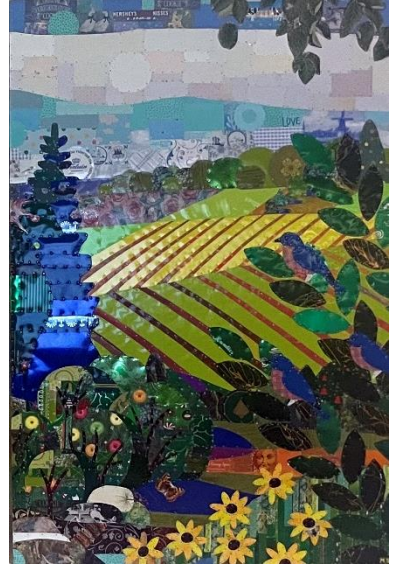
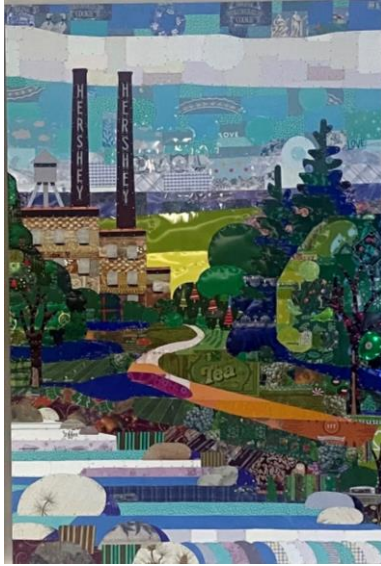




Hershey Presbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

May 26, 2024

Front Cover Artwork

Michael J. Sweere, *Untitled*. Tin mosaic tryptic. Currently hanging in the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center Emergency Department Waiting Room. Personal photo from 04/25/2024. Used with permission of the artist.

Artist's comments on the work (posted on site): "Inspired by the diversity of the Pennsylvania landscape, this artwork has been created from recycled tin. By carefully cutting apart discarded tin objects—canisters that once held candy, chocolates, tea, etc., the artist fashioned shapes that could safely be attached to a plywood panel with a hammer and small wire nails. The layers of tin are pounded flat to create a smooth, 'stitched' surface."

From the artist: "I create mosaics by utilizing pieces of broken dishware, ceramic and porcelain tile, glass and found objects like vintage buttons, stones and old coins. 'Mixing' a color palette from non-traditional materials and working with a wide range of patterns and texture is similar to creating a painting. I place glass, tile and stones together like brush strokes, adding another dimension of depth and reflection to the artwork surface."

About the artist: "I was born and raised in Owatonna, Minnesota and currently live in Minnesota with my wife and dogs. I was employed in the advertising industry for almost 20 years before launching the Michael Sweere Mosaic Company in 2005. When I'm away from the studio I enjoy visiting America's national parks, collecting folk art and skateboarding." For more information and contact information, see <https://www.michaelsweeremosaic.com>.

About Center Stage Arts in Health at Penn State: "Center Stage in the Department of Humanities strives to create an environment that integrates the healing power of art, music and creativity at Penn State Health and College of Medicine." For more information, see <https://sites.psu.edu/centerstage/>.



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): Laura Church (vocals), Ephraim Church (violin), Isaiah Church (violin), Keith Dolon (sound), Peter Gibble (viola), David Kertland (preaching), Joe Kearns (leading worship and tin whistle), Mark Linstedt (vocals), Pam Linstedt (vocals), Jared Salyards (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 Ephraim Church and Dave Eakin.

Prelude

Praising God

***Call to Worship:**

Psalm 93

The LORD reigns; he is robed in majesty;

the LORD is robed; he has put on strength as his belt.

Yes, the world is established;

it shall never be moved.

² *Your throne is established from of old;*

you are from everlasting.

³ *The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice;*

the floods lift up their roaring.

⁴ *Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea,*

the LORD on high is mighty!

⁵ *Your decrees are very trustworthy;*

holiness befits your house, O LORD, forevermore.

