



Christmas Eve
2024

Lessons & Carols

Tonight's service is a joint service of two local churches both members of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

During our service tonight, we will hear the reading of six lessons, sing a variety of carols and songs, pray, and have a mediation on a biblical text.

Our Lessons & Carols service is an adaptation of an 1880 Christmas Eve service by E. W. Benson in Truro, UK. His son, A. C. Benson recalled: "My father arranged from ancient sources a little service for Christmas Eve—nine carols and nine tiny lessons." Other churches quickly adapted the service for their own use. Some of our service tonight is patterned after the King's College Chapel of King's College, Cambridge which broadcasts a traditional Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols service each year.

May you find joy and peace in the Lord tonight.

Tonight's Cover Artwork: *Untitled (View of the Seine)*, Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859-1937), oil on plywood, 4 5/8 in. x 6 1/2 in., circa 1900, Signed in oil, lower left. Private collection, in the public domain.

"This small painting of the bustling banks of the Seine is not only a charming view of Paris but a scarce example of Tanner's painting *en plein air* in Paris.

The dome in this painting appears to be a view of Les Invalides, of which Tanner made a larger oil painting in 1896, now in the Terra Foundation collection, Chicago."



Prelude

Welcome to this special service. We are very happy that you have come to share with us in this occasion which is an act of worship for us and for Christians throughout the world.

Please silence your cell phones so that they will not ring during the service.

Follow the invitations to stand or sit as you are able; feel free to remain seated, if that is more comfortable for you.

As you consider the Christmas message, we wish you a very Merry Christmas!

Call to Worship:

Pastor David Kertland
Hershey PCA

Beloved in Christ, this Christmas Eve let us find delight in hearing again the message of the angels; in heart and mind going to Bethlehem to see this thing which has come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience to the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise:

*“Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
(Psalm 95:1-2)*

Lighting of the Four Advent Wreath Candles

Isaiah 7:14

The Tsai Family
Hershey PCA

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and shall call his name Immanuel.*

Once in Royal David's City

Hershey PCA Children

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

*O Come, All Ye Faithful

Congregation

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,
 2. God of God, Light of Light;
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing:

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem; come and be - hold him
 lo, he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb: ver - y God, be -
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove; glo - ry to God
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther,

born the King of an - gels;
 got - ten, not cre - a - ted;
 in the high - est; O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let
 late in flesh ap - pear - ing;

us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Latin hymn
 Arr. to John Francis Wade, 1751
 Tr. by Frederick Oakeley, 1841: alt.

ADESTE FIDELES 6.6.10.5.6.9.1.
 John Francis Wade's *Cantus Diversi*, 1751

Lesson 1

Genesis 3:8-15, 22-24

The Clemmer Family
Lebanon Valley PCA

*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise
and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.*

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

²² ...the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" ²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Latin hymn translated by John Mason Neale
music by Timothy Kile

Choral Ensemble
Hershey PCA

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel!
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel!

O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
And bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night
And turn our darkness into light.

O Israel, rejoice!
Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel!
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel – God with us, Emmanuel.

Lesson 2

Jeremiah 31:10-14

Houston Yingst
Hershey PCA

God promises to redeem and comfort his people.

*“Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.’*

*¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall be like a watered garden,
and they shall languish no more.*

*¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.*

*I will turn their mourning into joy;
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.*

*¹⁴ I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance,
and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness,
declares the LORD.”*

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Congregation

Nahum Tate, 1700

1. While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, all seat - ed
 2. "Fear not," said he— for might - y dread had seized their
 3. "To you, in Da - vid's town this day, is born of
 4. "The heav'n - ly babe you there shall find to hu - man

on the ground, the an - gel of the Lord came down,
 trou - bled mind— "glad tid - ings of great joy I bring
 Da - vid's line, the Sav - ior, who is Christ the Lord,
 view dis - played, all mean - ly wrapped in swath - ing bands,

and glo - ry shone a - round, and glo - ry shone a - round.
 to you and all man - kind, to you and all man - kind.
 and this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign:
 and in a man - ger laid, and in a man - ger laid."

From George Frederick Handel's Messiah, Part II, No. 17, 1726
 Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1821

CHRISTMAS, C.M. 179

5. Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
 appeared a shining throng
 of angels praising God, who thus
 addressed their joyful song,
 addressed their joyful song:
6. "All glory be to God on high,
 and to the earth be peace;
 good will henceforth, from heav'n to men,
 begin and never cease,
 begin and never cease!"

Lesson 3

Luke 1:26-33

Frank Victa
Lebanon Valley PCA

Gabriel tells Mary that she will give birth to the Savior.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Evening Prayer

Paul Hepperle

Director of Covenant Family Ministries
Hershey PCA

We pray tonight for the needs of this whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for peace, purity, and love within the Church that you came to build.

In particular, we pray tonight for our Nation, our Commonwealth, and all those governing, residing, or this night visiting in Dauphin and Lebanon counties, along with the ongoing work of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), her churches, missionaries, and partners in ministry throughout the world.

