



Hershey Presbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

April 7, 2024

Front Cover Artwork

Vincent van Gogh, *Almond Blossoms*. Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, February 1890. Oil on canvas, 73.3 cm x 92.4 cm (28.858 in. x 36.378 in.). Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam (Vincent van Gogh Foundation). In the public domain. Accessed 03/28/2024 at <https://www.vangoghmuseum.nl/en/collection/s0176V1962>.

Large blossom branches like this against a blue sky were one of Van Gogh's favorite subjects. Almond trees flower early in the spring making them a symbol of new life. Van Gogh borrowed the subject, the bold outlines and the positioning of the tree in the picture plane from Japanese printmaking.

The painting was a gift for his brother Theo and sister-in-law Jo, who had just had a baby son, Vincent Willem. In the letter announcing the new arrival, Theo wrote: 'As we told you, we'll name him after you, and I'm making the wish that he may be as determined and as courageous as you.' Unsurprisingly, it was this work that remained closest to the hearts of the Van Gogh family. Vincent Willem went on to found the Van Gogh Museum.

<https://www.vangoghmuseum.nl/en/collection/s0176V1962>



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), Isaiah Church (violin), Peter Gobble (viola), Paul Hepperle (leading worship), Joe Kearns (tin whistle), Bonnie Kertland (vocals), David Kertland (preaching), Mark Linstedt (vocals). Pam Linstedt (vocals), Nathanael Marengo (sound), Don Wood (vocals), and Nick Yingst (piano).

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 Dave Eakin.

Prelude

Praising God

*Call to Worship:

Isaiah 43:1-3a

*But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:*

*"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.*

*² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.*

*³ For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.*

Response of Praise:*Come, People of the Risen King**

1. Come, peo - ple of the ris - en King, who de - light to bring Him praise;
2. Come, those whose joy is morn - ing sun, and those weep - ing thru the night;
3. Come, young and old from eve - ry land, men and wom - en of the faith;



come all, and tune your hearts to sing to the Morn - ing Star of grace.
come, those who tell of bat - tles won, and those strug - gling in the fight.
come, those with full or emp - ty hands—find the rich - es of His grace.



From the shift - ing shad - ows of the earth we will lift our eyes to Him,
For His per - fect love will nev - er change, and His mer - cies nev - er cease,
O - ver all the world His peo - ple sing—shore to shore we hear them call,



where stead - y arms of mer - cy reach to gath - er child - ren in.
but fol - low us through all our days in the cer - tain hope of peace.
the truth that cries through eve - ry age: "Our God is all in all!"



Re - joice! Re - joice! Let eve - ry tongue re - joice!

One heart, one voice; O church of Christ, re - joice!

The image shows two systems of musical notation. Each system consists of a treble and bass staff. The first system has lyrics 'Re - joice! Re - joice! Let eve - ry tongue re - joice!'. The second system has lyrics 'One heart, one voice; O church of Christ, re - joice!'. The music is written in a simple, accessible style with many chords and some melodic lines.

TEXT and MUSIC: Keith and Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend

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***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 intended to be a reference solely to what is today called the *Roman* Catholic Church.

Facing Up to Our Sin before God

Reading of God's Standard

Exodus 20:7

As we listen to this reading of Scripture today we remember that our God is a holy God, "a consuming fire" (Hebrews 12:29), and so we are to "see that [we] do not refuse him who is speaking" (Hebrews 12:25).

You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

Q. 54. What is required in the third commandment?

A. The third commandment requires the holy and reverent use of God's names, titles, attributes, ordinances, Word, and works.

Q. 55. What is forbidden in the third commandment?

A. The third commandment forbids all profaning or abusing of anything whereby God makes himself known.

Confession of Sin

Declaration of Pardon in Christ

Psalms 103:8-12

The Declaration of Pardon announces that the Scriptures promise forgiveness to all those who repent, confessing their sins to God and putting their faith in Jesus Christ.

