



Hershey Presbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

December 10, 2023
Second Sunday in Advent

Front Cover Artwork

Matthias Stomer, *Annunciation (Annunciazione)*, early 17th Century. Oil on canvas, 44.4 in. x 65.3 in. Acquired in 2004 by the Uffizi Gallery, Florence. In the public domain.

“The Dutch painter was in Italy for many years. This painting was most likely done during his stay in Naples from 1633 to 1637 or 1638. At this time his painting acquired a special treatment of surfaces, like the faceted planes shining with reflected light, which here originates from a candle, in a dark atmosphere. The painting was acquired by the Uffizi in 2004.”

<https://artsandculture.google.com/asset/annunciation/KQEcz3DLiSzkUg>

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 on this Lord's Day 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): Asahel Church (leading children's music); Ephraim Church (violin), Joe Kearns (leading worship), Bonnie Kertland (vocals), David Kertland (preaching), Mark Linstedt (vocals), Pam Linstedt (vocals), Nathanael Marengo (clarinet), Brad Weaver (sound), Anita Wood (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 and communion time. Participating children are dismissed during the hymn before the sermon and will return to their parents during the final hymn.

Today's Communion Servers are Ephraim Church and Keith Dolon.

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle Jeff and Brenda Barnhart

Isaiah 60:1-3:

*Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.
³And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.*

Praising God

***Call to Worship:**

Isaiah 40-1-5

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

**² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.**

³ A voice cries:

*"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
*the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.*

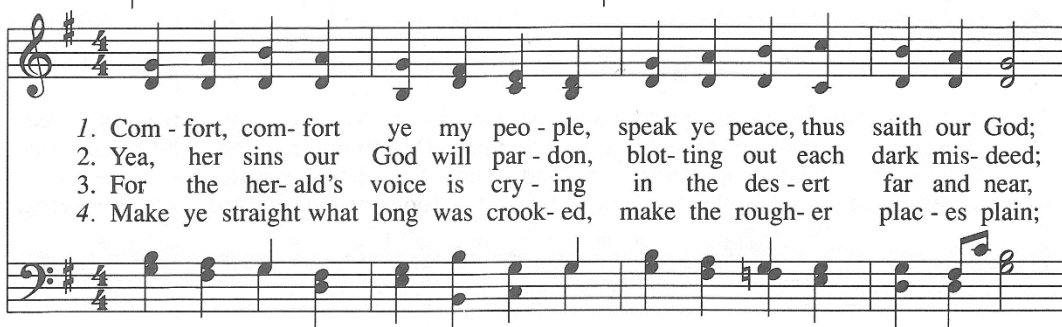
⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Light Text = Read by Leader

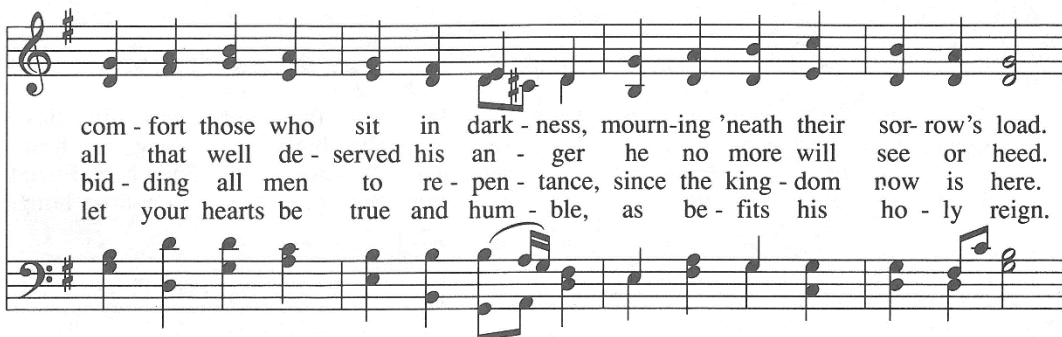
Bold Text = Read by All

*Response of Praise:

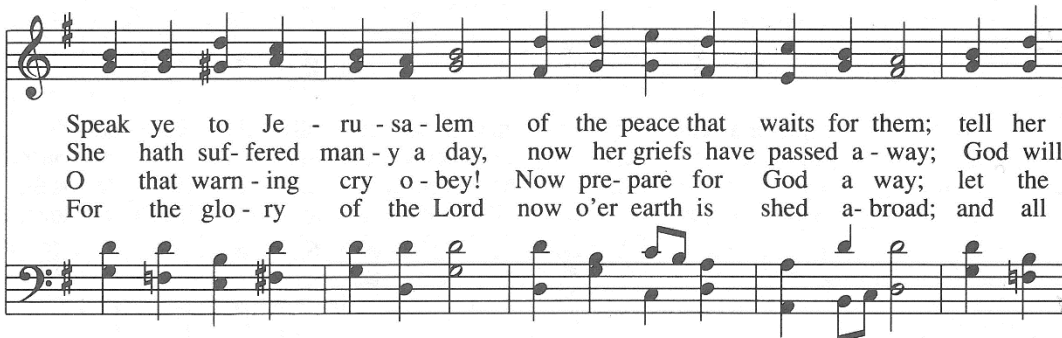
Comfort, Comfort Ye My People



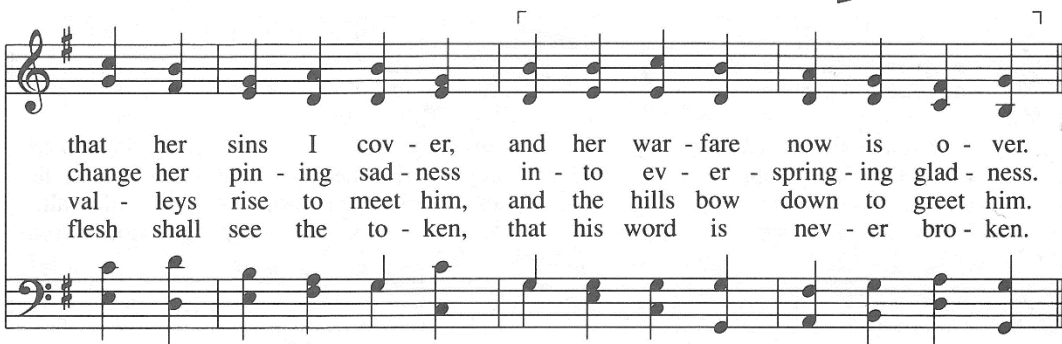
1. Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
 2. Yea, her sins our God will par - don, blot - ting out each dark mis - deed;
 3. For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 4. Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er plac - es plain;



com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, mourn - ing 'neath their sor - row's load.
 all that well de - served his an - ger he no more will see or heed.
 bid - ding all men to re - pen - tance, since the king - dom now is here.
 let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign.



Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them; tell her
 She hath suf - fered man - y a day, now her griefs have passed a - way; God will
 O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way; let the
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad; and all



that her sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 change her pin - ing sad - ness in - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.
 flesh shall see the to - ken, that his word is nev - er bro - ken.

THRISTING 8.7.8.7.7.8.8.
 Louis Bourgeois, 1551
 Arr. by Henry A. Bruinsma, alt. 1990

Johannes Olearius, 1671
 Tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863

***Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

***Confession of Faith:**

from Isaiah 42:1-4

**Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my Spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
² He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
³ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
⁴ He will not grow faint or be discouraged
till he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his law.**

***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.**

Reading of God's Standard

Matthew 10:24-33

A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

²⁶ So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸ And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.


Confession of Sin

Declaration of Pardon in Christ

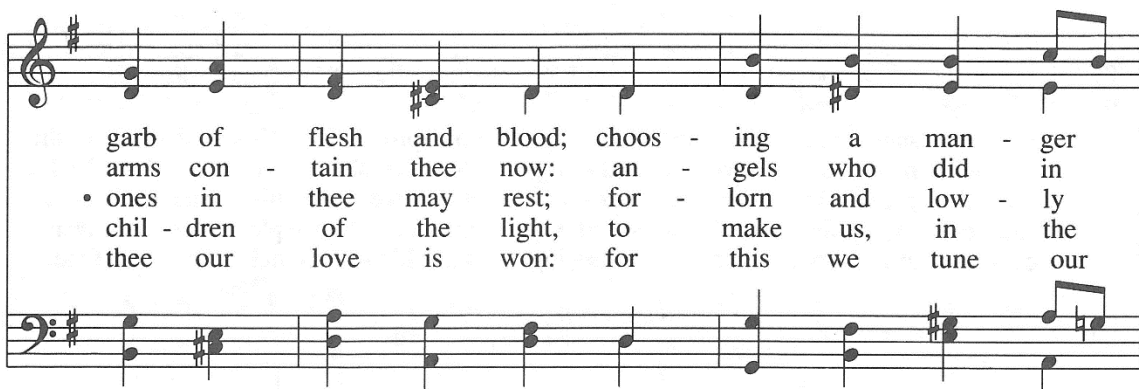
Revelation 1:17-18

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades."

