweet, O Jesus Mild" (232), and "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (196) are reprinted from *The Trinity Hymnal* (Great Commission Publications, Atlanta, GA, 2000). Music used by permission: CCLI License #20711820 and CCLI Streaming License #20711837.
- 3) **Quotes: Page 2:** Information on the artwork from <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/471848>. Various quotes describing worship elements are from: *Leading in Prayer: A Workbook for Ministers* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995). Biblical quotes are from the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise noted.



Advent is the four-week season that begins the year in the Church calendar. As we celebrate some of the key events in the life of Jesus Christ our Savior each year, we are reminded that Jesus is the Good News. The Good News is our message. Proclaiming the Good News to the world and making disciples who follow Jesus is our mission.

Advent is a time focused on anticipating the arrival or “advent” of Jesus, our long-awaited Messiah. In these weeks, we particularly focus on our Lord’s first coming into the world, and we look forward to his return. Many Christians throughout the world celebrate this special time of year.

During the four weeks of Advent as we gather for regular Lord’s Day worship each Sunday, and on Christmas Eve, we read an Old Testament passage of Scripture and light candles on an Advent wreath before our regular worship service begins. The Scripture readings remind us of God’s promises that are fulfilled in Christ.

Traditionally three of the four outer candles on the Advent wreath are purple; one is pink, lit on the third week of Advent. Purple is primarily used because the color violet has been used as a liturgical color to signify a time of prayer and repentance. Pink is used on the third week because the color rose has been used as a liturgical color to signify a time of joy. Advent is a wonderful season to give yourself anew to prayer, repentance, and to finding your joy in Christ.

The coming of Jesus Christ, and his subsequent work on our behalf, brings:

Hope—as we renew our anticipation and longing for the coming of the Messiah.

Peace—as we remember the words of the angels at Jesus’s birth: *“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”* (Luke 2:14)

Joy—as we remember and take up the anthem “Joy to the world, the Lord is come, let earth receive her King!”

Love—as we mark that the birth of Christ is a demonstration of God’s love: *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”* (John 3:16)

On Christmas Eve we will light the white, center candle, sometimes called the **Christ candle**. As we do, we remember that Jesus is the Light of the World.

He has come...and he will come again!
Glory be to God! May you know his peace this year!



Hershey Presbyterian Church (PCA)

is a member congregation of the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery
of the Presbyterian Church in America (www.pcanet.org).



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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

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