



Christmas Eve
2023

Lessons & Carols

Tonight's service is a joint service of two local churches both members of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

During our service tonight, we will hear the reading of six lessons, sing a variety of carols and songs, pray, and have a mediation on a biblical text.

Our Lessons & Carols service is an adaptation of an 1880 Christmas Eve service by E. W. Benson in Truro, UK. His son, A. C. Benson recalled: "My father arranged from ancient sources a little service for Christmas Eve—nine carols and nine tiny lessons." Almost immediately other churches adapted the service for their own use. Some of our service tonight is patterned after the King's College Chapel of King's College, Cambridge which broadcasts a traditional Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols service each year.

May you find joy and peace in the Lord tonight.

Tonight's Cover Artwork: *The Annunciation to the Shepherds*, Henry Ossawa Tanner, oil on canvas, 12 3/4 x 15 7/8 in., circa 1895, private collection, in the public domain, <https://useum.org/artwork/The-Annunciation-to-the-Shepherds-Henry-Ossawa-Tanner>



Hershey Presbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)



LEBANON VALLEY
- PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA) -

Prelude

Sonata No. 4 in D Major, Op 1, No 13, HWV 371, Mvt.1: Largo - George Frideric Handel

“See, Amid the Winter's Snow”

arr. Dan Forrest

See, amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see the tender Lamb appears,
promised from eternal years.

Hail, thou ever blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Welcome to this special service. We are very happy that you have come to share with us in this great occasion which is an act of worship for us here and for Christians throughout the world.

Please silence your cell phones so that they will not ring during the service. Follow the invitations to stand or sit as you are able, but feel free to remain seated, if that is more comfortable for you.

As you consider the Christmas message, we wish you a very Merry Christmas!



The Adoration of the Shepherds,
with the lamp

Rembrandt Harmensz. Van Rijn,
c. 1654, engraving
18.6 x 27.8 cm (7 5/16 x 19 15/16 in)
Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam

Call to Worship:

Beloved in Christ, this Christmas Eve let us find delight in hearing again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience to the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise:

“This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

(Psalm 118:24)

Lighting of the Four Advent Wreath Candles

Micah 5:2

The Hepperle Family

*But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.*

Once in Royal David's City

Hershey PCA Children

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

*O Come, All Ye Faithful

Congregation

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,
 2. God of God, Light of Light;
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing:

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem; come and be - hold him
 lo, he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb: ver - y God, be -
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove; glo - ry to God
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther,

born the King of an - gels;
 got - ten, not cre - a - ted;
 in the high - est; O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let
 late in flesh ap - pear - ing;

us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Latin hymn
 Arr. to John Francis Wade, 1751
 Tr. by Frederick Oakeley, 1841: alt.

ADESTE FIDELES 6.6.10.5.6.9.1.
 John Francis Wade's *Cantus Diversi*, 1751

Lesson 1

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Diane Kanode

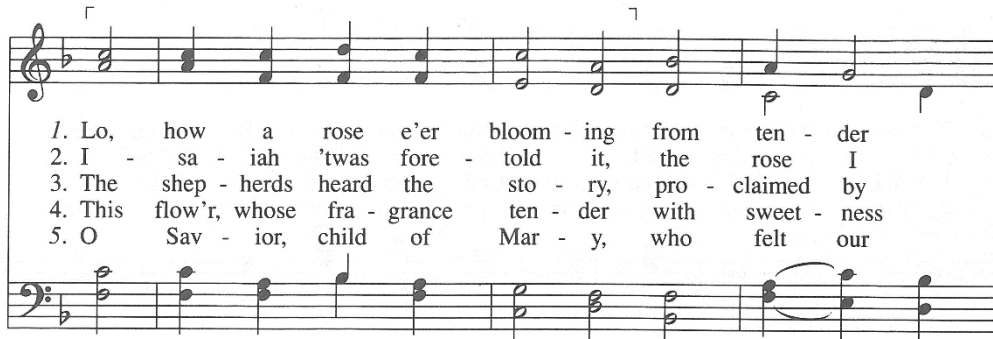
God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that this seed will bruise the serpent's head.

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 and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

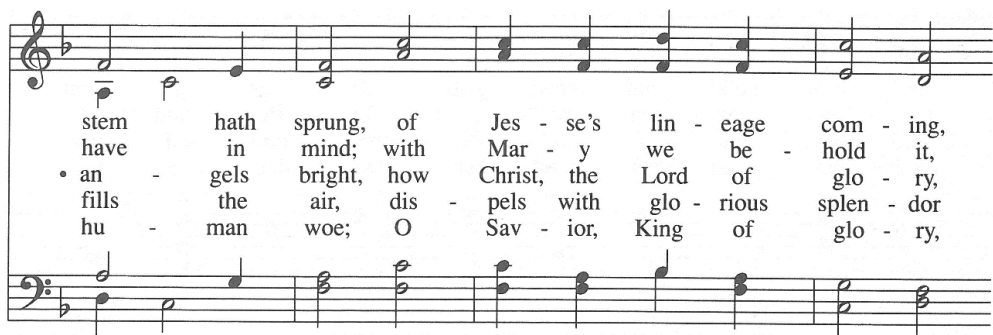
¹⁷ And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; 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."