At this time, we also remember in Your name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry, the abused, the exploited, and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely, the isolated and those unloved; the elderly and the little children; those retired ministers and their widows who have served the gospel throughout life; all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love Him not, or who by sin have grieved His Holy Spirit.

Lastly, we give thanks to You, O God, for all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in our Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises we humbly offer up to You, our Father, in Jesus's Name, and we sum up all our prayers, praying in the words which our Lord Jesus Christ Himself taught us:

“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.

Light Text = by Leader

Bold Text = by All in Unison

Lesson 4

Luke 2:1-7

Pauline Gehman

Hershey PCA

Luke's Gospel tells of the birth of Jesus.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration where 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.

Lighting of the Center Candle:

The center candle is lit after the reading of the birth of Jesus Christ in recognition that the light of the world has come.



The Nativity

Albrecht Dürer, 1504, engraving

Overall: 18.6 x 27.8 cm (7 5/16 x 19 15/16 in)

Rosewald Collection

National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC

*Away in a Manger

Congregation

♩ *Unison* F B♭ F

1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, the lit - tle Lord
 2. The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
 3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask thee to stay close by me for -

F

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
 Je - sus no cry - ing he makes; I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look
 ev - er, and love me, I pray; bless all the dear chil - dren in

B♭ F ♩ C⁷ F B♭ C⁷ F ♩

down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky, and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is night.
 thy ten - der care, and fit us for heav - en, to live with thee there.

Anon., Philadelphia, 1885, 1892

MUELLER 11.11.11.11,
 James R. Murray, 1887

Lesson 5

Luke 2:8-20

Diane Kanode

Hershey PCA

The angels announce the birth of the Savior to the shepherds.

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!"

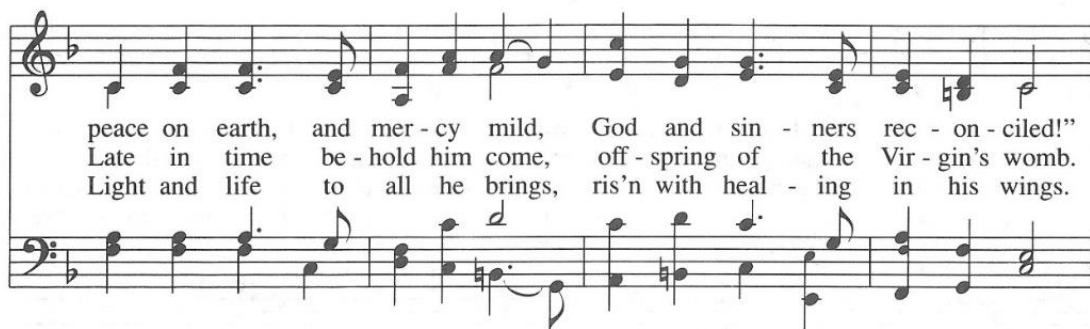
¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, 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.

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

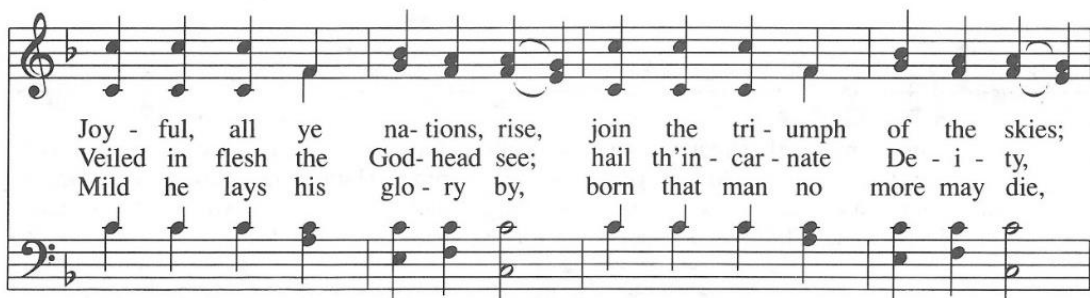
Congregation

The musical score is written for a congregation. It features a treble and bass staff with a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the bass staff providing a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staves.

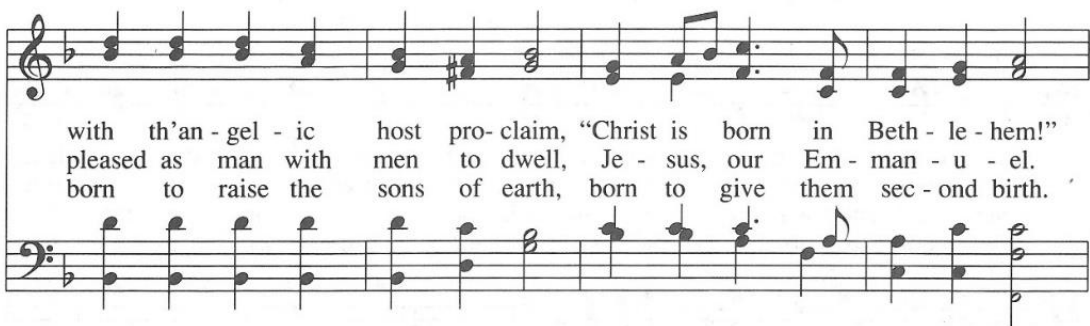
1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail the heav'n- born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ- teous- ness!



