



Hershey Presbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

December 31, 2023

Front Cover Artwork

Christmas Eve (Kerstdnacht), Theodore van Hoytema, Dutch, 1894. Lithograph, second state of two, 18 11/16 in. x 12 1/16 in. In the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Purchase, Peco Foundation, 2022. Accession Number: 2022.15.1. In the public domain.

Van Hoytema was the most significant Dutch designer and lithographer at the end of the nineteenth century. Still beloved in Holland today for his animal-themed work, these pieces were equally admired in his time. Part of the Art Nouveau movement in Holland, Van Hoytema's *Christmas Eve* and *New Year* were produced as a matched pair in an edition of 200. *Christmas Eve* depicts two owls in a snowy landscape with a flock of swans flying overhead. A border of slanted owls and another of holly leaves decorate the bottom of the image. *New Year* includes a host of birds, a white peacock gloriously opens its tail feathers observed by three geese; the two owls from the previous print make an appearance on the bottom as though they are flying away from the *New Year*. The connecting figures of a turkey, a large dark peacock, and a rooster create a large curve that enframes the white peacock. Both works show the influence of Japanese artwork on the compositions. Hoytema combines in these works the use of lithographic crayon to define lighter areas and lithographic ink to create the darks as well as the mosaic-like patterning on the turkey and owls in the *New Year*.

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/856909>



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): Crystal Basom (vocals), Ephraim Church (violin), Paul Hepperle (preaching), David Kertland (leading worship), Mark Linstedt (vocals), Pam Linstedt (vocals), 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. Children are dismissed during the hymn before the sermon and will return to their parents during the final hymn.

Today's Communion Servers are Joe Kearns and Keith Dolon.

Prelude

Praising God

***Call to Worship:**

Isaiah 40:27-31

Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?

²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard?

**The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.**

**He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.**

²⁹ **He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases strength.**

³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;

³¹ **but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.**

Light Text = Read by Leader

Bold Text = Read by All

*Response of Praise:

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

1. Our God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
 2. Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
 4. A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone;

our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
 suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5. The busy tribes of flesh and blood,
 with all their lives and cares,
 are carried downward by your flood,
 and lost in foll'wing years.

6. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
 bears all its sons away;
 they fly forgotten, as a dream
 dies at the op'ning day.

7. Our God, our help in ages past,
 our hope for years to come:
 O be our guard while troubles last,
 and our eternal home.

***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.”
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

Psalm 90:8-12

You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. ⁹ For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. ¹⁰ The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. ¹¹ Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you? ¹² So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

Confession of Sin

Declaration of Pardon in Christ

Hebrews 4:14-16

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Offering Our Prayers to God

Prayer of Intercession & the Lord's Prayer

Hershey PCA Prayer Requests for the Week of December 31, 2023-January 6, 2024

Intercession *for the World*:

- **The Hershey Community:** Derry Township Director of Community Development Charles Emerick
- **Civil Government:** PA State Representative Thomas Mehaffie
- **Countries of Origin of Our Church Members and Friends:** China
- **Unreached People Group:** Bariki of India
Population: 7,700; Language: Odia; 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:** Trudy K.
- **Those Who Serve in Our Local Church:** Elder Joe Kearns
- **Our Denomination (PCA):** St. Stephen Reformed Church, New Holland, PA
(A sister church in the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery)
- **Supported Missionary or Organizations:** Anees and Fareda,
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

*Song of Preparation: Lead Me, Lord, Lead Me in Thy Righteousness

1. Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righ-teous-ness, make thy way
 2. Teach me, Lord, teach me tru - ly how to live, that I may

plain be - fore my face. For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord,
 come to know thee, and in thy pres - ence serve thee with

on - ly, that mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.
 glad - ness, and sing songs of praise to thy glo - ry.

St. 1, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876
 St. 2, George F. Strickling
 Tune © E. C. Schirmer, Inc. Used by permission.

LEAD ME, LORD 10.8.
 Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

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:**

Isaiah 41:8-13

⁸But you, Israel, my servant,
Jacob, whom I have chosen,
the offspring of Abraham, my friend;
⁹you whom I took from the ends of the earth,
and called from its farthest corners,
saying to you, "You are my servant,
I have chosen you and not cast you off";
¹⁰fear not, for I am with you;
be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

¹¹Behold, all who are incensed against you
shall be put to shame and confounded;
those who strive against you
shall be as nothing and shall perish.

¹²You shall seek those who contend with you,
but you shall not find them;
those who war against you
shall be as nothing at all.

¹³For I, the LORD your God,
hold your right hand;
it is I who say to you, "Fear not,
I am the one who helps you."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

Sermon:

Fear Not, I Am with You

Today's Text: Isaiah 41:8-13

Paul Hepperle

1. The Church is _____ and _____.

2. Consider our _____.

3. Behold our _____.

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.'

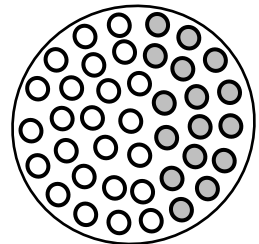
In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

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:**

All Glory Be to Christ

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each with four lines of text corresponding to the four parts of the choir.

1. Should noth - ing of our ef - forts stand, no leg - a - cy sur - vive;
2. His will be done, His king - dom come, on earth as is a - bove;
3. When on the day the great I Am, the Faith - ful and the True

Un - less the Lord does raise the house, in vain its build - ers strive.
Who is Him - self our dai - ly bread, praise Him the Lord of love.
The Lamb who was for sin - ners slain, is mak - ing all things new.

To you who boast to - mor - row's gain, tell me what is your life?
Let liv - ing wa - ter sat - is - fy the thirst - y with - out price,
Be - hold our God shall live with us and be our stead - fast light,

Please turn the page →

A mist that van - ish - es at dawn, all glo - ry be to Christ!
 We'll take a cup of kind - ness yet, all glo - ry be to Christ!
 And we shall e'er His peo - ple be, all glo - ry be to Christ!

All glo - ry be to Christ, our King. All glo - ry be to Christ!

His rule and reign we'll ev - er sing, all glo - ry be to Christ!

Words: Dustin Kensrue

Music: *Auld Lang Syne* - Scottish traditional

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God's Blessing

*Benediction

Ephesians 3:20-21

*Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly
than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,
to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus
throughout all generations, 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.

Today's Service Information

- 1) **Artwork:** *Christmas Eve (Kerstnacht)*, Theodore van Hoytema, Dutch, 1894. Lithograph, second state of two, 18 11/16 in. x 12 1/16 in. In the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Purchase, Peco Foundation, 2022. Accession Number: 2022.15.1. In the public domain. <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/856909>.
- 2) **Music:** "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past" (30) and "Lead Me, Lord, Lead Me in Thy Righteousness" (727) are reprinted from *The Trinity Hymnal* (Great Commission Publications, Atlanta, GA, 2000). "All Glory Be to Christ" (133) is reprinted from *Hymns of Grace* (The Master's Seminary Press, Los Angeles, CA, 2015). Music used by permission: CCLI License #20711820 and CCLI Streaming License #20711837.
- 3) **Quotes: Page 2:** Information on the artist from <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/856909>. 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).

* Congregation standing



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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