*The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*

*⁹ He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.*

*¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.*

*¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;*

*¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.*

Offering Our Prayers to God

Prayer of Intercession & the Lord's Prayer

Hershey PCA Prayer Requests for the Week of April 7-13, 2024

Intercession for the World:

- **The Hershey Community:** Hershey Area Small Businesses
- **Civil Government:** Dauphin County Commissioner Justin Douglas
- **Countries of Origin of Our Church Members and Friends:** South Korea
- **Unreached People Group:** Basor of India

Population: 1,091,000; Language: Hindi; 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:** Catherine S.
- **Those Who Serve in Our Local Church:** Sound Team
- **Our Denomination (PCA):** Hanover Valley Presbyterian Church, Hanover, PA
(A sister church in the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery)
- **Supported Missionary or Organizations:** Mission to the World (MTW)

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

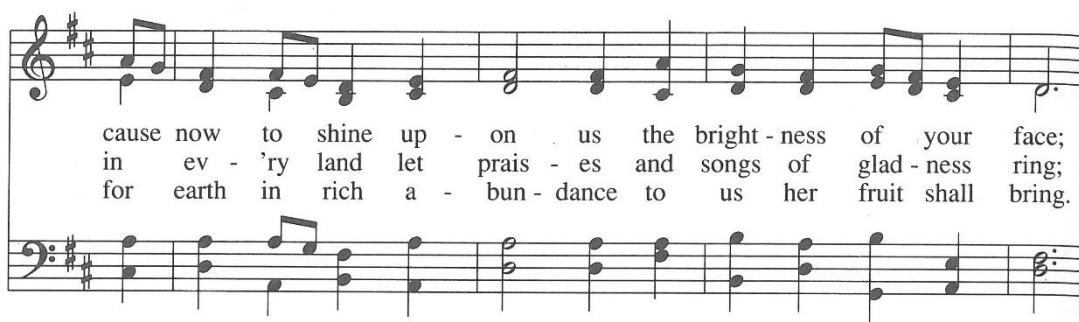
During this song, children from 4 years old to 3rd grade are dismissed
to attend Junior Church in Room 111.

*Song of Preparation

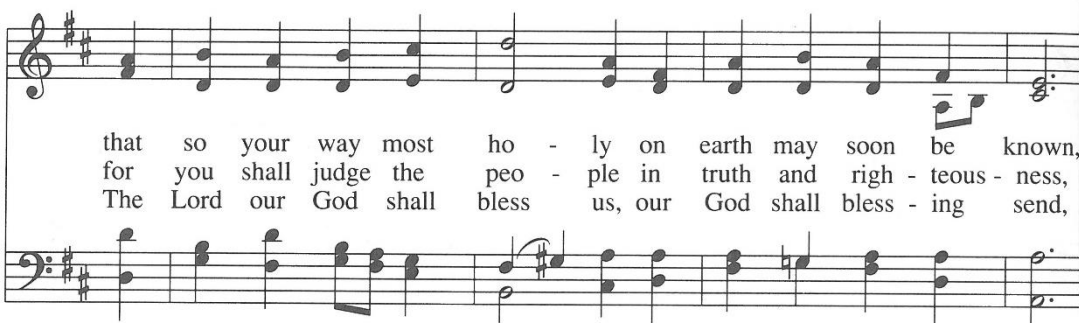
O God, to Us Show Mercy



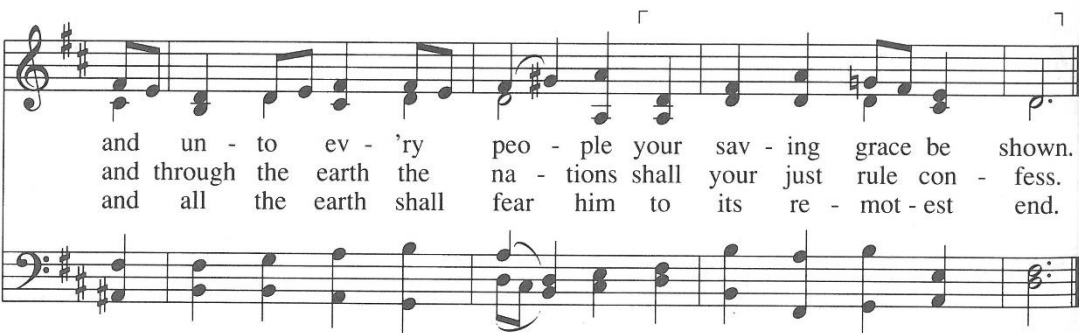
1. O God, to us show mer - cy and bless us in your grace;
2. O God, let all men praise you, let all the na - tions sing;
3. O God, let peo - ple praise you, let all the na - tions sing,



