



HersheyPresbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

Third Sunday in Advent
December 15, 2024

Front Cover Artwork

Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859-1937), *Mary (La Sainte-Marie)*, 1898, oil on canvas, 34 1/8 x 42 5/8 in. (86.7 x 108.3 cm), La Salle University Art Museum, 1900 W Olney Ave, Philadelphia, PA. Current location: 19 C Gallery. Purchased with funds provided by Regina and Ragan Henry. Accession Number: 84-P-298. In the public domain.

Gallery Label:

"In this unconventional rendering of the Virgin Mary with the Christ child, Mary appears melancholy and lost in thought. The infant is almost completely covered by a shroud-like cloth, suggesting a foreshadowing of Jesus' death. Tanner paid careful attention to details studied first-hand in Jerusalem, where he first traveled in 1898. Tanner's style is academic and is distinctive for his use of luminous lighting. The model for Mary was newlywed Tanner's Swedish-American wife. Tanner studied with Thomas Eakins at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in the 1880s before traveling to and eventually settling in Paris, where, from 1894 on, his work appeared in the annual, juried Salon. *Mary* is in its original tabernacle frame with its Salon entry number, 1252, and another label noting Tanner's previous Salon medal for an earlier painting. While it was common for American artists to travel to Paris to study art and even settle in that art-making capital, Tanner attributed his choice to remain there to the racism he encountered in the United States as an artist of mixed African-, European-, and Native-American ancestry and his ability to be judged simply by his talent in France."

<https://artcollection.lasalle.edu/objects-1/info/2687>

"Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart."

Luke 2:19



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 Vicki Gehron and Lauren Sanabria.

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 Katy McIlvaine.

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), Jericho Church (piano for prelude and sound), Thaddaeus Church (viola), Peter Gobble (viola), Joe Kearns (tin whistle), Bonnie Kertland (vocals), David Kertland (preaching), Mark Linstedt (vocals), Pam Linstedt (vocals), Nathanael Marengo (clarinet), Anita Wood (piano), Don Wood (vocals), Cooper Yingst (piano for offertory), and Nick Yingst (leading worship).

Today's Communion Servers are Joe Kearns and Brad Weaver.

Prelude

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

H.T. Smart

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle

Bobby Noble

Jeremiah 33:14-16:

*“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD,
when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel
and the house of Judah.*

*¹⁵ In those days and at that time
I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David,
and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.*

*¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved,
and Jerusalem will dwell securely.
And this is the name by which it will be called:
‘The LORD is our righteousness.’*

Praising God

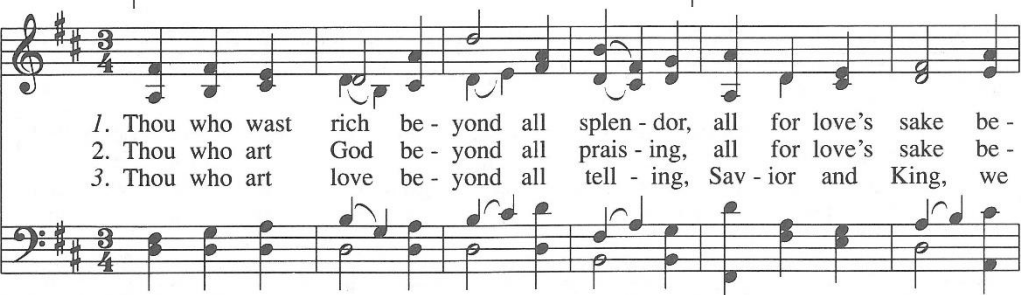
*Call to Worship:

Psalm 79:9

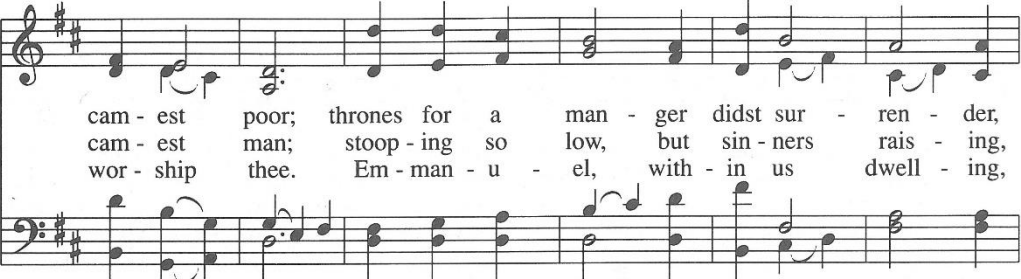
*Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name;
deliver us, and atone for our sins, for your name’s sake!*

