



HersheyPresbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Front Cover Artwork

Samuel Palmer, Christmas, or Folding the Last Sheep, British, 1850. Etching, second state of five. Image: 3 7/8 in x 3 3/16 in. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (not on view). Gift of G. L. Winthrop, 1917. Accession Number 17.55.2. In the public domain. <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/362467>.

Samuel Palmer (January 27, 1805 - May 24, 1881) was a British landscape painter, etcher and printmaker. He was also a prolific writer. Palmer was a key figure in Romanticism in Britain and produced visionary pastoral paintings.

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/samuel-palmer-411>

*“And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field,
keeping watch over their flock...”*

From the Gospel of Luke, chapter 2, verse 8



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), Paul Hepperle (leading worship), Bonnie Kertland (vocals), David Kertland (preaching), Mark Linstedt (vocals), Pam Linstedt (vocals), Nathanael Marengo (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. 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 Greg Moore.

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle

The Asahel Church and Family

Daniel 7:13-14:

*"I saw in the night visions,
and behold, with the clouds of heaven
there came one like a son of man,
and he came to the Ancient of Days
and was presented before him.
¹⁴ And to him was given dominion
and glory and a kingdom,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him;
his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
which shall not pass away,
and his kingdom
one that shall not be destroyed."*

Praising God

***Call to Worship:**

Psalm 111

Praise the LORD!

***I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.***

² *Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.*

³ *Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.*

⁴ *He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.*

⁵ *He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.*

⁶ *He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.*

⁷ *The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy;*

⁸ *they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.*

⁹ *He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!*

¹⁰ *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.*

His praise endures forever!

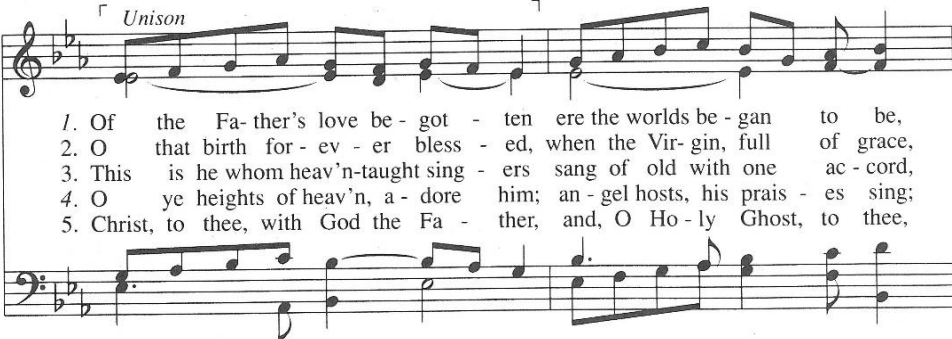
Light Text = Read by Leader

Bold Text = Read by All

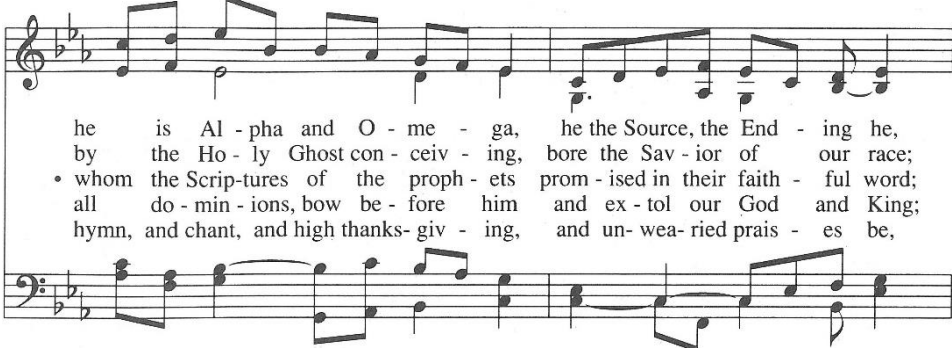
*Response of Praise:

Of the Father's Love Begotten

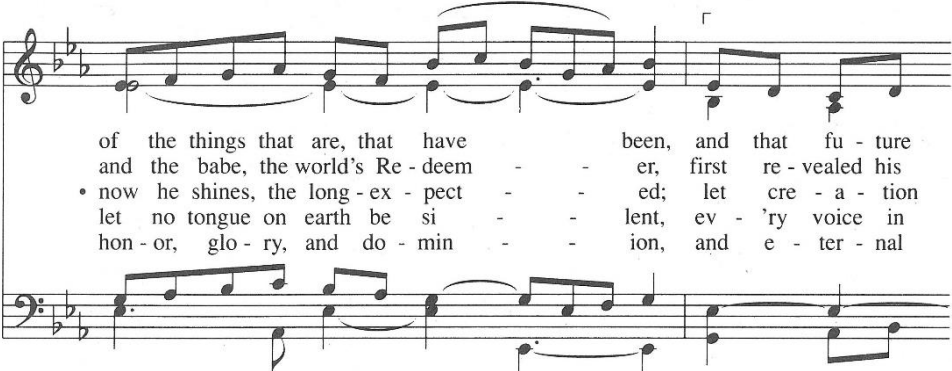
Unison



1. Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be - gan to be,
 2. O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin, full of grace,
 3. This is he whom heav'n-taught sing - ers sang of old with one ac - cord,
 4. O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his prais - es sing;
 5. Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,



he is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the Source, the End - ing he,
 by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the Sav - ior of our race;
 • whom the Scrip - tures of the proph - ets prom - ised in their faith - ful word;
 all do - min - ions, bow be - fore him and ex - tol our God and King;
 hymn, and chant, and high thanks - giv - ing, and un - wearied prais - es be,



of the things that are, that have been, and that fu - ture
 and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his
 • now he shines, the long - ex - pect - ed; let cre - a - tion
 let no tongue on earth be si - lent, ev 'ry voice in
 hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal



years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 • praise its Lord, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.
 Plansong, 12th cent.
 Arr. by Charles Winifred Douglas, 1916

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413
 Tr. by John Mason Neale, 1854;
 Henry W. Baker, 1859

***Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

***Confession of Faith:**

Philippians 2:5-11

Leader:

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

Congregation:

**who, though he was in the form of God,
did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,
being born in the likeness of men.**

**And being found in human form,
he humbled himself by becoming obedient
to the point of death,
even death on a cross.**

**Therefore God has highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

***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

Isaiah 45:20-23

*"Assemble yourselves and come;
draw near together,
you survivors of the nations!
They have no knowledge
who carry about their wooden idols,
and keep on praying to a god
that cannot save.
²¹ Declare and present your case;
let them take counsel together!
Who told this long ago?
Who declared it of old?
Was it not I, the LORD?
And there is no other god besides me,
a righteous God and a Savior;
there is none besides me.
²² Turn to me and be saved,
all the ends of the earth!
For I am God, and there is no other.
²³ By myself I have sworn;
from my mouth has gone out in righteousness
a word that shall not return:
'To me every knee shall bow,
every tongue shall swear allegiance.'"*

Confession of Sin

In this prayer, we confess our failure to own and honor the true and living God as King.

Declaration of Pardon in Christ

Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Offering Our Prayers to God

Prayer of Intercession & the Lord's Prayer

Hershey PCA Prayer Requests for the Week of December 24-30, 2023

Intercession *for the World*:

- **The Hershey Community:** Derry Township Manager Christopher Christman
- **Civil Government:** Dauphin County Commissioner Chad Saylor
- **Countries of Origin of Our Church Members and Friends:** Canada
- **Unreached People Group:** Baria of India and Pakistan
Population: 312,800; Language: Gujarati and Sindhi; 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:** Darlene K.
- **Those Who Serve in Our Local Church:** Elder Ephraim Church
- **Our Denomination (PCA):** Proclamation Presbyterian Church, Mount Joy, PA
(A sister church in the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery)
- **Supported Missionary or Organizations:** Richard and Lynne Smith,
serving with RUF-I at Penn State