cause now to shine up - on us the bright - ness of your face;
in ev - 'ry land let prais - es and songs of glad - ness ring;
for earth in rich a - bun - dance to us her fruit shall bring.



that so your way most ho - ly on earth may soon be known,
for you shall judge the peo - ple in truth and righ - teous - ness,
The Lord our God shall bless us, our God shall bless - ing send,



and un - to ev - 'ry peo - ple your sav - ing grace be shown.
and through the earth the na - tions shall your just rule con - fess.
and all the earth shall fear him to its re - mot - est end.

MEIRIONYDD, 7.6.7.6.D.
Welsh hymn melody
William Lloyd, 1840; alt. 1990

Psalm 67
The Psalter, 1912; alt. 1990, mod.

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 54:1-17

*"Sing, O barren one, who did not bear;
break forth into singing and cry aloud,
you who have not been in labor!*

*For the children of the desolate one will be more
than the children of her who is married," says the LORD.*

*² "Enlarge the place of your tent,
and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out;
do not hold back; lengthen your cords
and strengthen your stakes.*

*³ For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left,
and your offspring will possess the nations
and will people the desolate cities.*

*⁴ "Fear not, for you will not be ashamed;
be not confounded, for you will not be disgraced;
for you will forget the shame of your youth,
and the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more.*

*⁵ For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name;
and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer,
the God of the whole earth he is called.*

*⁶ For the LORD has called you
like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit,
like a wife of youth when she is cast off, says your God.*

*⁷ For a brief moment I deserted you,
but with great compassion I will gather you.*

*⁸ In overflowing anger for a moment
I hid my face from you,
but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,"
says the LORD, your Redeemer.*

⁹ *"This is like the days of Noah to me:
as I swore that the waters of Noah
should no more go over the earth,
so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you,
and will not rebuke you.*

¹⁰ *For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed,
but my steadfast love shall not depart from you,
and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,"
says the LORD, who has compassion on you.*

¹¹ *"O afflicted one, storm-tossed and not comforted,
behold, I will set your stones in antimony,
and lay your foundations with sapphires.*

¹² *I will make your pinnacles of agate,
your gates of carbuncles,
and all your wall of precious stones.*

¹³ *All your children shall be taught by the LORD,
and great shall be the peace of your children.*

¹⁴ *In righteousness you shall be established;
you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear;
and from terror, for it shall not come near you.*

¹⁵ *If anyone stirs up strife, it is not from me;
whoever stirs up strife with you shall fall because of you.*

¹⁶ *Behold, I have created the smith who blows the fire of coals
and produces a weapon for its purpose.
I have also created the ravager to destroy;
¹⁷ no weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed,
and you shall refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment.
This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD
and their vindication from me, declares the LORD."*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

Sermon:

Every Promise Fulfilled

Today's Text: Isaiah 54:1-17

Pastor David Kertland

1. A reason for _____

2. A reason for _____

“ _____ great things; _____ great things”
William Carey (May 1792)

3. A reason for _____

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.'