Light Text = Read by Leader
Bold Text = Read by All

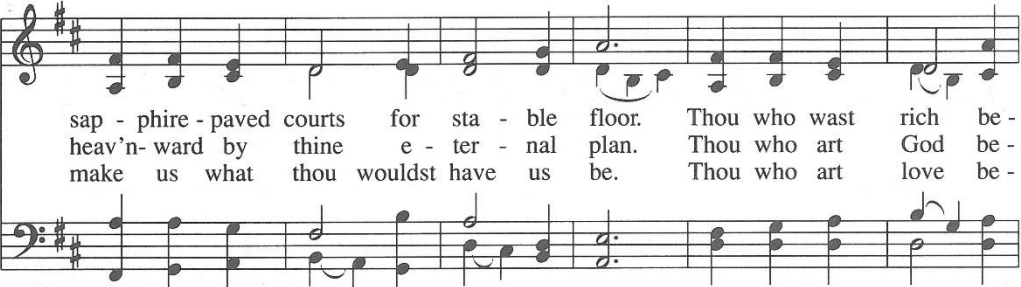
*Response of Praise: Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor



1. Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor, all for love's sake be -
 2. Thou who art God be - yond all prais - ing, all for love's sake be -
 3. Thou who art love be - yond all tell - ing, Sav - ior and King, we



cam - est poor; thrones for a man - ger didst sur - ren - der,
 cam - est man; stoop - ing so low, but sin - ners rais - ing,
 wor - ship thee. Em - man - u - el, with - in us dwell - ing,



sap - phire - paved courts for sta - ble floor. Thou who wast rich be -
 heav'n - ward by thine e - ter - nal plan. Thou who art God be -
 make us what thou wouldst have us be. Thou who art love be -



yond all splen - dor, all for love's sake be - cam - est poor.
 yond all prais - ing, all for love's sake be - cam - est man.
 yond all tell - ing, Sav - ior and King, we wor - ship thee.

***Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

***Confession of Faith:**

The Nicene Creed

We confess our common faith today with the Nicene Creed, a summary of the Bible's teaching about God, our need of a sufficient Savior, and our dependence on the work of the Spirit. From the Trinity Hymnal: "The Nicene Creed originated at the Council of Nicea (325), and an expanded form was adopted by the Council of Chalcedon (451). It was formulated to answer heresies that denied the biblical doctrine of the Trinity and of the person of Christ."

**We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,*
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in one holy catholic** and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

* The term "very God of very God" means that our Lord Jesus Christ is "true God from true God."

** "'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 a reference to what is today called the *Roman Catholic Church*.

***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 4:25-32

Last week in Ephesians 4:20-24, we heard about the need to put off the old self and to put on the new self. In our verses today, Paul continues with a variety of the things we are to put off and the new practices we are to put on. Today we confess those false things that we have not put off...and the beautiful things we have failed to put on.

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

²⁶ Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil.

²⁸ Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

²⁹ Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Confession of Sin

Declaration of Pardon in Christ

Ephesians 2:17-18

And he [Christ Jesus] came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

Offering Our Prayers to God

Prayer of Thanksgiving & the Lord's Prayer

Hershey PCA Prayer Requests for the Week of December 15-21, 2024

Intercession *for the World*:

- **Hershey Community:** Hershey Public Library Director Alison Jacobine
- **Civil Government:** PA Supreme Court Justices
- **Unreached People Group:** Berabish Beduin of Mali

Population: 59,000; 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:** Elmer C.
- **Leaders of Our Congregation:** Church Musicians
- **Our Denomination (PCA):** Hanover Valley Presbyterian Church, Hanover, 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

"The First Noël"

English Carol, arr. Kenon D. Renfrow

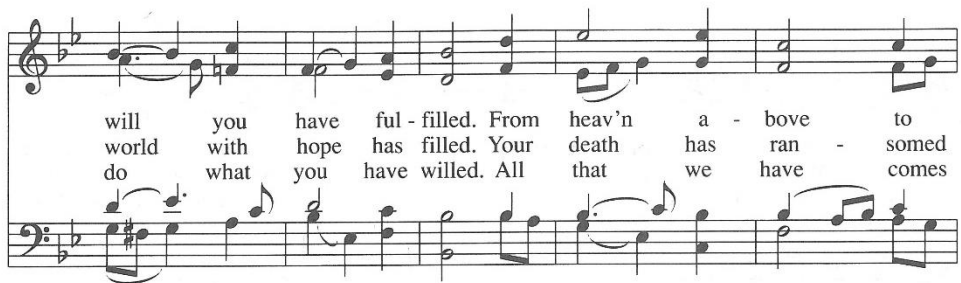
During this song, children from 4 years old through Grade 2 are welcome to attend Junior Church in Room 111. The Junior Church teacher will meet the children at the door to the right when facing the stage.