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

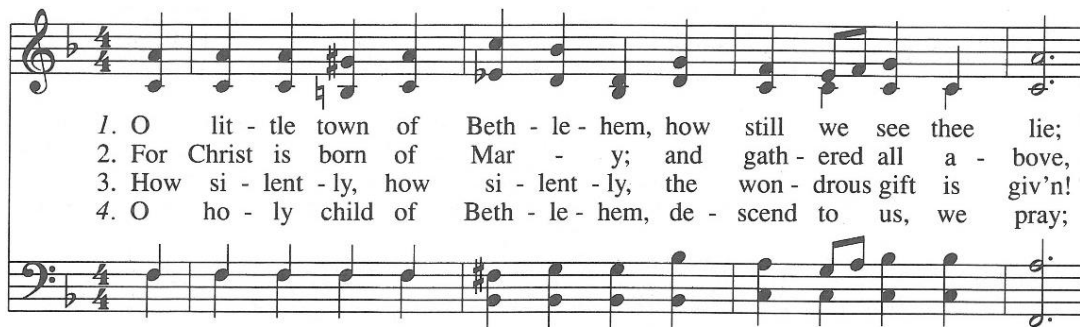
"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Presentation of Our Tithes & Offerings

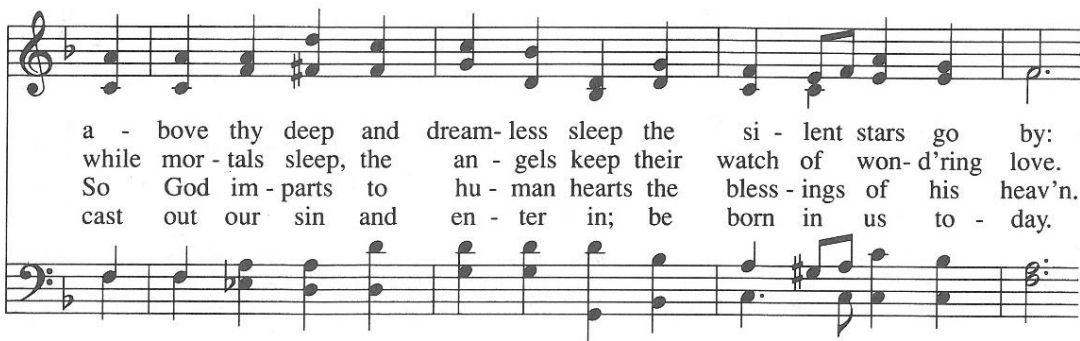
Offertory

***Song of Preparation:**

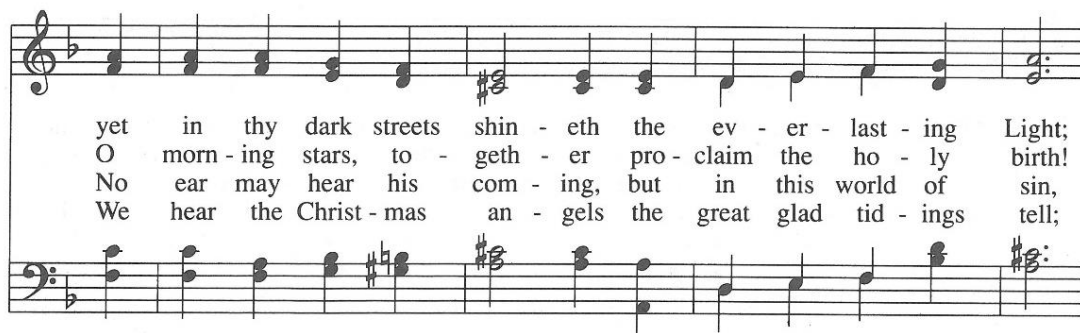
O Little Town of Bethlehem



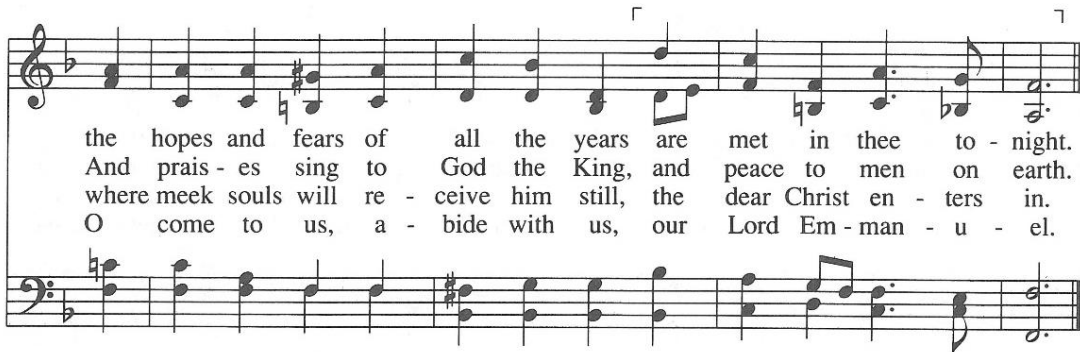
1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie;
 2. For Christ is born of Mar - y; and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4. O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



a - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by:
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 And prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him still, the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bid with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

ST. LOUIS C.M.D. irreg.
 Lewis H. Redner, 1868

