



HersheyPresbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

December 17, 2023
Third Sunday in Advent

Front Cover Artwork

Henry Ossawa Tanner (American, 1859-1937), *The Visitation*, ca. 1909-1910. Oil on canvas. 49 ½ in. x 54 1/8 in. x 3 1/8 in. Permanent collection of the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts eMuseum, Kalamazoo, MI. Gift of Ronda Stryker and William Johnson. Object Number: 2005.11. In the public domain.

"This painting presents the meeting between Mary and her cousin Elizabeth, as recounted in the Bible. Both women are pregnant—Elizabeth's son will be John the Baptist and Mary will give birth to Jesus. According to the story, Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit when the future mother of Christ arrives and John the Baptist kicks joyfully in his mother's womb in response to Christ's presence. The artist includes the viewer in this private moment by bringing Elizabeth and the table close to the picture plane and placing them at the viewer's level. The intimate space and dramatic use of light and shade, especially the shadow cast by Elizabeth's form, heighten the emotion of the scene. Religion always played an important role in Henry Ossawa Tanner's life. With the artistic freedom he found in Europe, this African-American artist built a successful career and international reputation. From the 1890s until the end of his life, Tanner painted exclusively religious scenes."

<http://64.136.229.66:8081/objects/4349/the-visitation>

Luke 1:39-45: *"In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry,*

"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."



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 (violin), Keith Dolon (sound), Paul Hepperle (leading worship), Bonnie Kertland (vocals), David Kertland (preaching), Mark Linstedt (vocals), Pam Linstedt (vocals), Nathanael Marengo (clarinet), Jared Salyards (piano), Anita Wood (piano during offertory), 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. Children are dismissed during the hymn before the sermon and will return to their parents during the final hymn.

Today's Communion Servers are Nick Yingst and Brad Weaver.

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle

The Kitchens Family

Jeremiah 33:14-16:

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'"

Praising God

***Call to Worship:**

Habakkuk 2:18-20

*“What profit is an idol
when its maker has shaped it,
a metal image, a teacher of lies?
For its maker trusts in his own creation
when he makes speechless idols!
¹⁹ Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake;
to a silent stone, Arise!
Can this teach?
Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver,
and there is no breath at all in it.*

**²⁰ But the LORD is in his holy temple;
let all the earth keep silence before him.”**

Light Text = Read by Leader

Bold Text = Read by All

*Response of Praise:

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Unison

1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
 2. King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on
 3. Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van - guard
 4. At his feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim, with

trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly mind - ed,
 earth he stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture,
 on the way, as the Light of light de - scend - eth
 sleep - less eye, veil their fac - es to the pres - ence,

for with bless - ing in his hand, Christ our God to
 in the bod - y and the blood, he will give to
 from the realms of end - less day, that the pow'rs of
 as with cease - less voice they cry, "Al - le - lu - ia,

earth de - scend - eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.
 all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
 hell may van - ish as the dark - ness clears a - way.
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

PICARDY 8.7.8.7.8.7.
 French melody, 17th cent.
 Arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Liturg. of St. James, 5th cent.
 Adapted by Gerard Moultrie, 1864

***Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

***Confession of Faith:**

The Nicene Creed

We confess our common faith today with the Nicene Creed, a summary of the Bible's teaching about God, our need of a sufficient Savior, and our dependence on the work of the Spirit. From the Trinity Hymnal: "The Nicene Creed originated at the Council of Nicea (325), and an expanded form was adopted by the Council of Chalcedon (451). It was formulated to answer heresies that denied the biblical doctrine of the Trinity and of the person of Christ."

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,

Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,

begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,*
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in one holy catholic** and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

* The term "very God of very God" can also be translated that Lord Jesus Christ is "true God from true God."

