



HersheyPresbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

March 17, 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 (leading worship and violin), Laura Church (vocals), Dave Eakin (vocals), Peter Gibble (viola), Joe Kearns (tin whistle), Bonnie Kertland (vocals), David Kertland (preaching), Nathanael Marengo (sound), Jared Salyards (piano), Anita Wood (piano for 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 Ephraim Church and Greg Moore.

Prelude

Praising God

***Call to Worship:**

1 Corinthians 15:15-58

"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

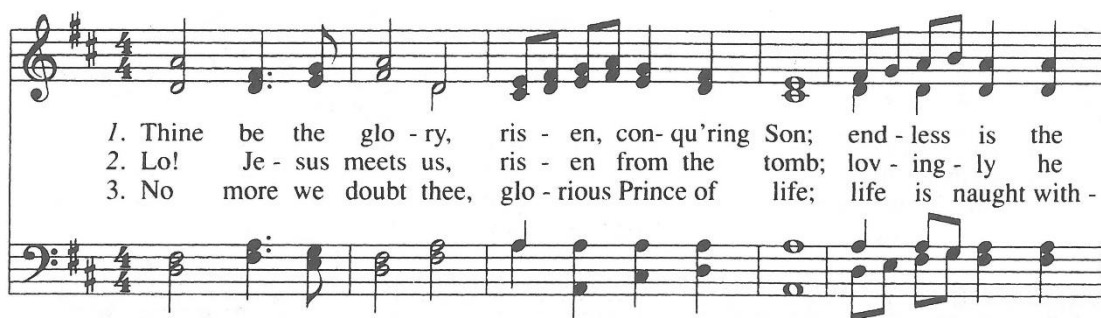
Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Light Text = Read by Leader

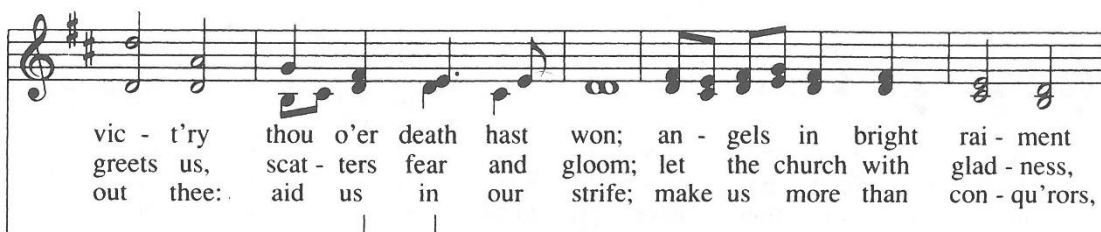
Bold Text = Read by All

*Response of Praise:

Thine Be the Glory



1. Thine be the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
2. Lo! Je - sus meets us, ris - en from the tomb; lov - ing - ly he
3. No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with -



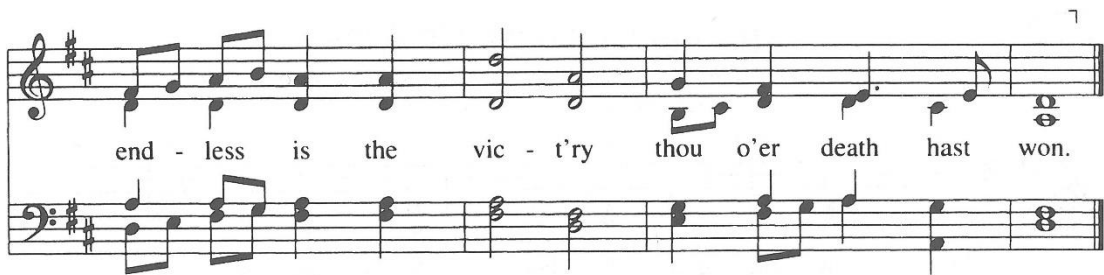
vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won; an - gels in bright rai - ment
greet us, scat - ters fear and gloom; let the church with glad - ness,
out thee: aid us in our strife; make us more than con - qu'rors,



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes,
hymns of tri - umph sing, for her Lord now liv - eth,
thro' thy death - less love: bring us safe thro' Jor - dan



REFRAIN
where thy bod - y lay.
death hath lost its sting. Thine be the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son;
to thy home a - bove.



