



HersheyPresbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

March 3, 2024

Front Cover Artwork

Johannes Vermeer, *Woman Holding a Balance*. c. 1664, Oil on canvas. painted surface: 15 5/8 in. x 14 in.); framed: 24 3/4 in. x 23 in. x 3 in.). National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., Widener Collection. Accession Number 1942.9.97. In the public domain.

Woman Holding a Balance is an interesting painting as we consider the topic of repentance and faith throughout March.

Woman Holding a Balance is a superb example of Johannes Vermeer's exquisite sense of stability and rhythm. A woman dressed in a blue jacket with fur trim stands serenely at a table in a corner of a room. The scales in her right hand are at equilibrium, suggestive of her inner state of mind. A large painting of the Last Judgment, framed in black, hangs on the back wall of the room. A shimmering blue cloth, open boxes, two strands of pearls, and a gold chain lie on the sturdy table. Soft light comes in through the window and illuminates the scene. The woman is so pensive that the viewer almost hesitates to intrude on her quiet moment of contemplation.

The visual juxtaposition of the woman and the Last Judgment is reinforced by thematic parallels: to judge is to weigh. [We are encouraged to] ...examine [our] conscience and weigh [our] sins as if facing Judgment Day. ... *Woman Holding a Balance* thus allegorically urges us to conduct our lives with temperance and moderation. The woman is poised between the earthly treasures of gold and pearls and a visual reminder of the eternal consequences of her actions.

Vermeer emphasized this message through his superbly refined composition and lighting. The hand holding the balance, for example, occupies a position directly in front of the frame's dark corner, while the scales are set off against the bare plaster wall—an effect that Vermeer created through subtle spatial manipulation. Note, for instance, that the bottom of the Last Judgment's frame is slightly higher to the left of the woman than it is behind her back, creating room for the balance.

Edited from: <https://www.nga.gov/collection/art-object-page.1236.html>



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), Laura Church (vocals), Peter Gible (viola), Joe Kearns (tin whistle), Bonnie Kertland (vocals), David Kertland (preaching), Mark Linstedt (vocals), Pam Linstedt (vocals), Nathanael Marengo (clarinet), Jared Salyards (piano), Brad Weaver (sound), Don Wood (vocals), and Nick Yingst (leading worship).

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 Keith Dolon.

Prelude

Praising God

*Call to Worship:

Psalm 9:1-2

*I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart;
I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.*

*² I will be glad and exult in you;
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.*

Light Text = Read by Leader
Bold Text = Read by All

*Response of Praise:

Wondrous King, All Glorious

G Dsus D Em Bsus B C

1. Won-drous King, all - glo - rious, sov'-reign Lord vic - to - rious, oh, re -
 2. Heav-ens, spread the sto - ry of our Mak-er's glo - ry, all the
 3. O my soul, re - joic - ing, sing, thy prais-es voic - ing, sing, with
 4. Hal - le - lu - jahs ren - der to the Lord most ten - der, ye who

G Em D G D G Dsus D Em

ceive our praise with fa - vor! From thee welled God's kind - ness tho' we
 pomp of earth ob - scur - ing. Sun, thy rays be send - ing, thy bright
 hymns of faith a - dore him! All who here have be - ing, shout, your
 know and love the Sav - ior. Hal - le - lu - jahs sing ye, ye re -

Bsus B C G Em D G D G C

in our blind - ness strayed from thee, our bless - ed Sav - ior. Strength-en thou,
 beams ex - pend - ing, light to all the earth as - sur - ing. Moon and star,
 voic - es free - ing, bow down in the dust be - fore him. He is God
 deemed, oh, bring ye hearts that yield him glad be - hav - ior. Blest are ye

D G D G C G D G Am G Am7 D7 G7

help us now; let our tongues be sing - ing, thee our prais-es bring - ing.
 praise a - far him who glo - rious made you; the vast heav-ens aid you.
 Sab - a - oth; praise a - lone the Sav - ior, here and there for - ev - er.
 end - less - ly; sin - less there for - ev - er, ye shall laud him ev - er.

WUNDERBARER KÖNIG 6.6.8.6.8.3.3.6.6;
 Joachim Neander, 1680; alt. 1990

Joachim Neander, 1680
 Tr. by William J. Schaefter, 1938
 Text from The Lutheran Hymnal © 1941. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission from CPH.

