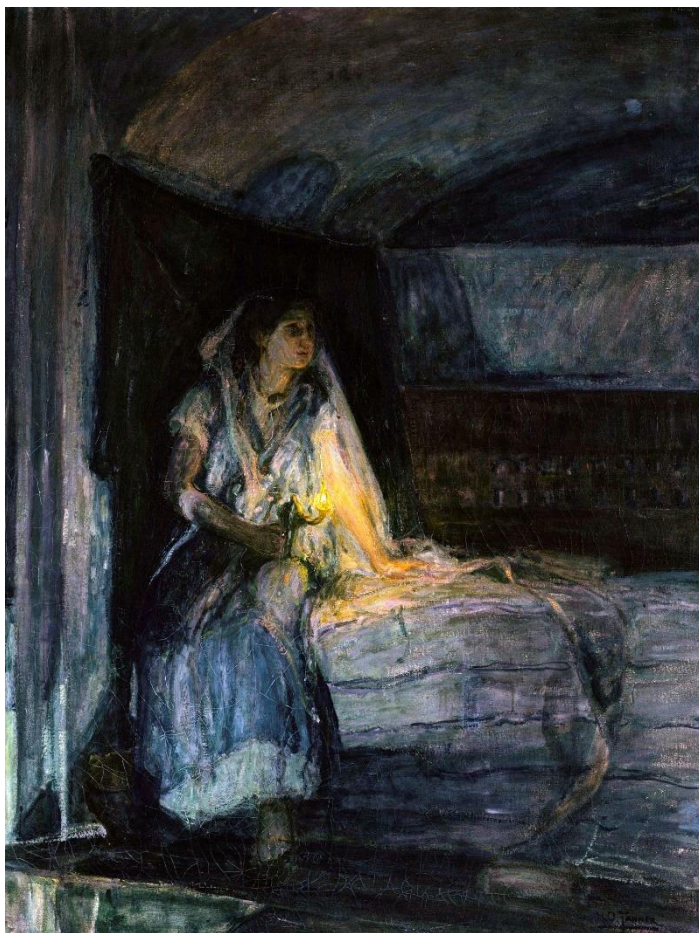




HersheyPresbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

Second Sunday in Advent
December 8, 2024

Front Cover Artwork

Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859-1937), *Mary*, c. 1914, oil on canvas, 45 ½ in x 34 ¾ in. Smithsonian American Art Museum, 2nd Floor, East Wing. Gift of Mrs. Dorothy L. McGuire, 1991.102. Accession Number: W1899-1-1. In the public domain.

About the cover artwork: “Henry Ossawa Tanner saw Mary, mother of Jesus, as a symbol of faith and fortitude. He painted many images of her and created this particular work during a difficult and trying time in his life. In 1914, the year his mother died, the outbreak of World War I forced his family to flee France for England. In this scene, Mary awaits the arrival of the angel who will tell her that she bears the Son of God. The glowing lamp, a symbol of God’s presence, adds mystery and suspense to the painting.”

<https://americanart.si.edu/artwork/mary-32409>

“Tanner depicts Mary and her dim candle as a symbol of faith while waiting to receive God’s message and presence.”

<https://moastore.byu.edu/product/mary/>

“But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.”

Jude 1:20-21



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 you have come to worship God with us as we come to him through Jesus Christ, our Savior and King.

A **Nursery** for children age infant through 3 years old is provided in Room 110. Today's Nursery Workers are Paul Hepperle and Kumi Minagawa.

A **Junior Church** for children aged 4-Grade 2 is offered in Room 111 during the sermon and communion time for our young worshippers. This time begins during the hymn before the sermon. Children participating in Junior church will return to their parents during the final hymn. Today's Junior Church Teacher is Bonnie Kertland.

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), Isaiah Church (violin), Laura Church (vocals), Thaddaeus Church (viola), Peter Gibble (viola), Joe Kearns (tin whistle), David Kertland (preaching), Mark Linstedt (vocals), Pam Linstedt (vocals), Nathanael Marengo (clarinet), Bobby Noble (sound), Jared Salyards (piano), and Don Wood (vocals).

Today's Communion Servers are Keith Dolon and Brad Weaver.