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

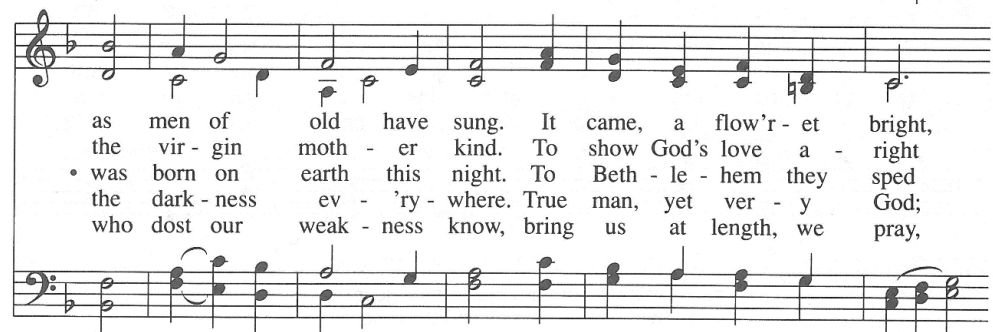
Congregation



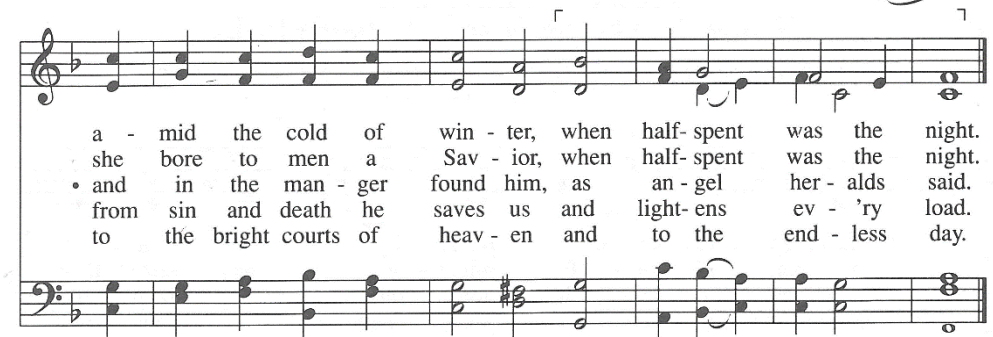
1. Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der
 2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I
 3. The shep - herds heard the sto - ry, pro - claimed by
 4. This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness
 5. O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our



stem hath sprung, of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing,
 have in mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it,
 • an - gels bright, how Christ, the Lord of glo - ry,
 fills the air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor,
 hu - man woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry,



as men of old have sung. It came, a flow'r - et bright,
 the vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right
 • was born on earth this night. To Beth - le - hem they sped
 the dark - ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God;
 who dost our weak - ness know, bring us at length, we pray,



a - mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 she bore to men a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 • and in the man - ger found him, as an - gel her - alds said.
 from sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 to the bright courts of heav - en and to the end - less day.

ES IST EIN ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN 7, 6, 7, 6, 6, 7, 6.
 German melody, 15th cent.
 Arr. by Michael Praetorius, 1609; all.

German hymn, ca. 1500
 St. 1-2 tr. by Theodore Baker, 1894
 St. 3-4 tr. by Harriett R. Spaeth, 1875
 St. 5 tr. by John C. Matties, 1914

Lesson 2

Isaiah 7:14 & Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Brady Dolon

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

Isaiah 7:14

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and shall call his name Immanuel.*

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

*The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.*

*⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*

Evening Prayer

We pray tonight for the needs of this whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for peace, purity, and love within the Church he came to build.

In particular, we pray tonight for our Nation, our Commonwealth, and all those governing, residing, or this night visiting in Dauphin and Lebanon counties, along with the ongoing work of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), her churches, missionaries, and partners in ministry throughout the world.

At this time, we also remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry, the abused, the exploited, and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely, the isolated and those unloved; the elderly and the little children; those retired ministers and their widows who have served the gospel throughout life; all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his Holy Spirit.

Lastly, we give thanks to God for all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in our Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises we humbly offer up to you, our Father, in Jesus's Name, and we sum up all our prayers, praying in the words which our Lord Jesus Christ himself taught us:

***“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.***

Light Text = by Leader
Bold Text = by All in Unison

Lesson 3

Isaiah 11:1-9

Ishmael Woodard

The prophet foretells the character and reign of the Savior.