***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." 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*.

Reading of God's Standard

Exodus 20:4-6

You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Q. 50. What is required in the second commandment?

A. The first commandment requires us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God; and to worship and glorify him accordingly.

Q. 51. What is forbidden in the second commandment?

A. The second commandment forbids the worshiping of God by images, or any other way not appointed in his Word.

Q. 52. What are the reasons annexed to the second commandment?

A. The reasons annexed to the second commandment are, God's sovereignty over us, his propriety in us, and the zeal he has to his own worship.

Confession of Sin

Declaration of Pardon in Christ

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Offering Our Prayers to God

Prayer of Intercession & the Lord's Prayer

Hershey PCA Prayer Requests for the Week of March 3-9, 2024

Intercession for the World:

- **The Hershey Community:** Life Lion Emergency Medical Services and Critical Care
- **Civil Government:** US President Joe Biden
- **Countries of Origin of Our Church Members and Friends:** China
- **Unreached People Group:** Bashgali of Pakistan
Population: 19,000; Language: Kateviri; Religion: Islam
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:** Small Group Leaders
- **Our Denomination (PCA):** Bellefonte Presbyterian Church, Bellefonte, PA
(A mission church in the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery)
- **Supported Missionary or Organizations:** PCA Committee on Discipleship Ministries (CDM)

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

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

***Song of Preparation: Your Word Sheds Light upon My Path (Psalm 119:105-112)**

1. ¹⁰⁵Your word sheds light up - on my path; a shin - ing
2. ¹⁰⁷Se - vere af - flic - tion, LORD, is mine; send help ac -
3. ¹⁰⁹In con - stant dan - ger is my life, your righ - teous
4. ¹¹¹Your pre - cepts are my her - i - tage; they dai - ly

lamp, it guides my feet; ¹⁰⁶your righ - teous judg - ments
cord - ing to your word. ¹⁰⁸Ac - cept my sac - ri -
law I'll not for - get. ¹¹⁰I have not from your
make my heart re - joice. ¹¹²To keep your stat - utes

to ob - serve, my sol - emn vow I now re - peat.
fice of praise and make me know your judg - ments, LORD.
pre - cepts strayed, de - spite the snares the wick - ed set.
faith - ful - ly shall ev - er be my will - ing choice.

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 51:17-23

*Wake yourself, wake yourself,
stand up, O Jerusalem,
you who have drunk from the hand of the LORD
the cup of his wrath,
who have drunk to the dregs
the bowl, the cup of staggering.
¹⁸ There is none to guide her
among all the sons she has borne;
there is none to take her by the hand
among all the sons she has brought up.
¹⁹ These two things have happened to you—
who will console you?—
devastation and destruction, famine and sword;
who will comfort you?
²⁰ Your sons have fainted;
they lie at the head of every street
like an antelope in a net;
they are full of the wrath of the LORD,
the rebuke of your God.*

*²¹ Therefore hear this, you who are afflicted,
who are drunk, but not with wine:
²² Thus says your Lord, the LORD,
your God who pleads the cause of his people:
“Behold, I have taken from your hand the cup of staggering;
the bowl of my wrath you shall drink no more;
²³ and I will put it into the hand of your tormentors,
who have said to you,
‘Bow down, that we may pass over’;
and you have made your back like the ground
and like the street for them to pass over.”*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

Sermon:

Repent of Ignoring God

Today's Text: Isaiah 51:17-23

Pastor David Kertland

1. _____ the cup of God's wrath

2. _____ and _____

3. _____ up!

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.'

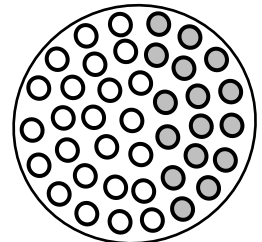
In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

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.