** "'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*.

***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

Hebrews 13:12-16

So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. ¹³ Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. ¹⁴ For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. ¹⁵ Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Confession of Sin

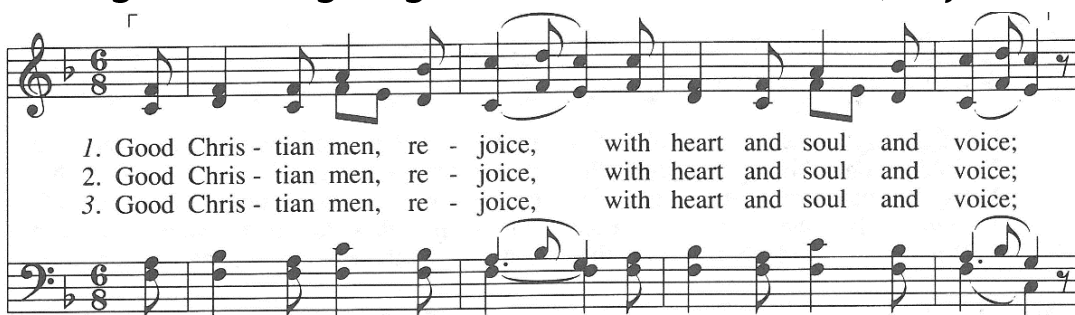
Declaration of Pardon in Christ

Hebrews 7:22-25

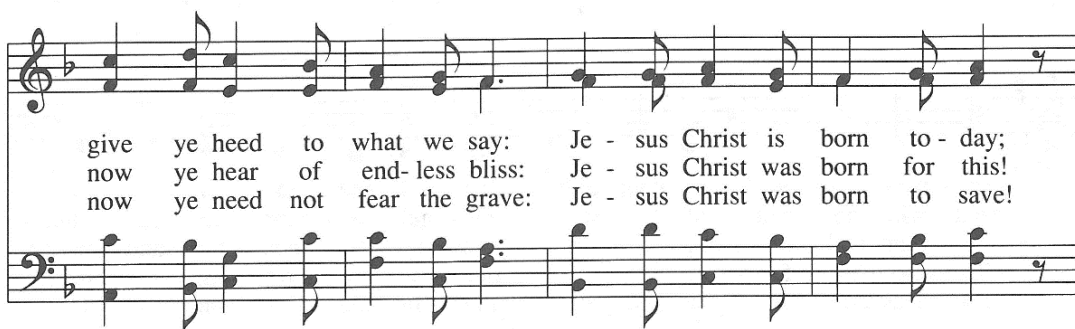
This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant. ²³ The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, ²⁴ but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. ²⁵ Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

*Song of Thanksgiving:

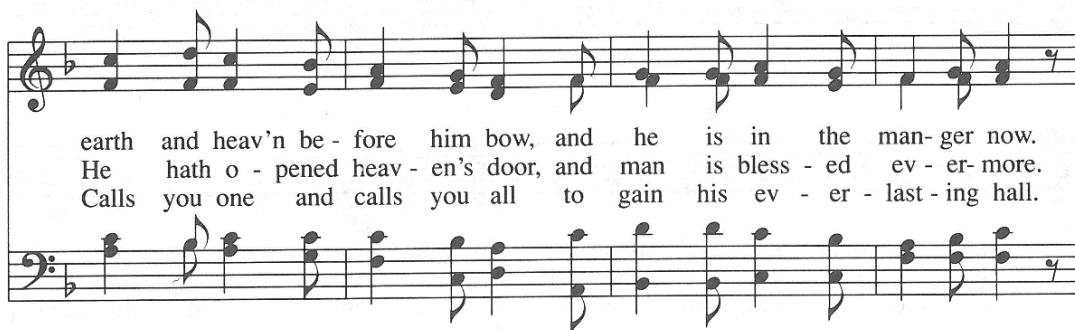
Good Christian Men, Rejoice



1. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice, with heart and soul and voice;
 2. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice, with heart and soul and voice;
 3. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice, with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



earth and heav'n be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He hath o - pened heav - en's door, and man is bless - ed ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

IN DULCI JUBILO 6.6.7.7.8.5.5.
 German melody, 14th cent.
 Arr. by W. D., 1918

Medieval Latin carol
 Tr. by John Mason Neale, 1853; alt.
 Alt. 1961

Offering Our Prayers to God

Prayer of Intercession & the Lord's Prayer

Hershey PCA Prayer Requests for the Week of December 17-23, 2023

Intercession for the World:

- **The Hershey Community:** Local Public and Private Schools and Homeschooling Families – Students, Faculty, Administration, and Staff
- **Civil Government:** Dauphin County Commissioner Mike Pries
- **Countries of Origin of Our Church Members and Friends:** Ukraine
- **Unreached People Group:** Bari of India and Nepal
Population: 760,000; Language: Hindi and Maithili; 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:** Ken K.
- **Those Who Serve in Our Local Church:** Location Task Force
- **Our Denomination (PCA):** New Covenant Fellowship, Mechanicsburg, PA
(Church in the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery)
- **Supported Missionary or Organizations:** Cam and Kaela Smith,
serving with RUF at Penn State

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: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" arr. Molly Ijames

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

*Song of Preparation:

Jesus Loves Me, This I Know

C G C F F/C C

1. Je - sus loves me, this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
 2. Je - sus loves me, he who died, heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
 3. Je - sus loves me, loves me still, though I'm ver - y weak and ill;
 4. Je - sus loves me, he will stay close be - side me all the way:

G C F C C/G G⁷ C

lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak but he is strong.
 he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
 from his shin - ing throne on high comes to watch me where I lie.
 if I love him, when I die he will take me home on high.

REFRAIN F C G

Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!

C F C/G G⁷ C 7

Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

JESUS LOVES ME 7.7.7.7.ref.
 William B. Bradbury, 1861

Anna B. Warner, 1859

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:**

Numbers 6:22-27

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²³ "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,

*⁴ 'The LORD bless you
and keep you;*

*²⁵ the LORD make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you;*

*²⁶ the LORD lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace.'*

*²⁷ So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will
bless them."*

John 20:26

"Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'"

Romans 1:7 (and other New Testament letters)

*"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ."*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

Sermon: Advent 2023: What Do You Most Want This Christmas? (3)
Peace!

Today's Texts: Various

Pastor David Kertland

1. Peace _____ .

2. Peace _____ .

3. Peace _____ .

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.'

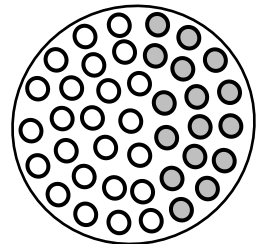
In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

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.



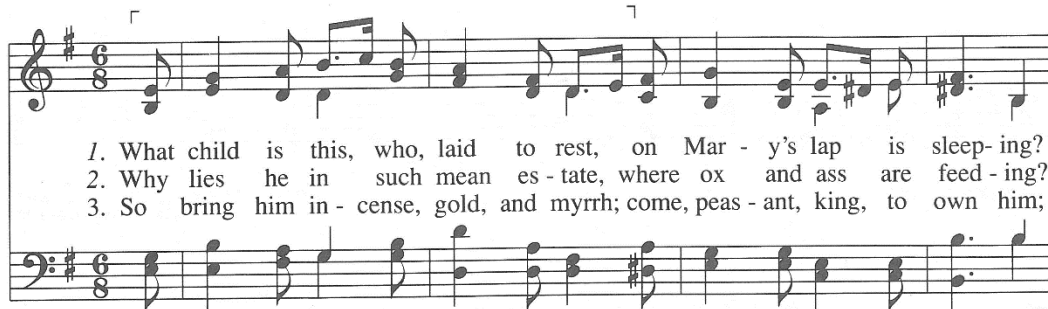
white circles = grape juice
gray circles = wine