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.

REFRAIN



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."

Lesson 6

John 1:1-5, 14

Pastor Francisco Victa
Lebanon Valley PCA

The Apostle announces the good news about the Savior.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Evening Meditation

Pastor Francisco Victa

“What Christmas Means”

Text: John 1:1-5, 14

* Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Congregation

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,
 play; 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,

ANTIOCH C.M.rep.
 George Frederick Handel, 1742
 Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1836

Based on Psalm 98
 Isaac Watts, 1719

Candle Lighting

As we see the light of the candles spread throughout the dark room, we are reminded of Jesus's words that he is the Light of the world (John 8:12) He has called his followers to announce the message about him to the world so that all nations might come and worship him.

Safety concern:

To prevent dripping and damage to furniture and flooring, we ask that lit candles always be kept **vertical**. Let the person next to you put their unlit candle into your flame. Please extinguish the flame immediately following tonight's benediction. Thank you.

LED candles are available for young children and those who prefer a flameless light.

Please return all candles after the service.



The Adoration of the Shepherds

From the Studio of Rembrandt van Rijn, Anonymous artist, pen and brown ink with gray-brown wash

Overall: 18.6 x 27.8 cm (7 5/16 x 19 15/16 in)

Widener Collection; National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; 1942.9.660; Open Access.

*Silent Night! Holy Night!

Congregation

Capo 1: ♮ B $\flat$ (A) ♮ F 7 (E 7) B $\flat$ (A) E $\flat$ (D)

1. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright round yon
 2. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep- herds quake at the sight! Glo - ries
 3. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light ra - diant
 4. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light; with the

B $\flat$ (A) E $\flat$ (D) B $\flat$ (A)

vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,
 stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
 beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
 an - gels let us sing al - le - lu - ia to our King;

F 7 (E 7) B $\flat$ (A) ♮ F 7 (E 7) B $\flat$ (A) ♮

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!

Joseph Mohr, 1818
Tr. ca. 1850

STILLE NACHT Irreg.
Franz Gruber, 1818

*Benediction

2 Corinthians 13:14

Pastor David Kertland

*"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."*

Amen.

Postlude

*Congregation standing, as you are able.

Tonight's Service Information

- 1) **Thank you** to all our participants in tonight's service!
- 2) **Artwork: Cover:** *Untitled (View of the Seine)*, Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859-1937), oil on plywood, 4 5/8 in. x 6 1/2 in., circa 1900. Signed in oil, lower left. Private collection. Downloaded on 12/19/2024 from: <https://www.invaluable.com/auction-lot/henry-ossawa-tanner-1859-1937-untitled-view-of-th-11-c-765ad7d565>. **Page 12:** "The Nativity" (Albrecht Dürer, 1504, 1943.3.3557, Open Access. www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/Collection/art-object-page.6675.html); **Page 18:** "The Adoration of the Shepherds" (the studio of Rembrandt van Rijn, 1606-1669, 1942.9.660, Open Access. www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/Collection/art-object-page.1838.html) Artwork is in the public domain.
- 3) **Music: Sound:** Brad Weaver; **Pianist:** Anita Wood; **Instruments:** Ephraim Church (violin), Isaiah Church (violin), Thaddaeus Church (viola), Peter Gibble (viola). **Ensemble:** Crystal Basom, Asahel Church, Emily Church, Laura Church, Jericho Church, Nora Dolon, Sabrins Einolf, Leah Gibble, Bonnie Kertland, Yaasha Hepperle, Mark Linstedt, Pam Linstedt, Bradley Weaver, Don Wood, and AmyLea Yingst. **Carols:** "Once in Royal David's City" (225), "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (208), "While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks" (223), "Away in a Manger" (204), "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" (203), Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come" (195), and "Silent Night! Holy Night!" (210) are reprinted from the *Trinity Hymnal* (Atlanta, GA: Great Commission Publications, 2000). Music used by permission: CCLI License #703337.
- 4) **Quotes:** Biblical quotes are from the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise noted. The comments on page 2 and the Evening Prayer on Page 12 have been modified and revised from the 2022 King's College Chapel booklet for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols which can be viewed at www.kings.cam.ac.uk/chapel/a-festival-of-nine-lessons-and-carols.



Hershey Presbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

Meeting Sundays

9:00 AM Bible Classes for all ages

10:00 AM Worship Service

1521 Sand Hill Road, Hummelstown, PA 17036

(717) 489-1535

hersheypca.com



LEBANON VALLEY
- PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA) -

Meeting Sundays

10:00 AM Worship Service

452 Ebenezer Road, Lebanon, PA 17042

(717) 769-9627

lebanonvalleypca.com