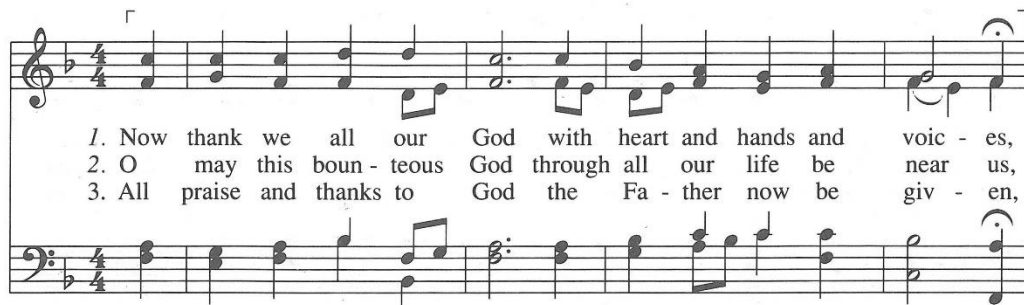


white circles = grape juice
gray circles = wine

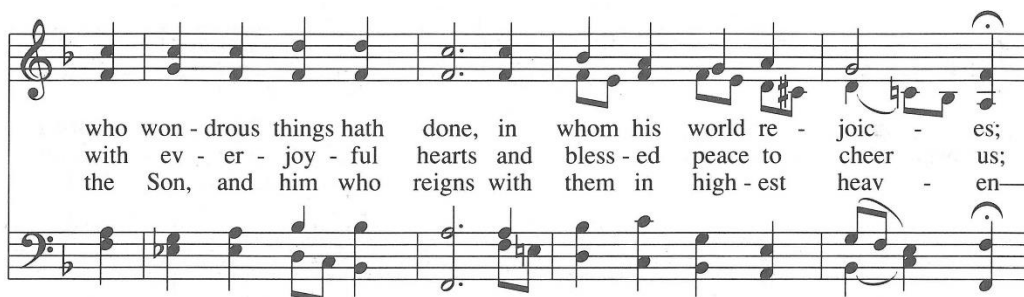
Prayer

Receiving God's Blessing

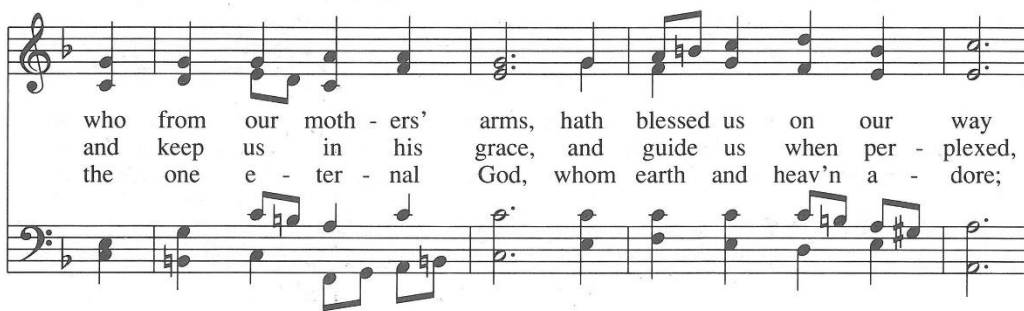
*Song of Dedication & Service: Now Thank We All Our God



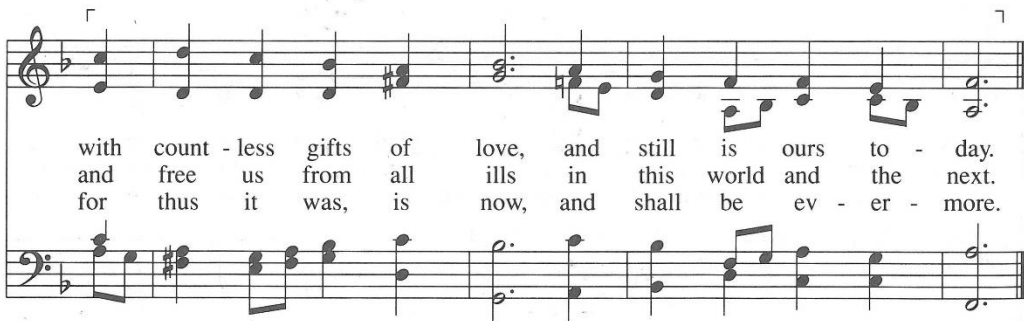
1. Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voic - es,
 2. O may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us,
 3. All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,



who won - drous things hath done, in whom his world re - joic - es;
 with ev - er - joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us;
 the Son, and him who reigns with them in high - est heav - en—



who from our moth - ers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
 and keep us in his grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
 the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