*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.*

*⁶ The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.*

*⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.*

*⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.*

*⁹ They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.*

All Is Well

Ensemble

All is well, all is well.
Angels and men rejoice!
For tonight darkness fell
Into the dawn of love's light.
Sing Alle,
Sing Alleluia!

All is well, all is well.
Let there be peace on earth.
Sing, for Christ is come, go and tell
That he is in the manger.
Sing Alle,
Sing Alleluia!

All is well, all is well.
Lift up your voice and sing.
Born is now Emmanuel.
Born is our Lord and Savior.
Sing Alleluia!
All is well!

Born is now Emmanuel.
Born is our Lord and Savior.
Sing Alleluia!
Sing Alleluia, Alleluia!
All is well, all is well.

Lesson 4

Luke 2:1-7

Malacai Victa

Luke's Gospel tells of the birth of Jesus.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration where Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Lighting of the Center Candle:

The center candle is lit after the reading of the birth of Jesus Christ in recognition that the light of the world has come.

The Nativity
Albrecht Dürer, 1504, engraving
Overall: 18.6 x 27.8 cm (7 5/16 x 19 15/16 in)
Rosewald Collection
National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC



* Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Congregation

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

Lesson 5

Luke 2:8-20

Pastor David Kertland

The angels announce the birth of the Savior to the shepherds.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

*¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"*

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

“The One Gift to Provide It All”

Text: John 1:14a



The Adoration of the Shepherds

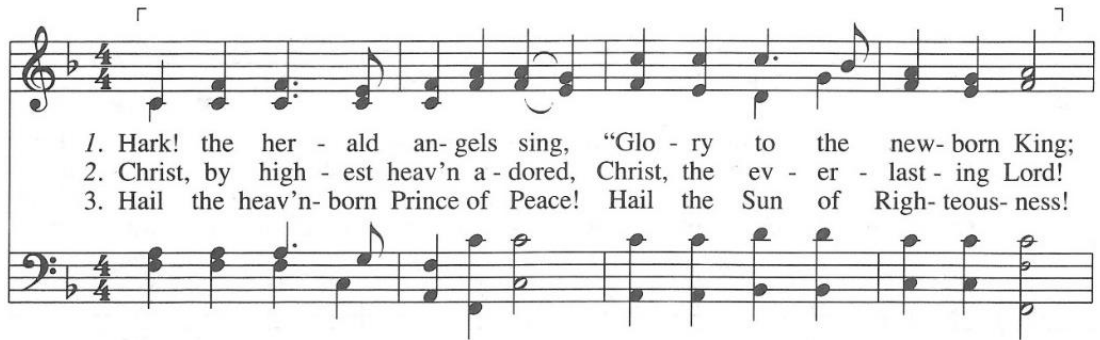
From the Studio of Rembrandt van Rijn, Anonymous artist, pen and brown ink with gray-brown wash

Overall: 18.6 x 27.8 cm (7 5/16 x 19 15/16 in)

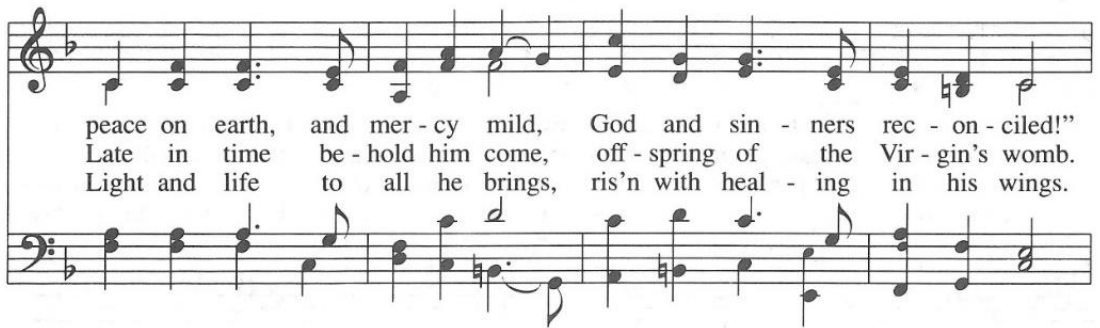
Widener Collection; National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; 1942.9.660; Open Access.