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle

Chris and Deborah Tseng

Isaiah 11:1-6

*There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.*

*² And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.*

*³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,*

*⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.*

*⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.*

*⁶ The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.*

Children's Choir:

Ring, Bells, Ring

(A Little Carol)

words and music by Edith Harry

Ring, bells, ring on this happy morning,
Children sing, sing a joyful lay:
Men and angels greet the holy dawning,
Jesus Christ was born today.

Long ago the brightest Star in Heaven
Shone upon the stable where he lay:
Kings, their gifts of adoration given,
Knelt with shepherds in the hay.

So may we, whether high or lowly,
All our hearts to the Christchild bring:
Ever love Him, trusting in Him wholly,
Evermore His praises sing.

Praising God

*Call to Worship:

Psalm 25:5-6

*Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all the day long.*

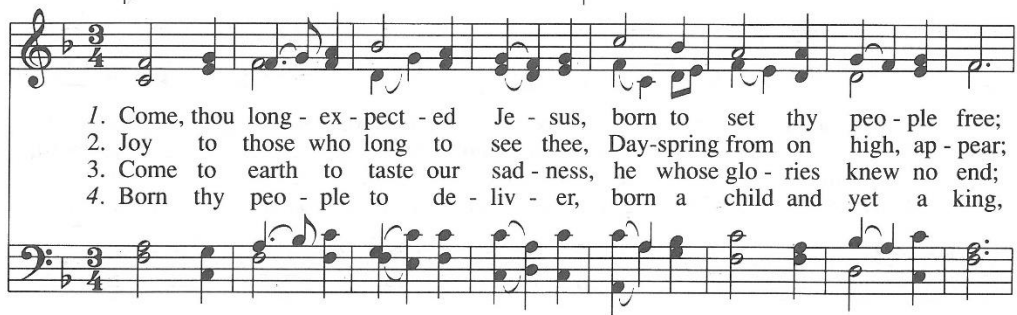
⁶ *Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.*

Light Text = Read by Leader

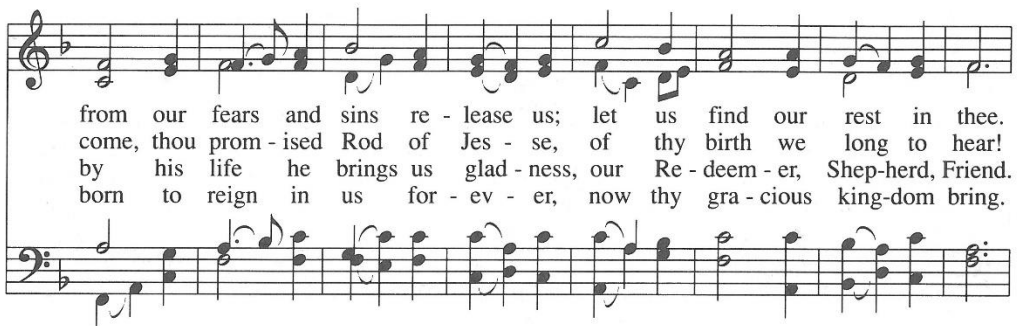
Bold Text = Read by All

*Response of Praise:

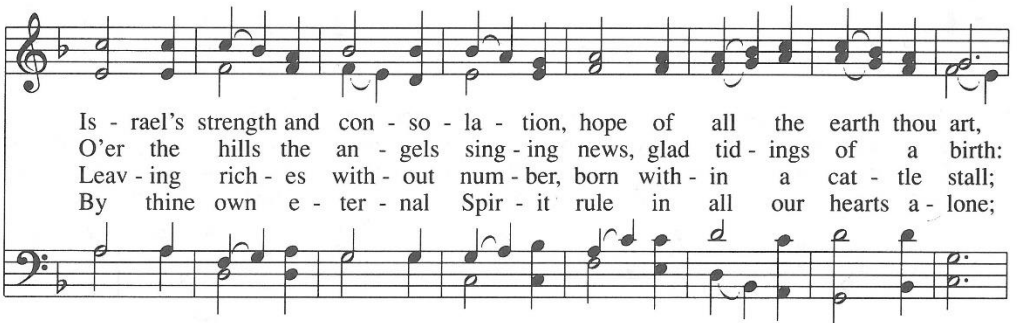
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1. Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, ap - pear;
 3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ries knew no end;
 4. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 come, thou prom - ised Rod of Jes - se, of thy birth we long to hear!
 by his life he brings us glad - ness, our Re - deem - er, Shep - herd, Friend.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
 O'er the hills the an - gels sing - ing news, glad tid - ings of a birth:
 Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber, born with - in a cat - tle stall;
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
 "Go to him, your prais - es bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."
 this the ev - er - last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

***Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

***Confession of Faith:**

From Ephesians 4:4-16

We confess our faith together from a section of Paul's letter to the Ephesians in which we recognize that through faith, we have been made one body whom the Lord by his Spirit is perfecting in his image.