NUN DANKET, 6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6.
 Johann Crüger, 1647

Marin Rinkart, 1636
 Tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1858

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.*

*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:** Johannes Vermeer, *Woman Holding a Balance*. c. 1664, Oil on canvas. painted surface: 15 5/8 in. x 14 in.); framed: 24 3/4 in. x 23 in. x 3 in.). National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., Widener Collection. Accession Number 1942.9.97. <https://www.nga.gov/collection/art-object-page.1236.html>. In the public domain.
- 2) **Music:** "Wondrous King, All Glorious" (166) and "Now Thank We All Our God" (98) are reprinted from *The Trinity Hymnal* (Great Commission Publications, Atlanta, GA, 2000). "Your Word Sheds Light upon My Path" (119N) is reprinted from *The Trinity Psalter Hymnal* (Willow Grove, PA: Trinity Psalter Hymnal Joint Venture, 2018). Music used by permission: CCLI License #20711820 and CCLI Streaming License #20711837.
- 3) **Quotes: Page 2:** Arthur K. Wheelock Jr., "Johannes Vermeer/*Woman Holding a Balance*/c. 1664," *Dutch Paintings of the Seventeenth Century*, NGA Online Editions, <https://purl.org/nga/collection/artobject/1236> (accessed February 28, 2024). 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) **Note from the Pastor:** Along with the Hebrew and English texts, a variety of commentaries and study aids have been consulted in preparing this and other sermons from the book of Isaiah, including: the insights, sermons, and writings of John Calvin, Bob Fyall, Matthew Henry, J. Alec Motyer, Graham S. Ogden, Raymond C. Ortlund, Jr., Shalom M. Paul, Gary V. Smith, Jan Sterk, Barry G. Webb, Edward J. Young, and others. Not every commentator or pastor listed is consulted for each sermon, yet many of the insights belong to these and others, while the form and specific use of the Scripture text along with any errors that follow from them are my own.
- 5) 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

Learning Our Confession: Repentance unto Life

Westminster Confession of Faith*:

Chapter 15: Of Repentance unto Life

1. Repentance unto life is an evangelical grace, the doctrine whereof is to be preached by every minister of the gospel, as well as that of faith in Christ.
2. By it, a sinner, out of the sight and sense not only of the danger, but also of the filthiness and odiousness of his sins, as contrary to the holy nature, and righteous law of God; and upon the apprehension of his mercy in Christ to such as are penitent, so grieves for, and hates his sins, as to turn from them all unto God, purposing and endeavoring to walk with him in all the ways of his commandments.
3. Although repentance be not to be rested in, as any satisfaction for sin, or any cause of the pardon thereof, which is the act of God's free grace in Christ; yet it is of such necessity to all sinners, that none may expect pardon without it.
4. As there is no sin so small, but it deserves damnation; so there is no sin so great, that it can bring damnation upon those who truly repent.
5. Men ought not to content themselves with a general repentance, but it is every man's duty to endeavor to repent of his particular sins, particularly.
6. As every man is bound to make private confession of his sins to God, praying for the pardon thereof; upon which, and the forsaking of them, he shall find mercy; so, he that scandalizeth his brother, or the church of Christ, ought to be willing, by a private or public confession, and sorrow for his sin, to declare his repentance to those that are offended, who are thereupon to be reconciled to him, and in love to receive him.

Westminster Shorter Catechism*:

Q. 87. What is repentance unto life?

A. Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

Westminster Larger Catechism*:

Q. 27. What misery did the fall bring upon mankind? The fall brought upon mankind the loss of communion with God, his displeasure and curse; so as we are by nature children of wrath, bond slaves to Satan, and justly liable to all punishments in this world, and that which is to come.

*Having been written in the mid-1600s, the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms are in an older English style. They have been received by the PCA as our doctrinal standards; that is, they summarize what we believe the Bible teaches. We understand them to be "subject to and subordinate to the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, the inerrant Word Of God." The Bible itself is the only infallible rule of faith and practice. For more information, see <https://www.pcaac.org/bco/westminster-confession/>.



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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