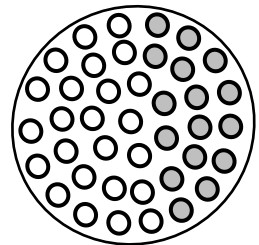
In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

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: Our God Is Mighty, Worthy of All Praising**

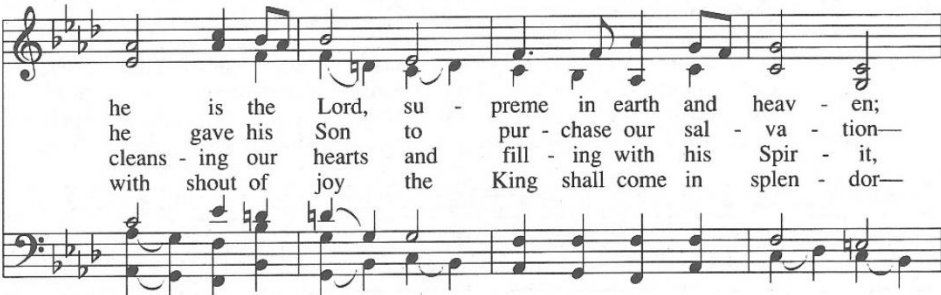
Unison



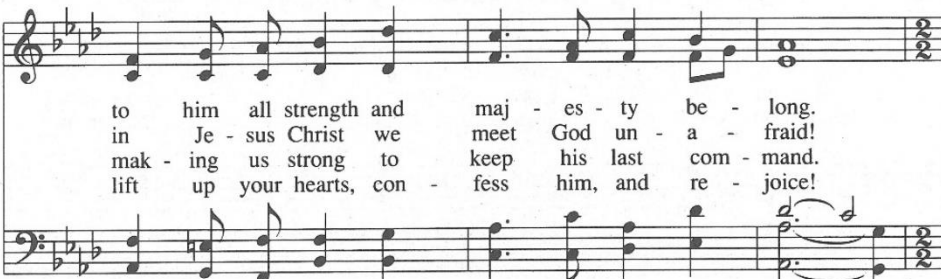
1. Our God is might - y, wor - thy of all prais - ing;
2. Our God is gra - cious, in - fi - nite in mer - cy;
3. Our God is faith - ful; he will work with - in us,
4. Our God is sov - 'reign o - ver all cre - a - tion,



sing un - to him a glad, tri - um - phant song;
he bridged the hope - less gulf our sin had made;
ful - fill - ing all the pur - pose he has planned,
and soon his earth shall hear his might - y voice:



he is the Lord, su - preme in earth and heav - en;
he gave his Son to pur - chase our sal - va - tion—
cleans - ing our hearts and fill - ing with his Spir - it,
with shout of joy the King shall come in splen - dor—



to him all strength and maj - es - ty be - long.
in Je - sus Christ we meet God un - a - fraid!
mak - ing us strong to keep his last com - mand.
lift up your hearts, con - fess him, and re - joice!

REFRAIN *Faster*

De-clare his glo - ry a-mong the na - tions;
 through all cre - a - tion his tri - umph sing,
 till all earth's peo - ples bow in ad - o - ra - tion
 and Je - sus Christ be ev - er - last - ing King.

Margaret Clarkson, 1976

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VIOLA 11.10.11.10.ref.
 Hughes M. Huffman, 1976

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:** Vincent van Gogh, Almond Blossoms. 1890. Oil on canvas, 2'5" x 3". Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam. In the public domain. <https://www.vangoghmuseum.nl/en/collection/s0176V1962>.
- 2) **Music:** "Come, People of the Risen King" (4) is reprinted from *Sing the Wonders* (2nd Ed.), Dan Kreider, General Editor, Grace Immanuel Bible Church, 2018. "O God, to Us Show Mercy" (437) and "Our God Is Mighty, Worthy of All Praising" (454) 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 about cover painting: <https://www.vangoghmuseum.nl/en/collection/s0176V1962>. 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).

Westminster Shorter Catechism Questions 85 and 88

- Q. 85. What does God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse, due to us for sin?
- A. To escape the wrath and curse of God, due to us for sin, God requires of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance unto life, with the diligent use of all the outward means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption.
- Q. 88. What are the outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption?
- A. The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption are, his ordinances, especially the Word, sacraments, and prayer; all which are made effectual to the elect for salvation.



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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