***Song of Preparation:**

O Jesus Sweet, O Jesus Mild



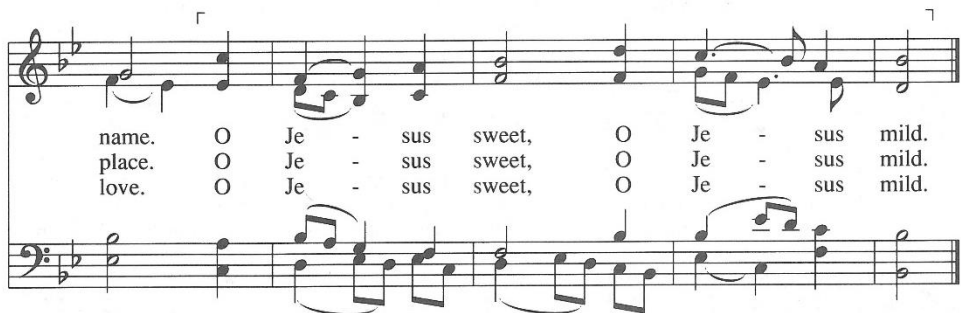
1. O Je - sus sweet, O Je - sus mild, your Fa - ther's
 2. O Je - sus sweet, O Je - sus mild, your birth the
 3. O Je - sus sweet, O Je - sus mild, we seek to



will you have ful - filled. From heav'n a - bove to
 world with hope has filled. Your death has ran - somed
 do what you have willed. All that we have comes



earth you came, and born as man you took our
 our lost race, for on the cross you took our
 from a - bove; Lord, keep us walk - ing in your



name. O Je - sus sweet, O Je - sus mild.
 place. O Je - sus sweet, O Je - sus mild.
 love. O Je - sus sweet, O Je - sus mild.

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 2:21-35

And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. ²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

*²⁹ "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;*

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

*³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."*

³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him.

³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed

³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

Advent, Week 3

Sermon:

Worth the Wait

Today's Scripture Reading Luke 2:21-35

Sermon Text: Luke 2:25-35

Pastor David Kertland

1. A Promise _____

2. A Plan _____

3. A Pathway _____

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.'

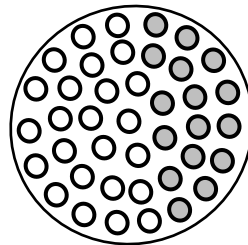
In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

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.



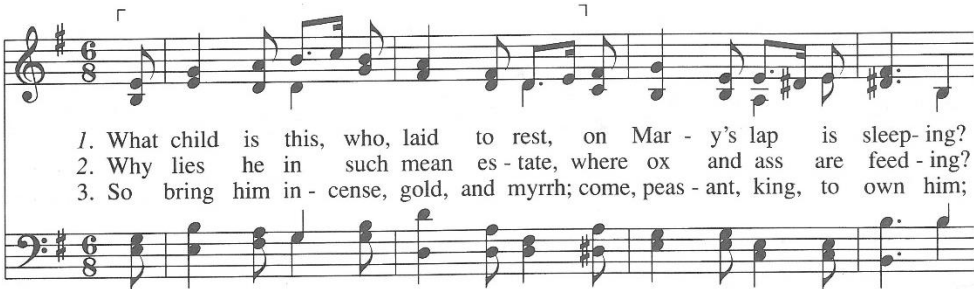
Prayer

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

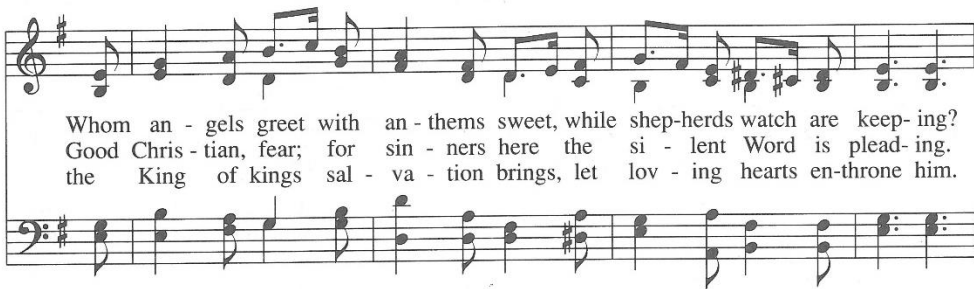
Receiving God's Blessing

*Song of Dedication & Service:

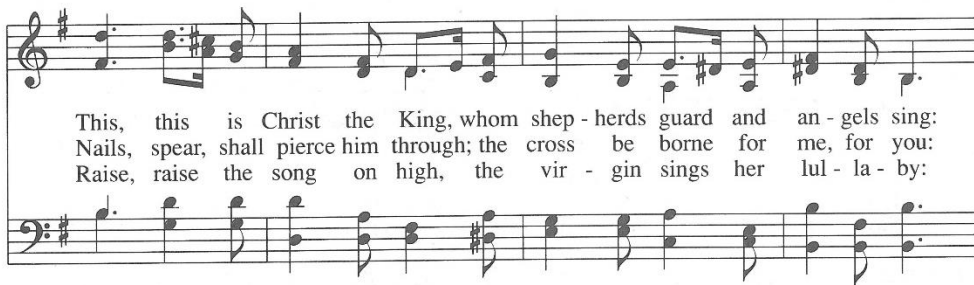
What Child Is This



1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
 2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate, where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him;



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 the King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing:
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by:



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y.
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y.
 joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y.

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 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 (La Sainte-Marie)*, 1898, oil on canvas, 34 1/8 x 42 5/8 in. (86.7 x 108.3 cm), La Salle University Art Museum, 1900 W Olney Ave, Philadelphia, PA. Current location: 19 C Gallery. Purchased with funds provided by Regina and Ragan Henry. Accession Number: 84-P-298. In the public domain.
- 2) **Music:** "Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor" (230), "O Jesus Sweet, O Jesus Mild" (232), and "What Child Is This" (213) 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://artcollection.lasalle.edu/objects-1/info/2687>. 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:** The sermon comes primarily from a consideration of the Greek and English texts, but also finds help in consulting a variety of commentaries and study aids, including the insights, sermons, and writings of Daniel L. Akin, Gary M. Burge, Nathan Buttery, Colin G. Kruse, Michael Wilcock, Matthew Henry, and others. Not every commentator or pastor listed is consulted for each sermon in this Advent series, yet some 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.



Advent is the four-week season that begins the year in the Church calendar. As we celebrate some of the key events in the life of Jesus Christ our Savior each year, we are reminded that Jesus is the Good News. The Good News is our message. Proclaiming the Good News to the world and making disciples who follow Jesus is our mission.

Advent is a time focused on anticipating the arrival or “advent” of Jesus, our long-awaited Messiah. In these weeks, we particularly focus on our Lord’s first coming into the world, and we look forward to his return. Many Christians throughout the world celebrate this special time of year.

During the four weeks of Advent as we gather for regular Lord’s Day worship each Sunday, and on Christmas Eve, we read an Old Testament passage of Scripture and light candles on an Advent wreath before our regular worship service begins. The Scripture readings remind us of God’s promises that are fulfilled in Christ.

Traditionally three of the four outer candles on the Advent wreath are purple; one is pink, lit on the third week of Advent. Purple is primarily used because the color violet has been used as a liturgical color to signify a time of prayer and repentance. Pink is used on the third week because the color rose has been used as a liturgical color to signify a time of joy. Advent is a wonderful season to give yourself anew to prayer, repentance, and to finding your joy in Christ.

The coming of Jesus Christ, and his subsequent work on our behalf, brings:

Hope—as we renew our anticipation and longing for the coming of the Messiah.

Peace—as we remember the words of the angels at Jesus’s birth: *“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”* (Luke 2:14)

Joy—as we remember and take up the anthem “Joy to the world, the Lord is come, let earth receive her King!”

Love—as we mark that the birth of Christ is a demonstration of God’s love: *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”* (John 3:16)

On Christmas Eve we will light the white, center candle, sometimes called the **Christ candle**. As we do, we remember that Jesus is the Light of the World.

He has come...and he will come again!
Glory be to God! May you know his peace this year!



Hershey Presbyterian Church (PCA)

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



HersheyPresbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

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