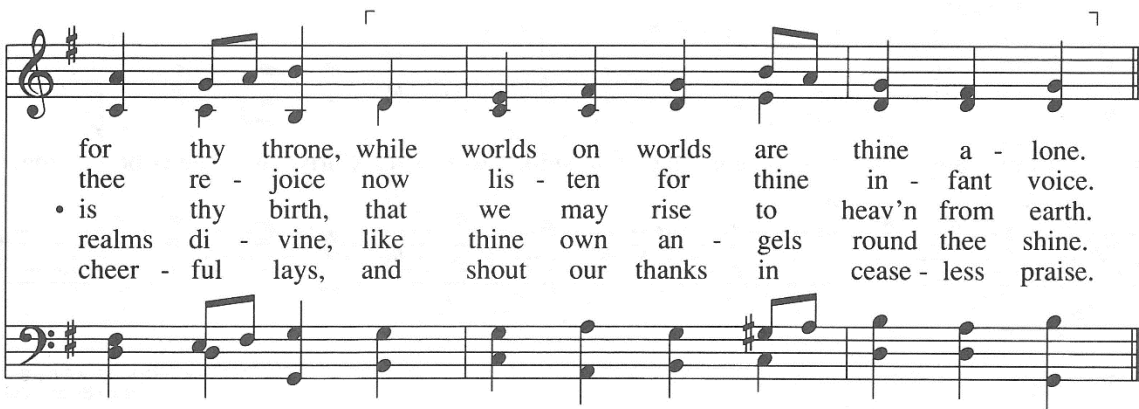
*Song of Thanksgiving: All Praise to Thee, Eternal Lord



1. All praise to thee, e - ter - nal Lord, clothed in a
 2. Once did the skies be - fore thee bow; a vir - gin's
 3. A lit - tle child, thou art our guest, that wea - ry
 4. Thou com - est in the dark - some night to make us
 5. All this for us thy love hath done; by this to



garb of flesh and blood; choos - ing a man - ger
 arms con - tain thee now: an - gels who did in
 • ones in thee may rest; for - lorn and low - ly
 chil - dren of the light, to make us, in the
 thee our love is won: for this we tune our



for thy throne, while worlds on worlds are thine a - lone.
 the re - joice now lis - ten for thine in - fant voice.
 • is thy birth, that we may rise to heav'n from earth.
 realms di - vine, like thine own an - gels round thee shine.
 cheer - ful lays, and shout our thanks in cease - less praise.

Offering Our Prayers to God

Prayer of Intercession & the Lord's Prayer

Hershey PCA Prayer Requests for the Week of December 10-16, 2023

Intercession *for the World*:

- **The Hershey Community:** Derry Township Supervisor Richard Zmuda
- **Civil Government:** Dauphin County Commissioner George Hartwick
- **Countries of Origin of Our Church Members and Friends:** Taiwan
- **Unreached People Group:** Bargunda of India
Population: 41,000; Language: Hindi; Religion: Hinduism

Unreached people groups make up 42.4% of the world's population (approximately 3.4 billion persons). In these people groups, there are "few evangelicals and few who identify as Christians." There is "little, if any, history of Christianity" within the people group. See www.joshuaproject.net. "...pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (Matt. 9:38)

Intercession *for the Church (God's People)*:

- **Health issues:** Tim G.
- **Those Who Serve in Our Local Church:** Sunday School and Junior Church Teachers
- **Our Denomination (PCA):** Lebanon Valley Presbyterian Church, Lebanon, PA
(Church in the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery)
- **Supported Missionary or Organizations:** Rick and Clare,
serving in a sensitive area

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: "Be Still for the Presence of the Lord" Church Family Children
(See music on next page.)

Offertory Song:

Be Still for the Presence of the Lord

D F#m7 Bm Em7 A

1 Be still, for the pres-ence of the Lord, the Ho - ly One, is here.
 2 Be still, for the glo - ry of the Lord is shin-ing all a - round.
 3 Be still, for the pow - er of the Lord is mov-ing in this place.

D F#m7 Bm Em7 Asus A

Come, bow be - fore him now, with rev - er - ence and fear.
 He burns with ho - ly fire; with splen-dor he is crowned.
 He comes to cleanse and heal, to min - is - ter his grace.

G A/G D/F# G A/G D/F#

In him no sin is found; we stand on ho - ly ground.
 How awe-some is the sight, our rad-iant King of light!
 No work too hard for him; in faith re - ceive from him.