Phillips Brooks, 1868

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:**

Psalm 23: *A Psalm of David.*

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. ³ He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

John 10:11

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Revelation 7:16-17

They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷ For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

Sermon: Advent 2023: What Do You Most Want This Christmas? (4)
Security

Today's Texts: Various

Pastor David Kertland

1. We live in a _____ world.

2. The Lord is a _____ shepherd.

3. The Lord is a _____ shepherd.

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.'

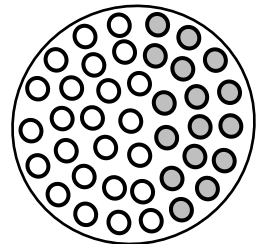
In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

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.



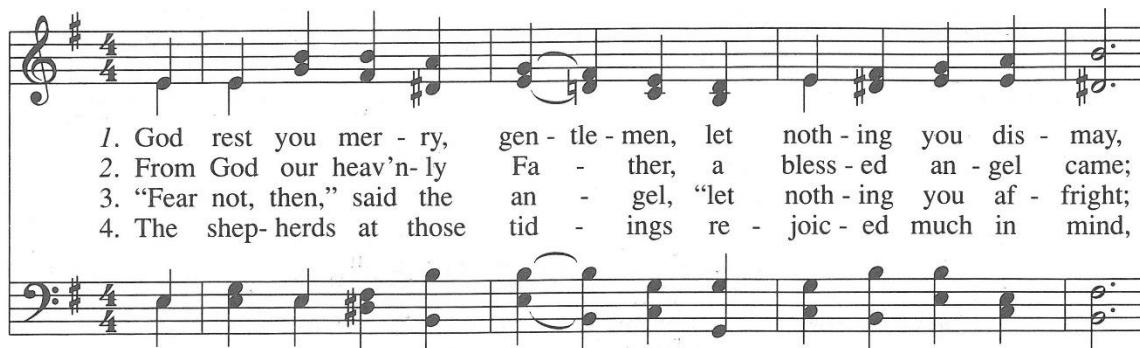
white circles = grape juice
gray circles = wine