There is one body and one Spirit—just as we were called to the one hope that belongs to our call—

one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,

to equip the saints for the work of ministry,

for building up the body of Christ,

until we all attain

to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God,

to mature manhood,

to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves

and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning,

by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

Rather, speaking the truth in love,

we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint

with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly,

makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

***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

Ephesians 4:17-24

Because we are Christ's body, we are to put on a new life "in step with the Spirit" (Galatians 5:25). This involves putting off the practices of evil and putting on a life of righteousness. Confess today where you have failed this week to live a new life in the Spirit and ask the Lord to give you strength to live for him in the week ahead.

¹⁷ Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ! — ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Confession of Sin

Declaration of Pardon in Christ

Ephesians 1:2, 7

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

Offering Our Prayers to God

Prayer of Thanksgiving & the Lord's Prayer

Hershey PCA Prayer Requests for the Week of December 8-14, 2024

Intercession *for the World*:

- **Hershey Community:** Derry Township Director of Parks and Rec Amy Walker
- **Civil Government:** PA Lieutenant Governor Austin Davis
- **Unreached People Group:** Arosien Beduin of Western Sahara

Population: 7,700; Language: Hassaniyya; Religion: Islam

"...pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (Matt. 9:38)

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.

Intercession *for the Church (God's People)*:

- **Health issues:** Catherine S.
- **Leaders of Our Congregation:** Women's Ministry Leadership Team
- **Our Denomination (PCA):** Reformed Presbyterian Church, Ephrata, PA
(A sister church in the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery)

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

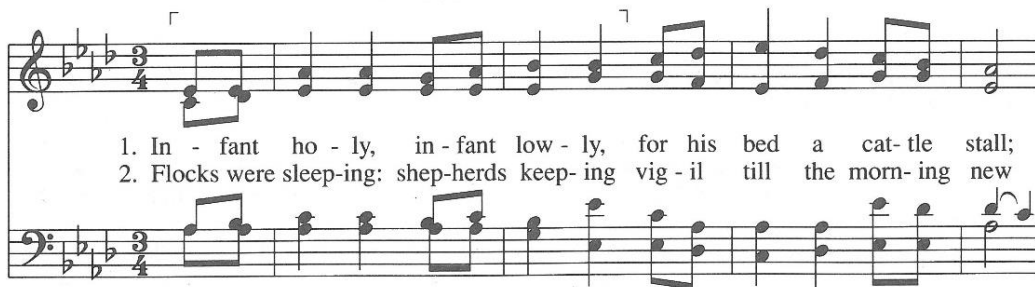
Offertory

During this song, children from 4 years old through Grade 2 are welcome to attend Junior Church in Room 111. The Junior Church teacher will meet the children at the door to the right when facing the stage.

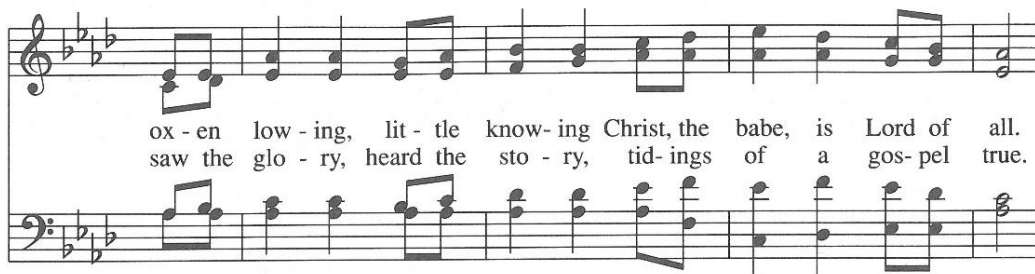
*Song of Preparation:

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

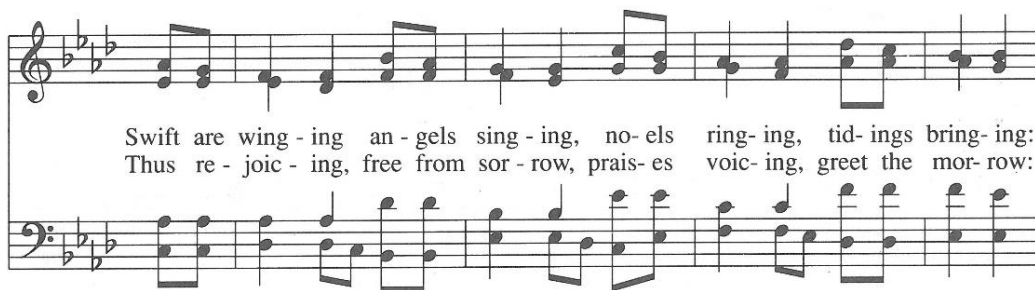
He is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers. Rev. 17:14



1. In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat-tle stall;
2. Flocks were sleep-ing: shep-herds keep-ing vig-il till the morn-ing new



ox-en low-ing, lit-tle know-ing Christ, the babe, is Lord of all.
saw the glo-ry, heard the sto-ry, tid-ings of a gos-pel true.



Swift are wing-ing an-gels sing-ing, no-els ring-ing, tid-ings bring-ing:
Thus re-joic-ing, free from sor-row, prais-es voic-ing, greet the mor-row:



Christ the babe is Lord of all. Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Christ the babe was born for you. Christ the babe was born for you.

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:**

Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

*¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"*

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

Advent, Week 2

Sermon:

Shepherds' Savior

Text: Luke 2:8-20

Pastor David Kertland

1. _____ in the _____

2. "To _____ they _____"

3. God's mysterious use of _____ the good news

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.'

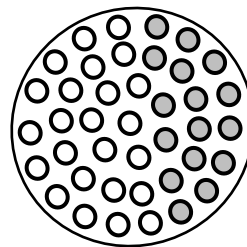
In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

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.



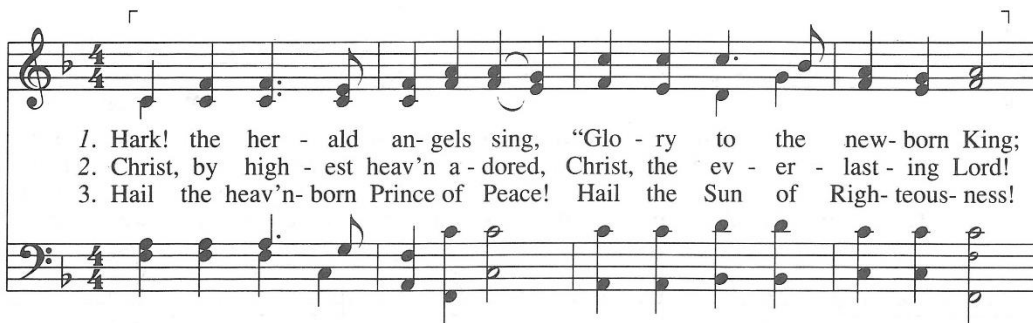
Prayer

white circles = grape juice in clear cups
gray circles = wine in purple cups

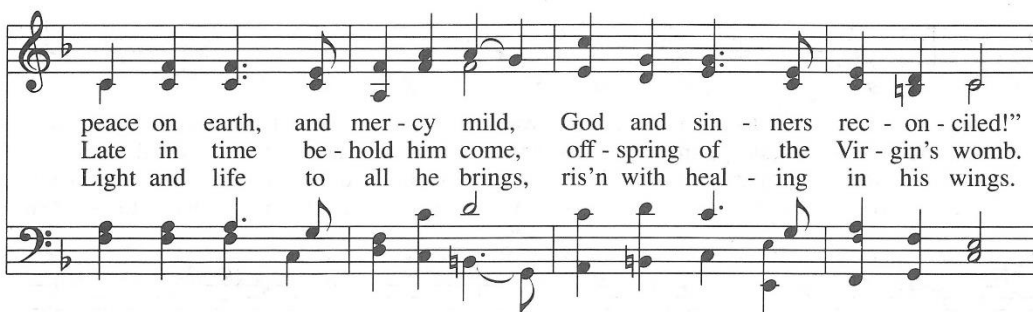
Receiving God's Blessing

*Song of Dedication & Service: Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