G A F#m7 Bm Em7 Asus A D

Be still, for the pres-ence of the Lord, the Ho - ly One, is here.
 Be still, for the glo - ry of the Lord is shin-ing all a - round.
 Be still, for the pow - er of the Lord is mov-ing in this place.

Words and Music (BE STILL, FOR THE PRESENCE): David Evans (b. 1957) © 1986 Thankyou Music (PRS), admin. worldwide at EMICMGPublishing.com except Europe which is admin. by Kingswaysongs

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

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:**

Deuteronomy 18:15-19

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—¹⁶ just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’¹⁷ And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken.’¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.

John 1:17-18

[T]he law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

John 12:44-50

And Jesus cried out and said, “Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me.”⁴⁵ And whoever sees me sees him who sent me.⁴⁶ I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.⁴⁷ If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.⁴⁸ The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.⁴⁹ For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.⁵⁰ And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

Sermon: Advent 2023: What Do You Most Want This Christmas? (2)
Confidence

Today's Texts: Various

Pastor David Kertland

1. _____ God.

2. _____ God.

3. _____ _____ God.

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)

Receiving Provision from God

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation & Warning

Hershey Presbyterian Church (PCA) welcomes to receive the Holy Supper all baptized Christians who actively trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, who are willing to forsake their sin and obey Christ, and who are members in good standing of an evangelical church that proclaims the gospel or who have been approved by our Session after indicating a desire to participate (BCO 58-4). Children should await communicant membership before participating.

Let this table, and our communion together, point you to Jesus—to hold out your empty and faltering hands to him, to receive grace from him, to allow him to feed and strengthen you, and to remind you that, if you are in Christ, He is *for you* and *will help you* as you seek to follow him this week.

If you are not a believer in Jesus today, we are glad that you are here with us this morning! We invite you to stay and observe this part of the service, but ask that you do not participate. It is a celebration of the Christian's union with the risen Jesus. As the bread and wine are received by the congregation, we invite you to cry out to Jesus and pray the following prayer (or one like it):

Prayer of Belief: "Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared to admit, but in Jesus I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you and rest on you alone for my salvation."

Have you prayed this prayer for the first time this morning? If so, let someone near you know! Also, feel free to talk with our pastor who can suggest ways for you to take next steps in the faith.

Words of Institution:

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

"[T]he Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

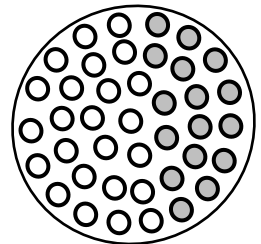
In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

Prayer

Receiving of the Elements

About the elements: Our communion servers will be handing out the elements, which are in two stacked communion cups. The top cups have the juice or wine, and the bottom cups all have gluten-free bread. As a server comes to you, please take a cup of your preference. The clear cups are filled with grape juice; the purple-tinted cups are filled with wine.



white circles = grape juice
gray circles = wine

Prayer

Receiving God's Blessing

***Song of Dedication & Service: Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come**

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth re - ceive her
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns; let men their songs em -
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 play; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heav'n and na - ture sing,

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

ANTIOCH C.M.rep.
 George Frederick Handel, 1742
 Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1836

Based on Psalm 98
 Isaac Watts, 1719

God's Blessing

***Benediction:**

2 Corinthians 13:14

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.*

Amen.

***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:** Matthias Stomer, *Annunciation (Annunciazione)*, early 17th Century. Oil on canvas, 44.4 in. x 65.3 in. Acquired in 2004 by the Uffizi Gallery, Florence. In the public domain.
- 2) **Music:** "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" (197), "All Praise to Thee, Eternal Lord" (219), and "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come" (195) are reprinted from *The Trinity Hymnal* (Great Commission Publications, Atlanta, GA, 2000). "Be Still for the Presence of the Lord" (532) is reprinted from Thankyou Music (PRS), EMICMG Publishing.com, 1986. Music used by permission: CCLI License #20711820 and CCLI Streaming License #20711837.
- 3) **Quotes: Page 2:** Information on the artwork from <https://artsandculture.google.com/asset/annunciation/KQEcz3DLiSzkUg>. 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.
- 4) The "**Invitation to the Lord's Supper**" and the communion page information was, in part, modified from the practice of Redeemer PCA in NYC (2008) and Westminster PCA in Lancaster, PA (2015).

Matthew 11:25-30

At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."



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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