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.

From Psalm 90
 Isaac Watts, 1719
 Alt. 1990, mod.

ST. ANNE C.M.
 Attr. to William Croft, 1678-1727
 Tate and Brady's *Supplement to the New Version*, 1708

***Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

***Confession of Faith:**

Psalm 23: A Psalm of David

Today, as our confession of faith, we take up the ancient words of King David as we confess our complete dependance on the Lord, and his unfailing faithfulness to us.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. ³ He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

***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

Romans 6:13

"Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness."

Confession of Sin

Leader: Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge and confess our sins to God with a humble, lowly, and penitent heart, that we may obtain forgiveness by His infinite goodness and mercy. Join me before the throne of grace, praying:

In Unison:

**Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep,
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,
we have offended against Your holy laws,
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done,
and so we are helpless without You.
O Lord, have mercy on us, miserable offenders,
spare us, as we confess our faults,
restore us, as we are penitent, according to Your promises declared
to us in Christ Jesus our Lord,
and grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and devout life,
to the glory of Your holy name.
Amen.**

Declaration of Pardon in Christ

Romans 6:23

"[T]he wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Offering Our Prayers to God

Prayer of Intercession & the Lord's Prayer

Hershey PCA Prayer Requests for the Week of May 26-June 1, 2024

Intercession for the World:

- **The Hershey Community:** Derry Township Manager Christopher Christman
- **Civil Government:** Families of those who have suffered or died while serving in the armed services of our nation.
- **Countries of Origin of Our Church Members and Friends:** South Korea
- **Unreached People Group:** Bati of Indonesia
Population: 5,500; Language: Bati; 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:** Donna K.
- **Those Who Serve in Our Local Church:** Elder Joe Kearns
- **Our Denomination (PCA):** New Covenant Fellowship, Mechanicsburg, PA
(A sister church in the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery.)
- **Supported Missionary or Organizations:** Craig and Ree Coulbourne,
serving with MTW in Japan

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:**

Eternal Spirit, God of Truth

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, while the Tenor and Bass parts provide harmonic support. The lyrics are arranged in two columns, with the first column corresponding to the first two parts and the second column to the last two parts. The score consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are as follows:

1. E - ter - nal Spir - it, God of truth, our con - trite hearts in - spire;
2. Sub - due the pow'r of ev - 'ry sin, what - e'er that sin may be,

ig - nite a flame of heav'n - ly love, and feed the pure de - sire.
that we, in sin - gle - ness of heart, may wor - ship on - ly thee.

'Tis thine to soothe the sor - r'wing mind, with guilt and fear op - pressed;
Then with our spir - it wit - ness bear that we are sons of God,

'tis thine to bid the dy - ing live, and give the wea - ry rest.
re - deemed from sin and death and hell thro' Christ's a - ton - ing blood.

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 55:6-13

"Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷ let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

Sermon:

An Everlasting Sign (2)

Today's Text: Isaiah 55:6-13

Pastor David Kertland

Today's theme: Humble yourself before the Lord because you can trust his powerful word to bring joy and peace.

1. Last Week: God's view is high and wise. When I repent and turn to him, he loves *me* and pardons *me*.
2. Today: God's word is _____ and _____ .

3. Next Week: God's plan is _____ 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.'

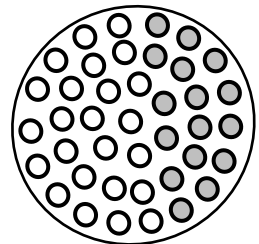
In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

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.