***Hark! the Herald Angels Sing**

Congregation



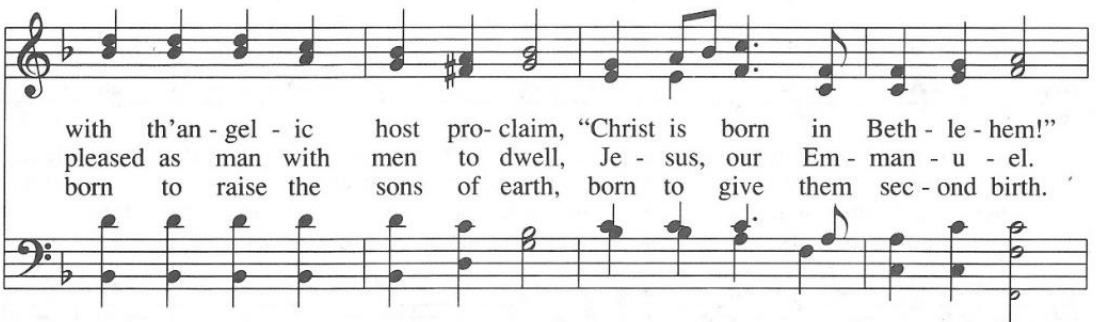
1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,



with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.



Charles Wesley, 1739, 1753; alt.

MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7.D.ref.
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, 1840
Arr. by William H. Cummings, 1856

Lesson 6

1 John 4:9-10, 14

Pastor Cisco Victa

The Apostle announces the good news about the Savior.

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

Candle Lighting

As we see the light of the candles spread throughout the dark room, we are reminded of Jesus's words that he is the Light of the world (John 8:12) He has called his followers to announce the message about him to the world so that all nations might come and worship him.

Safety concern:

To prevent dripping and damage to furniture and flooring, we ask that lit candles always be kept ***vertical***. Let the person next to you put their unlit candle into your flame. Please extinguish the flame immediately following tonight's benediction. Thank you.

LED candles are available for young children and those who prefer a flameless light.

Please return all candles after the service.

*Silent Night! Holy Night!

Congregation

Capo 1: Γ B \flat (A)

Γ F 7 (E 7) B \flat (A) E \flat (D)

1. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright round yon
 2. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep- herds quake at the sight! Glo - ries
 3. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light ra - diant
 4. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light; with the

B \flat (A) E \flat (D) B \flat (A)

vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,
 stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
 beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
 an - gels let us sing al - le - lu - ia to our King;

F 7 (E 7) B \flat (A) Γ F 7 (E 7) B \flat (A) Γ

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!

Joseph Mohr, 1818
Tr. ca. 1850

STILLE NACHT Irreg.
Franz Gruber, 1818

*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

*Congregation standing, as you are able.

Tonight's Service Information

- 1) **Thank you** to all our participants in tonight's service!
- 2) **Artwork: Cover:** *The Annunciation to the Shepherds*, Henry Ossawa Tanner, circa 1895, 12 3/4 x 15 7/8 in., private collection, in the public domain. **Page 3:** "The Adoration of the Shepherds, with lamp" (Rembrandt Harmensz. Van Rijn, c. 1654, www.artbible.info/art/large/981.html); **Page 12:** "The Nativity" (Albrecht Dürer, 1504, 1943.3.3557, Open Access. www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/Collection/art-object-page.6675.html); **Page 15:** "The Adoration of the Shepherds" (the studio of Rembrandt van Rijn, 1606-1669, 1942.9.660, Open Access. www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/Collection/art-object-page.1838.html) Artwork is in the public domain.
- 3) **Music: Sound:** Keith Dolon; **Pianist:** Jared Salyards; **Orchestra:** Ephraim Church (violin), Isaiah Church (violin), Thaddaeus Church (viola), Josh Franklin (violin), Peter Gobble (viola), Grace Salyards (French horn), Anita Wood (trumpet) **Ensemble:** Crystal Basom, Asahel Church, Emily Church, Laura Church, Jericho Church, Leah Gobble, Bonnie Kertland, Yaasha Hepperle, Mark Linstedt, Pam Linstedt, Bradley Weaver, Don Wood, and Sonia Yoo. **Carols:** "Once in Royal David's City" (225), "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (208), "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" (221), "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come" (195), "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" (203), and "Silent Night! Holy Night!" (210) are reprinted from the *Trinity Hymnal* (Atlanta, GA: Great Commission Publications, 2000). Music used by permission: CCLI License #703337.
- 4) **Quotes:** Biblical quotes are from the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise noted. The comments on page 2 and the Evening Prayer on Page 12 have been modified and revised from the 2022 King's College Chapel booklet for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols which can be viewed at www.kings.cam.ac.uk/chapel/a-festival-of-nine-lessons-and-carols.



Hershey Presbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

Meeting Sundays
9:00 AM Bible Classes for all ages
10:00 AM Worship Service
1521 Sand Hill Road, Hummelstown, PA 17036
(717) 489-1535
hersheypca.com



LEBANON VALLEY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

Meeting Sundays
10:00 AM Worship Service
452 Ebenezer Road, Lebanon, PA 17042
(717) 769-9627
lebanonvalleypca.com