



Hershey Presbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 22, 2024

Front Cover Artwork

Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859-1937), *Mary*, c. 1908, oil on canvas, 31 1/2 x 25 in., Weatherspoon Art Museum, UNC Greensboro, 1005 Spring Garden Street, Greensboro, NC 27412, Gift of Helen Fondren Lingle in memory of her husband Kendall Ide Lingle, 2002. Accession Number: 2002.18. In the public domain.

<https://weatherspoonartmuseum.org/objects-1/info/5868>

"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 Natalie Otto and Anna Kertland.

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 AmyLea Yingst.

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), Thaddaeus Church (viola), Peter Gibble (viola), Paul Hepperle (leading worship), Joe Kearns (tin whistle), Bonnie Kertland (vocals), David Kertland (preaching), Mark Linstedt (vocals), Pam Linstedt (vocals), Nathanael Marengo (sound), Grace Salyards (French horn), Jared Salyards (piano), and Don Wood (vocals).

Today's Communion Servers are Ephraim Church and Nick Yingst.

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle

The Gibble Family

Micah 5:2-5a

*But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.*

*³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.*

*⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.*

⁵ And he shall be their peace.

Praising God

***Call to Worship:**

Psalm 130:5-7

*I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;*

*⁶ my soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.*

*⁷ O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is plentiful redemption.*

Light Text = Read by Leader

Bold Text = Read by All

*Response of Praise:

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heav'n and na - ture sing,

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

***Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

***Athanasian Creed, part 2**

"This creed is named after Athanasius (A.D. 293-373), the champion of orthodoxy against Arian attacks on the doctrine of the Trinity. Although Athanasius did not write this creed...the name persists because until the seventeenth century it was commonly ascribed to him." In this second part of the creed, we confess what the Scriptures reveal to us about Jesus.

**We believe and confess
that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son,
is both God and human, equally.**

**He is God from the essence of the Father,
begotten before time;
and he is human from the essence of his mother,
born in time;
completely God, completely human,
with a rational soul and human flesh;
equal to the Father as regards divinity,
less than the Father as regards humanity.**

**Although he is God and human,
yet Christ is not two, but one.
He is one, however,
not by his divinity being turned into flesh,
but by God's taking humanity to himself.
He is one,
certainly not by the blending of his essence,
but by the unity of his person.
For just as one human is both rational soul and flesh,
so too the one Christ is both God and human.**

**He suffered for our salvation;
he descended to hell;
he arose from the dead;
he ascended to heaven;
he is seated at the Father's right hand;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
At his coming all people will arise bodily
and give an accounting of their own deeds.
Those who have done good will enter eternal life,
and those who have done evil will enter eternal fire.**

***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

1 John 4:1-3

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

Confession of Sin

Declaration of Pardon in Christ

1 John 4:4

Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

Offering Our Prayers to God

Prayer of Thanksgiving & the Lord's Prayer

Hershey PCA Prayer Requests for the Week of December 22-28, 2024

Intercession *for the World*:

- **Hershey Community:** Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
Doctors, Nurses, Staff, and Board of Directors
- **Civil Government:** US Senator John Fetterman
- **Unreached People Group:** Dui-Menia Bedouin of Algeria
Population: 86,000; Language: Arabic; 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:** Ken K.
- **Leaders of Our Congregation:** Set-up Team
- **Our Denomination (PCA):** Trinity Presbyterian Church, Harrisburg, PA
(A church in the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery who initiated the formation of Hershey PCA)

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: "I Wonder as I Wander"

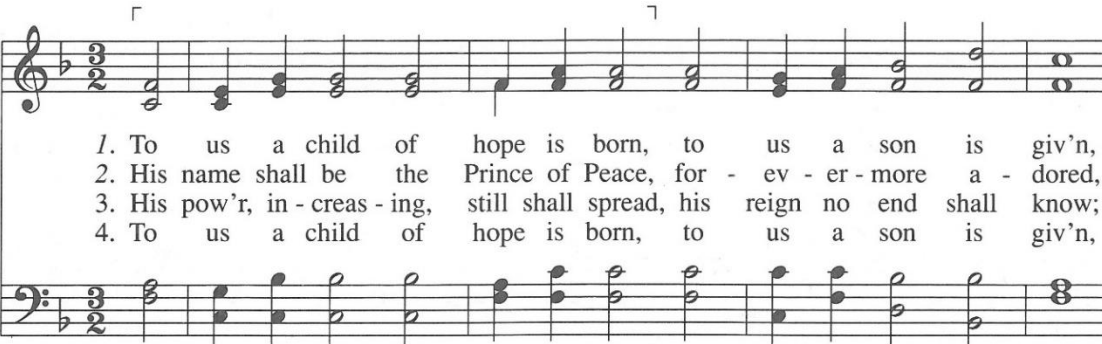
arr. Molly Ijames

(See lyrics on page 18)