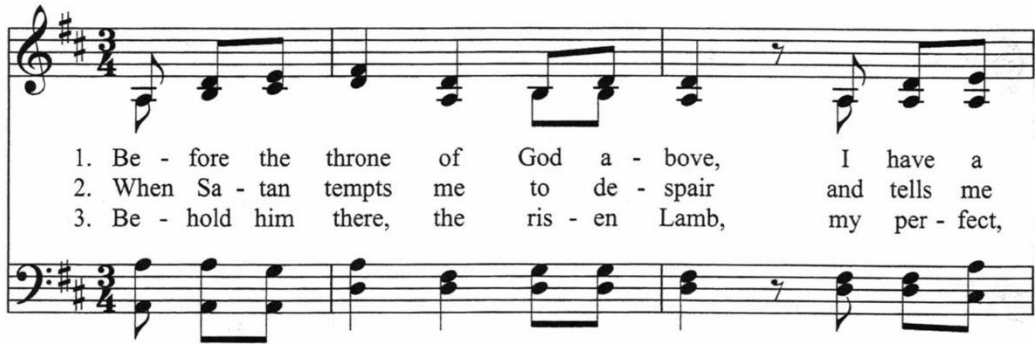


white circles = grape juice
gray circles = wine

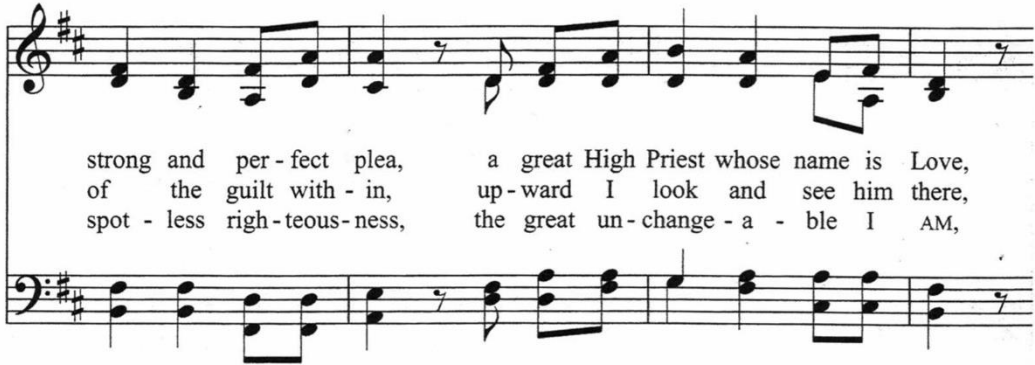
Prayer

Celebrating God's Blessing

***Song of Celebration: Before the Throne of God Above**



1. Be - fore the throne of God a - bove, I have a
2. When Sa - tan tempts me to de - spair and tells me
3. Be - hold him there, the ris - en Lamb, my per - fect,



strong and per - fect plea, a great High Priest whose name is Love,
of the guilt with - in, up - ward I look and see him there,
spot - less righ - teous - ness, the great un - change - a - ble I AM,



who ev - er lives and pleads for me. My name is
who made an end to all my sin. Be - cause the
the King of glo - ry and of grace! One with him -

grav - en on his hands, my name is writ - ten on his
sin - less Sav - ior died, my sin - ful soul is count - ed
self I can - not die. My soul is pur - chased by his

heart. I know that while in heav'n he stands, no tongue can
free; for God, the just, is sat - is - fied to look on
blood! My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my

bid me thence de - part, no tongue can bid me thence de - part.
him and par - don me, to look on him and par - don me.
Sa - vior and my God, with Christ, my Sav - ior and my God.

Charitie Bancroft, 1863; alt.

BEFORE THE THRONE 8.8.8.8.8.8.8.8.

Vikki Cook; arr. Ruth Coleman

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Receiving 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:** Michael J. Sweere, *Untitled*. Tin mosaic tryptic. Currently hanging in the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center Emergency Department Waiting Room. Personal photo from 04/25/2024. Used with permission of the artist.
- 2) **Music:** "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past" (30) is reprinted from *The Trinity Hymnal* (Great Commission Publications, Atlanta, GA, 2000). "Eternal Spirit, God of Truth" (394) and "Before the Throne of God Above" (277) are 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 8: Confession of Sin #8 from *The Worship Sourcebook, 2nd Ed.* (Faith Alive Christian Resources, Grand Rapids, MI, 2013, page 569). 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



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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