Prayer

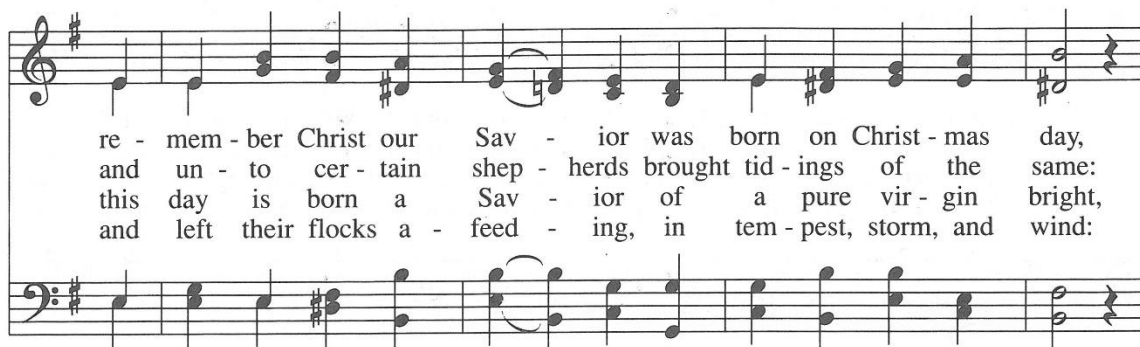
Receiving God's Blessing

***Song of Dedication & Service:**

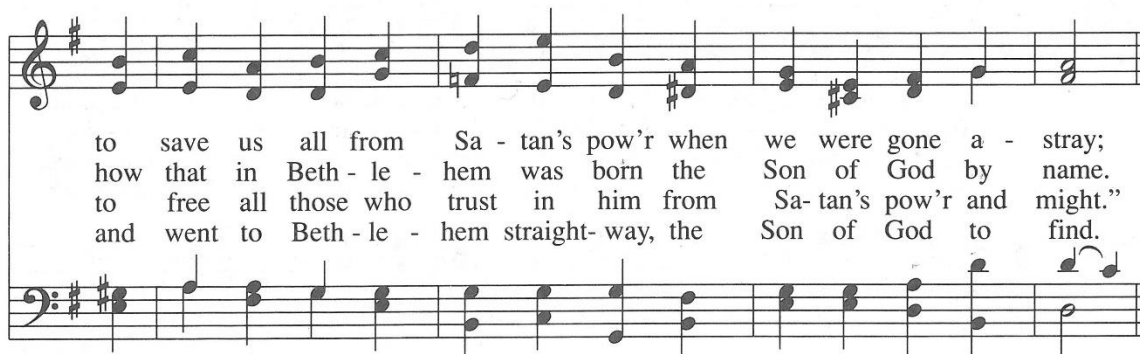
God Rest You Merry[†]



1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may,
2. From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther, a bless - ed an - gel came;
3. "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "let noth - ing you af - fright;
4. The shep - herds at those tid - ings re - joic - ed much in mind,



re - mem - ber Christ our Sav - ior was born on Christ - mas day,
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:
this day is born a Sav - ior of a pure vir - gin bright,
and left their flocks a - feed - ing, in tem - pest, storm, and wind:



to save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray;
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's pow'r and might."
and went to Beth - le - hem straight - way, the Son of God to find.

[†] Note: "The historic meaning of the phrase 'God rest you merry' is 'may God grant you peace and happiness'; the Oxford English Dictionary records uses of this phrase from 1534 onwards." (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/God_Rest_You_Merry,_Gentlemen)

REFRAIN

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy,

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

English carol, 18th cent.

GOD REST YOU MERRY 8.6.8.6.8.6.ref.
English melody, 18th cent.

God's Blessing

*Benediction

Jude 24-25

*Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling
and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy,
to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord,
be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority,
before all time and now and forever.
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:** Samuel Palmer, Christmas, or Folding the Last Sheep, British, 1850. Etching, second state of five. Image: 3 7/8 in x 3 3/16 in. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (not on view). Gift of G. L. Winthrop, 1917. Accession Number 17.55.2. In the public domain. <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/362467>.
- 2) **Music:** "Of the Father's Love Begotten" (162), "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (201), and "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" (211) 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 artist from <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/samuel-palmer-411>. 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).



Hershey Presbyterian Church (PCA)

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



Hershey Presbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

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