Prayer

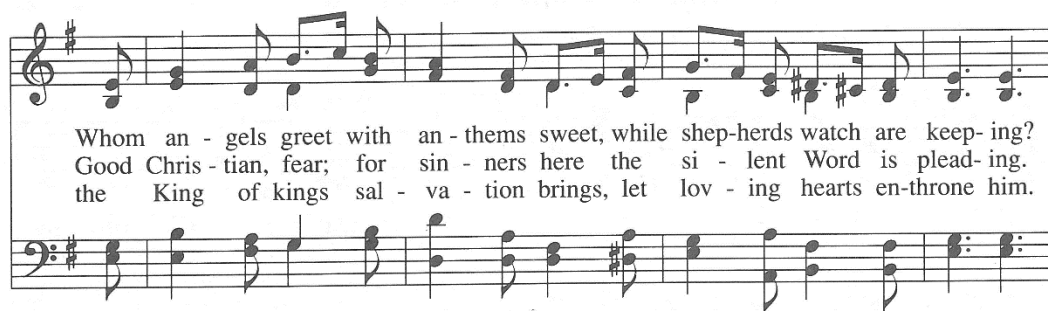
Receiving God's Blessing

*Song of Dedication & Service:

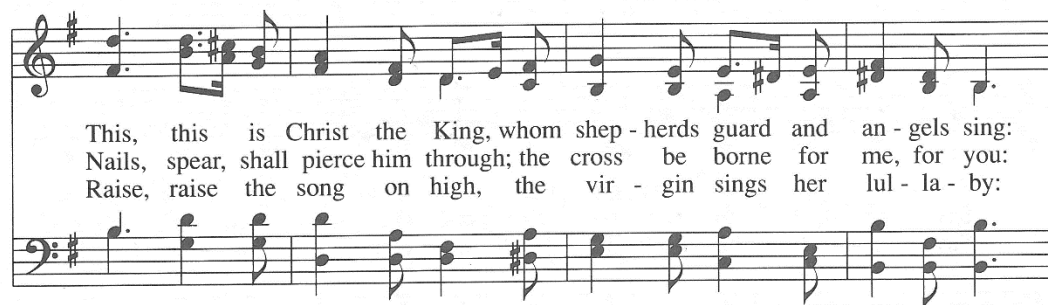
What Child Is This



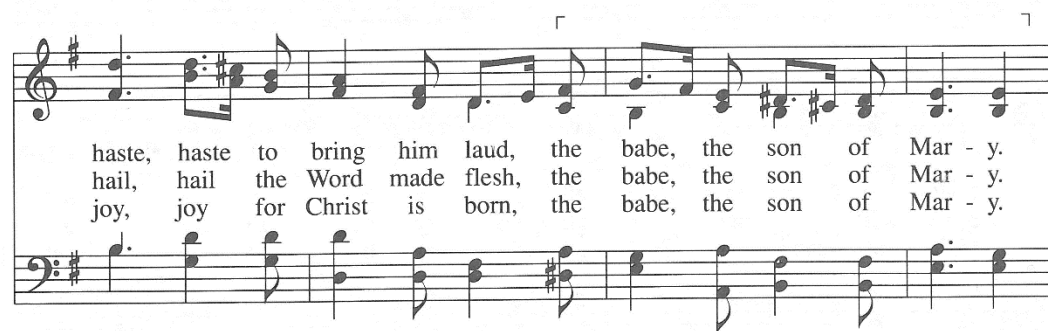
1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
 2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate, where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him;



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 the King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing:
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by:



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y.
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y.
 joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y.

GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7.ref.
 English melody, 16th cent.

Traditional English carol
 Adapted by William C. Dix, ca. 1865

God's Blessing

*Benediction:

Hebrews 13:20-21

*Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,
equip you with everything good that you may do his will,
working in us that which is pleasing in his sight,
through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.
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:** Henry Ossawa Tanner (American, 1859-1937), *The Visitation*, ca. 1909-1910. Oil on canvas. 49 ½ in. x 54 1/8 in. x 3 1/8 in. Permanent collection of the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts eMuseum, Kalamazoo, MI. Gift of Ronda Stryker and William Johnson. Object Number: 2005.11. In the public domain.
- 2) **Music:** "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" (193), "Good Christian Men, Rejoice" (207), "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know" (189), and "What Child Is This" (213) 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 <http://64.136.229.66:8081/objects/4349/the-visitation>. Various quotes describing worship elements are from: *Leading in Prayer: A Workbook for Ministers* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. 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).



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 remember 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!
All 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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