Edmond Budry, 1884
Tr. by Richard B. Hoyle, 1923

Text © 1923, World Student Christian Federation. Used by permission.

MACCABAEUS 10.11.11.ref.
From George Frederick Handel, *Judas Maccabaeus*, 1747

***Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

***Confession of Faith:**

from Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

Serve the LORD with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the LORD, he is God!

***It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.***

***Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!***

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

***For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.***

***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

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

Today's reading continues to explore in Scripture the Second Commandment about making idols (Exodus 20:4-5).

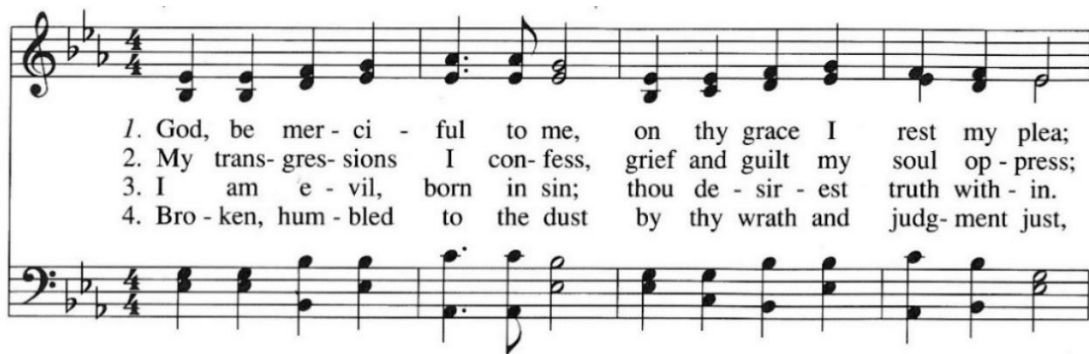
Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? ¹⁵ What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,

*“I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them,
and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.
¹⁷ Therefore go out from their midst,
and be separate from them, says the Lord,
and touch no unclean thing;
then I will welcome you,
¹⁸ and I will be a father to you,
and you shall be sons and daughters to me,
says the Lord Almighty.”*

^{7:1} Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

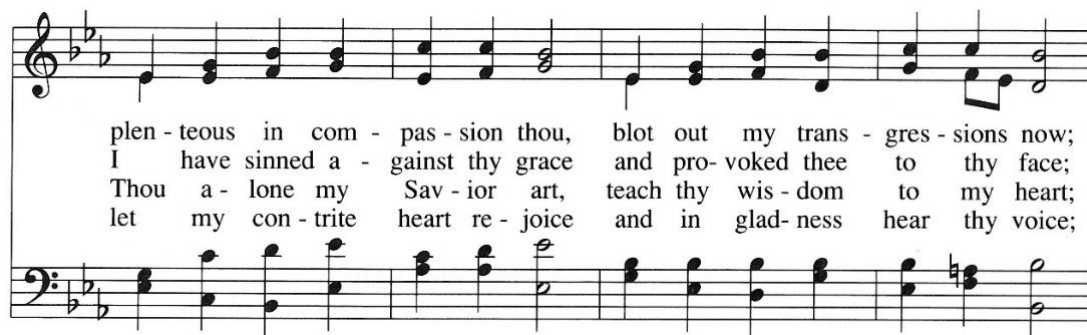
Song of Confession:

God, Be Merciful to Me Psalm 51:1-15

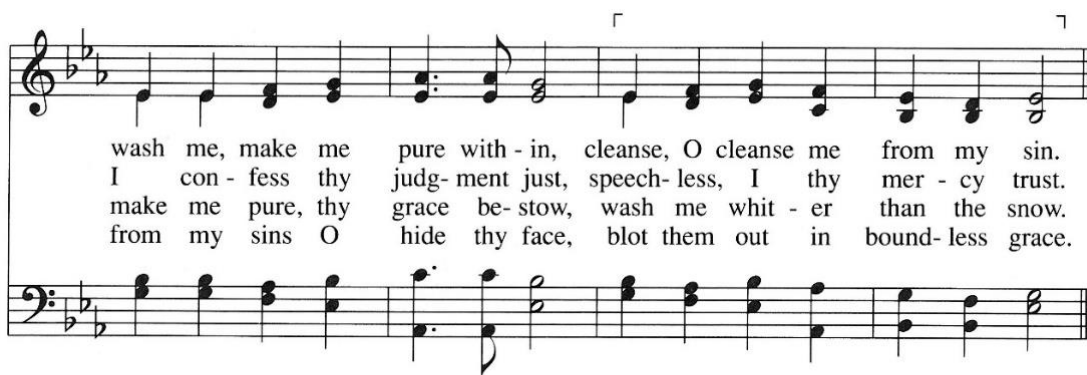


1. God, be mer - ci - ful to me, on thy grace I rest my plea;
 2. My trans-gres-sions I con-fess, grief and guilt my soul op-press;
 3. I am e - vil, born in sin; thou de - sir - est truth with - in.
 4. Bro - ken, hum - bled to the dust by thy wrath and judg-ment just,

REDHEAD 76 7.7.7.7.7.
Richard Redhead, 1853



plen - teous in com - pas - sion thou, blot out my trans - gres - sions now;
 I have sinned a - gainst thy grace and pro - voked thee to thy face;
 Thou a - lone my Sav - ior art, teach thy wis - dom to my heart;
 let my con - trite heart re - joice and in glad - ness hear thy voice;



wash me, make me pure with - in, cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.
 I con - fess thy judg-ment just, speech- less, I thy mer - cy trust.
 make me pure, thy grace be - stow, wash me whit - er than the snow.
 from my sins O hide thy face, blot them out in bound - less grace.

From Psalm 51:1-15
The Psalter, 1912

5. Gracious God, my heart renew,
 make my spirit right and true;
 cast me not away from thee,
 let thy Spirit dwell in me;
 thy salvation's joy impart,
 steadfast make my willing heart.

6. Sinners then shall learn from me
 and return, O God, to thee;
 Savior, all my guilt remove,
 and my tongue shall sing thy love;
 touch my silent lips, O Lord,
 and my mouth shall praise accord.

Declaration of Pardon in Christ

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Offering Our Prayers to God

Prayer of Intercession & the Lord's Prayer

Hershey PCA Prayer Requests for the Week of March 17-23, 2024

Intercession for the World:

- **The Hershey Community:** Hershey Area Retirement Communities
- **Civil Government:** US Supreme Court Justices
- **Countries of Origin of Our Church Members and Friends:** India
- **Unreached People Group:** Bashkardi of Iran
Population: 9,400; Language: Bashkardi; 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:** Lois K.
- **Those Who Serve in Our Local Church:** Children's Ministry Leaders
- **Our Denomination (PCA):** Redeemer Presbyterian Church, Chambersburg, PA
(A sister church in the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery)
- **Supported Missionary or Organizations:** Covenant Theological Seminary

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: "Children of the Heavenly Father"

arr. Dan Forrest

Children of the Heavenly Father

Children of the heav'nly Father,
safely in His bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven
such a refuge e'er was given.

Neither life nor death shall ever
from the Lord His children sever;
unto them His grace He showeth,
and their sorrows all He knoweth.

Tho' He giveth or He taketh,
God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
to preserve them pure and holy.

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

***Song of Preparation:**

Spirit of the Living God

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.

The first system of the song features a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time. The melody is in B-flat major, starting on a whole note chord of B-flat and D-flat, followed by a half note of E-flat, and then a quarter note of F. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me."

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.

The second system continues the melody from the first system. It starts with a whole note chord of B-flat and D-flat, followed by a half note of E-flat, and then a quarter note of F. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me."

Break me! Melt me! Mold me! Fill me!

The third system continues the melody from the second system. It starts with a whole note chord of B-flat and D-flat, followed by a half note of E-flat, and then a quarter note of F. The lyrics are: "Break me! Melt me! Mold me! Fill me!"