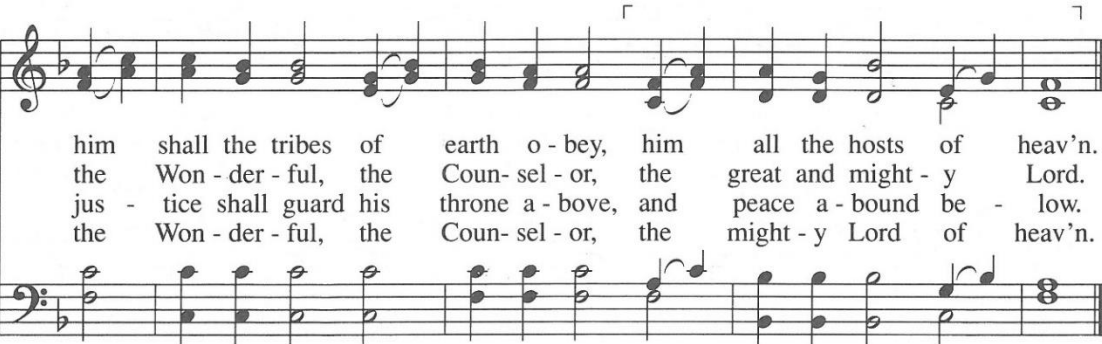
During this song, children from 4 years old through Grade 2 are welcome to attend Junior Church in Room 111. The Junior Church teacher will meet the children at the door to the right when facing the stage.

***Song of Preparation:**

To Us a Child of Hope Is Born



1. To us a child of hope is born, to us a son is giv'n,
 2. His name shall be the Prince of Peace, for - ev - er - more a - dored,
 3. His pow'r, in - creas - ing, still shall spread, his reign no end shall know;
 4. To us a child of hope is born, to us a son is giv'n,



him shall the tribes of earth o - bey, him all the hosts of heav'n.
 the Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, the great and might - y Lord.
 jus - tice shall guard his throne a - bove, and peace a - bound be - low.
 the Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, the might - y Lord of heav'n.

John Morison, 1781; alt.

I DO BELIEVE C.M.
 Traditional English melody

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 2:21-24, 36-39

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."

...

³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

Advent, Week 4

Sermon:

Anna's Redeemer

Today's Scripture Reading Luke 2:21-24, 36-39

Sermon Text: Luke 2:36-38

Pastor David Kertland

1. Why _____ Anna?

2. Why remember what Anna _____ ?

3. _____ to Anna today.

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.'

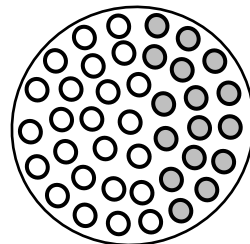
In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

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 in clear cups
gray circles = wine in purple cups

Music Meditation "What Child Is This"

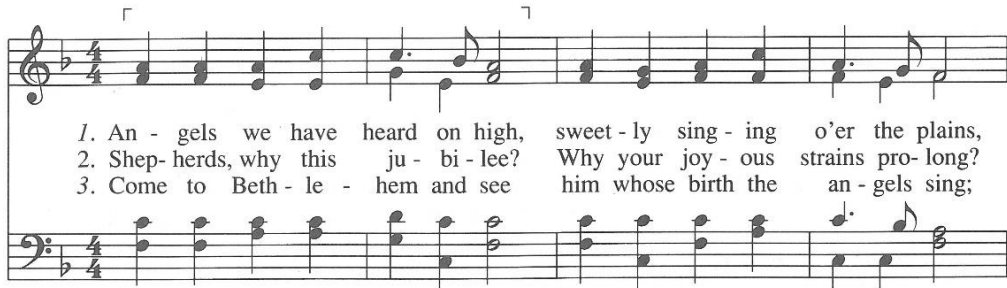
arr. Kristin Campbell (See lyrics on page 16)

Prayer

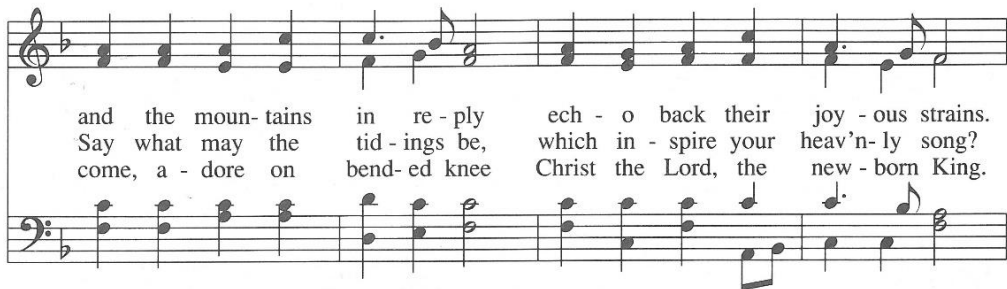
Receiving God's Blessing

***Song of Dedication & Service:**

Angels We Have Heard on High



1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2. Shep- herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
 Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

REFRAIN



Glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,



glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

GLORIA 77.7.7.ref.
 Traditional French melody
 Arr. by Edward S. Barnes, 1937

Traditional French carol

Receiving God's Blessing

*Benediction:

from 2 Corinthians 4:6

May God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness,"
shine in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ.

*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. 1908, oil on canvas, 31 1/2 x 25 in., Weatherspoon Art Museum, UNC Greensboro, 1005 Spring Garden Street, Greensboro, NC 27412, Gift of Helen Fondren Lingle in memory of her husband Kendall Ide Lingle, 2002. Accession Number: 2002.18. In the public domain.
- 2) **Music:** "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come" (195), "To Us a Child of Hope Is Born" (233), and "Angels We Have Heard on High" (214) 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:** 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 this sermon from the First Letter of John and the Gospel of Luke, 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, 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.

I Wonder as I Wander

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor ordinary people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall
with wise men and farmers and shepherd and all.
but high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
and the promise of ages it did then recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,
he surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

What Child Is This

What child is this who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate,
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;
the cross be borne for me, for you:
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby:
joy, joy for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary.



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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