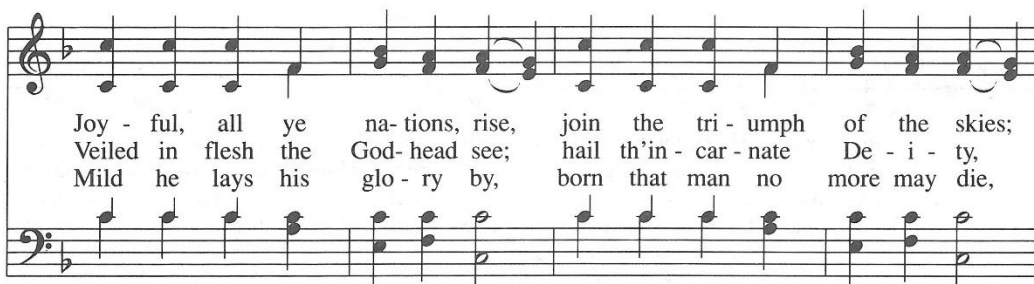
Charles Wesley, 1739, 1753; alt.



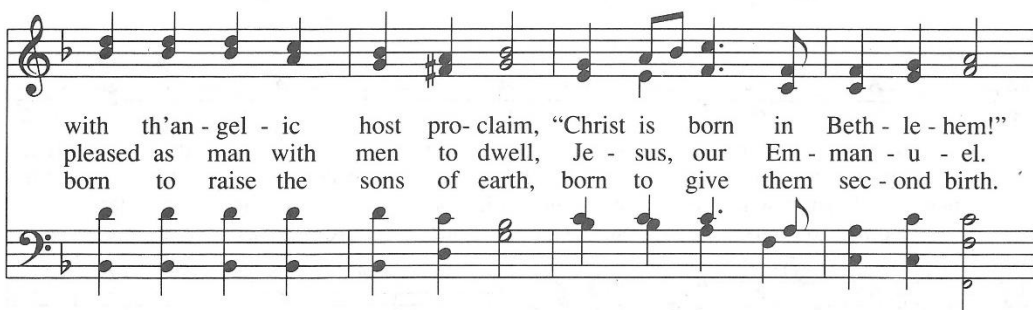
1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
 3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

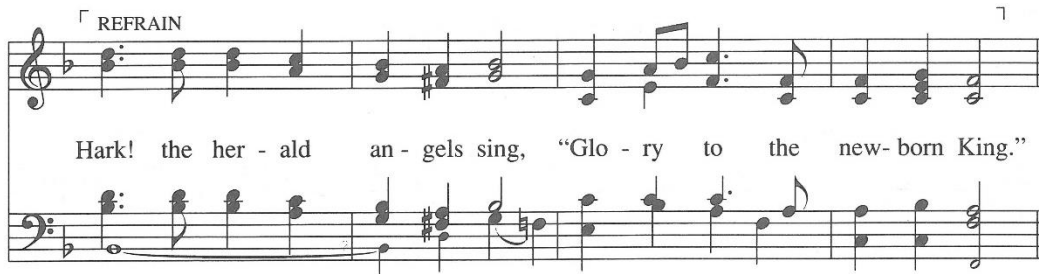


Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,



with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7.D;ref.
 Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, 1840
 Arr. by William H. Cummings, 1856



Receiving God's Blessing

*Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

*The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

*Postlude

To our guests this morning: We are 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:** Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859-1937), *Mary*, c. 1914, oil on canvas, 45 ½ in x 34 ¾ in. Smithsonian American Art Museum, 2nd Floor, East Wing. Gift of Mrs. Dorothy L. McGuire, 1991.102. Accession Number: W1899-1-1. In the public domain.
- 2) **Music:** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (196), "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" (216), and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (203) 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: on the artwork: <https://americanart.si.edu/artwork/mary-32409> and <https://moastore.byu.edu/product/mary/>
Some of the 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 Greek and English texts, a variety of commentaries and study aids have been consulted in preparing the Advent sermons from the Gospel According to Luke, including: the insights, sermons, and writings of John Calvin, Gavin Childress, William Hendricksen, Matthew Henry, Arthur A. Just (editor of *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture*), Mike McKinley, Leon Morris, Origin, J. Reiling, Philip Graham Ryken, R. C. Sproul, Robert H. Stein, J. L. Swellengrebel, Michael Wilcock, and others. Note that use of another's work does not imply agreement with their views. 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, as personal ability allows.



Hershey Presbyterian Church (PCA)

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



HersheyPresbyterian
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