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.

The fourth system concludes the song. It starts with a whole note chord of B-flat and D-flat, followed by a half note of E-flat, and then a quarter note of F. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me."

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 52:11-12

*Depart, depart, go out from there;
touch no unclean thing;
go out from the midst of her;
purify yourselves,
you who bear the vessels of the LORD.
¹² For you shall not go out in haste,
and you shall not go in flight,
for the LORD will go before you,
and the God of Israel will be your rear guard.*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

Sermon:

Repent of Delay

Today's Text: Isaiah 52:11-12

Pastor David Kertland

1. _____ the freedom*: *"depart, depart"*

2. _____ the lifestyle*: *"purify yourselves"*

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)

**The sermon points today are phrases suggested by Bob Fyall in the ESV Expository Commentary on Isaiah (VI, 322).*

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.'

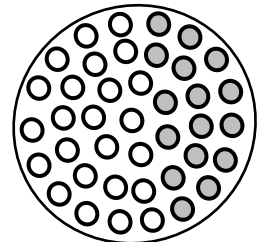
In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

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:**

Be Thou My Vision

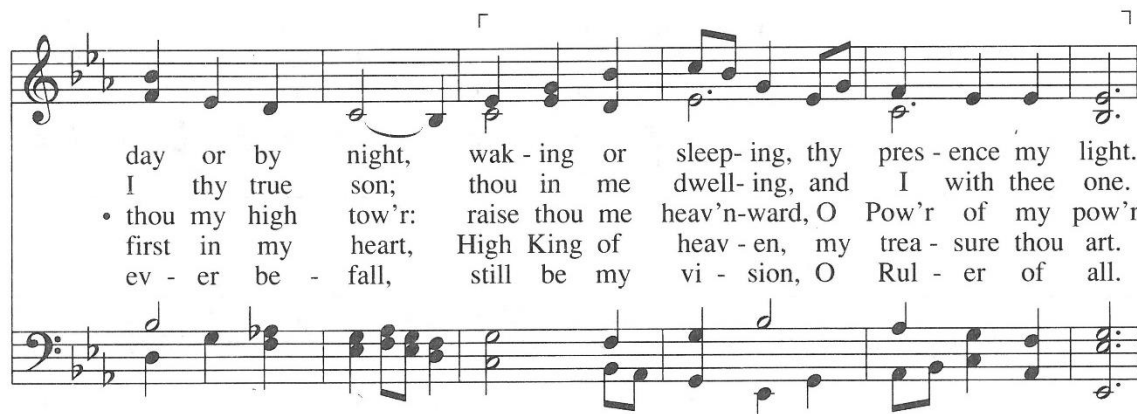
Unison



1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart; naught be all
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word; I ev - er
 3. Be thou my bat - tle shield, sword for my fight; be thou my
 4. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise, thou mine in -
 5. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won, may I reach



else to me, save that thou art— thou my best thought by
 with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou my great Fa - ther,
 • dig - ni - ty, thou my de - light, thou my soul's shel - ter,
 her - i - tance, now and al - ways: thou and thou on - ly,
 heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun! Heart of my own heart, what -



day or by night, wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 I thy true son; thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
 • thou my high tow'r: raise thou me heav'n-ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 first in my heart, High King of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 ev - er be - fall, still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

SLANE 10.10.10.10.
 Traditional Irish melody
 Arr. by David Evans, 1927

Ancient Irish poem, ca. 8th cent.
 Tr. by Mary E. Byrne, 1905
 Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912
 Tune arr. © 1927 from the Revised Church Hymnary by permission of Oxford University Press.

God's Blessing

*Benediction:

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

*Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father,
who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace,
comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.*

*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:** "Thine Be the Glory" (274), "God, Be Merciful to Me" (486), "Spirit of the Living God" (726), and "Be Thou My Vision" (642) 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:** 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). Our confession of sin today was modified from "Confessing Our Transgressions of the Ten Commandments, accessed 03/05/2024, <https://westministervincennes.org/blog/2017/9/18/confessing-our-transgressions-of-the-ten-commandments>. 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.

*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).



Hershey Presbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

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