



Hershey Presbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

April 14, 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), Joe Kearns (tin whistle), Bonnie Kertland (vocals), David Kertland (preaching), Mark Linstedt (vocals). Pam Linstedt (vocals), Brad Weaver (sound), Anita Wood (piano), 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 Josh Franklin and Greg Moore.

Prelude

Praising God

***Call to Worship:**

Psalm 100

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

²Serve the LORD with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

³ 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.

*⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!*

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

⁵ For the LORD is good;

***his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.***

Light Text = Read by Leader

Bold Text = Read by All

***Response of Praise: All People That on Earth Do Dwell**

1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing
 2. The Lord ye know is God in - deed; with -
 3. O en - ter then his gates with praise, ap -
 4. For why? The Lord our God is good, his

to the Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with fear, his
 out our aid he did us make; we are his folk, he
 proach with joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his
 mer - cy is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times

praise forth - tell, come ye be - fore him and re - joice.
 doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
 name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
 firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

***Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

***Confession of Faith:**

1 Timothy 3:16

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

***He was manifested in the flesh,
vindicated by the Spirit,
seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed on in the world,
taken up in glory.***

Light Text = Read by Leader

Bold Text = Read by All

***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.**

Facing Up to Our Sin before God

Reading of God's Standard

Jeremiah 7:8-11

Today's reading continues to explore in Scripture the Third Commandment that forbids taking the Lord's name in vain (Exodus 20:7). God desires consistency between our daily conduct and our Sunday profession.

Behold, you trust in deceptive words to no avail. ⁹Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, ¹⁰and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, 'We are delivered!'—only to go on doing all these abominations? ¹¹Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, I myself have seen it, declares the LORD.

Confession of Sin

Declaration of Pardon in Christ

Titus 2:11-14

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. We learn to follow the ways of Christ and devote ourselves to good works because he gave himself for us—to redeem us and to purify us for himself.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Offering Our Prayers to God

Prayer of Intercession & the Lord's Prayer

Hershey PCA Prayer Requests for the Week of April 14-20, 2024

Intercession *for the World*:

- **The Hershey Community:** Derry Township Supervisor Chris Abruzzo
- **Civil Government:** Derry Township PA State Representative Thomas Mehaffie
- **Countries of Origin of Our Church Members and Friends:** Taiwan
- **Unreached People Group:** Basushabar of India
Population: 2,300; 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:** Elmer C.
- **Those Who Serve in Our Local Church:** Sunday School and Junior Church Teachers
- **Our Denomination (PCA):** Trinity Presbyterian Church, Harrisburg, PA
(A sister church in the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery)
- **Supported Missionary or Organizations:** PCA Administrative Committee

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: The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want (Psalm 23)

1. The Lord's my Shep - herd, I'll not want; he
 2. My soul he doth re - store a - gain; and
 3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet
 4. My ta - ble thou hast fur - nish - ed in
 5. Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall

makes me down to lie in pas - tures green; he
 me to walk doth make with - in the paths of
 • will I fear none ill, for thou art with me;
 pres - ence of my foes; my head thou dost with
 sure - ly fol - low me: and in God's house for -

lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
 righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake.
 • and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.
 oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
 ev - er - more my dwell - ing place shall be.

Psalm 23
 Francis Rous, William Mure, and others
Scottish Psalter, 1650

Tune from the *Scottish Psalter* by permission of Oxford University Press.

CRIMOND C.M.
 Jessie Seymour Irvine, 1871
 Arr. by T. C. L. Pritchard, 1929; alt.

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 55:1-2

*Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.*

*² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

Sermon:

The Banquet Spread

Today's Text: Isaiah 55:1-2

Pastor David Kertland

1. “ _____ everyone who thirsts.”

2. _____ pursuing less.

3. _____ and _____ .

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.'

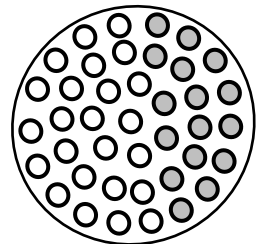
In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

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

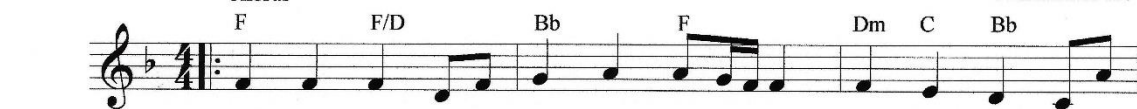
Receiving God's Blessing

*Song of Dedication & Service: We will Feast in the House of Zion

Sandra McCracken

Joshua Moore

Chorus



We will feast in the house of Zi - on. We will sing with our



hearts re - stored. He has done great things; we will say to - ge - ther



we will feast and weep no more.

Verse

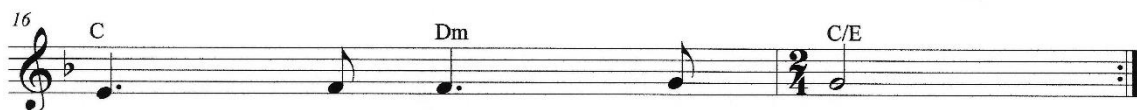
1. We will not be burned
2. In the dark of night
3. Ev-ery vow we've bro -



by the fire;	He is the Lord our God.
be-fore the dawn,	my soul be not a - fraid
- ken and be - trayed	You are the faith - ful One



we are not con - sumed	by the flood-	up - held,	pro-
for the pro-mised morn -	ing, O how long;	O God	of
and from the gar -	den to the grave,	bind us	to -



tect	-	ed	ga	-	thered	up.
Ja	-	cob	be	-	my	strength.
geth	-	er	bring	-	Sha	lom.

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:** "All People That on Earth Do Dwell" (1) and "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want" (87) are reprinted from *The Trinity Hymnal* (Great Commission Publications, Atlanta, GA, 2000). "We Will Feast in the House of Zion" (2015, Drink Your Tea Music). The lead sheet was downloaded at cardiphonia.org/tag/sandra-mccracken/ and is from Sandra McCracken's album *Psalms* (sandramccracken.bandcamp.com/album/psalms). 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).

* Congregation standing



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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

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



The Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), was formed in 1973 to be a denomination that is “**Faithful to the Scriptures, True to the Reformed Faith, and Obedient to the Great Commission.**” Various organizations of the PCA include:



Mission to the World (www.mtw.org): international missions in keeping with the Great Commission



Mission to North America (www.pcamna.org): North American missions in keeping with the Great Commission.



Committee on Discipleship Ministries

(www.pcacdm.org, www.cepbookstore.com, www.gcp.org): Curriculum and other resources to assist leaders in the local church as they make disciples (Matthew 28:19) among children, youth, and adults in the congregation.



Covenant College

(www.covenant.edu): our denominational college on Lookout Mountain, GA (overlooking Chattanooga, TN)



Covenant Theological Seminary

(www.covenantseminary.edu): our denominational seminary in St. Louis, MO.



PCA Administrative Committee (www.pcaac.org): promotes the unity, purity, and mission of the PCA.



Reformed Universities Ministries (www.ruf.org): the PCA college campus ministry



Ridge Haven Camp, Conference Center, Retreat Center, and Residential Community

(www.ridgehaven.org): providing camps, retreats, conferences, and etc.



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