



Hershey Presbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

December 29, 2024

Front Cover Artwork

Post Tenebras Lux (After Darkness, Light) Stained Glass Window in the Bibliothèque de Genève (University of Geneva Library), Switzerland. Photo by David Kertland, 2019.

“Post tenebras lux is a Latin phrase translated as *Light After Darkness*. It appears as ***Post tenebras spero lucem*** (‘After darkness, I hope for light’) in the Vulgate version of Job 17:12. The phrase came to be adopted as the Calvinist motto, and was subsequently adopted as the motto of the entire Protestant Reformation. It is used by John Calvin’s adopted city of Geneva, Switzerland on their coins. As a mark of its role in the Calvinist movement, the motto is engraved on the Reformation Wall, in Geneva, and the Huguenot Monument, in Franschhoek, South Africa.”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post_tenebras_lux

“The phrase ‘post tenebras lux’ (after darkness, light), a rallying cry of Protestant Reformers, refers to the rediscovery of biblical truth in a time of spiritual darkness. Because the darkness of heresy and immorality constantly creeps in, the church must always be seeking to rediscover the light.”

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/conferences/pillars-of-christian-orthodoxy-2011-ligonier-academy-conference/post-tenebras-lux>



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 Pauline Gehman and Rachel Ballach.

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 Asahel Church.

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), Keith Dolon (sound), Peter Gobble (piano), Paul Hepperle (preaching), Joe Kearns (tin whistle), Bonnie Kertland (vocals), Mark Linstedt (vocals), Pam Linstedt (vocals), Nathanael Marengo (clarinet), and Don Wood (vocals).

Today's Communion Servers are Greg Moore and Dave Eakin.

Prelude

Praising God

***Call to Worship:**

Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7

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!

⁶ Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

⁷ For he is our God,

*and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.*

Light Text = Read by Leader

Bold Text = Read by All

*Response of Praise:

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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.

***Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

***Confession of Faith: Westminster Confession of Faith Ch 8: 1-2**

I. It pleased God, in his eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only-begotten Son, to be the Mediator between God and man, the Prophet, Priest, and King; the Head and Savior of his Church, the Heir of all things, and Judge of the world; unto whom he did, from all eternity, give a people to be his seed, and to be by him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.

II. The Son of God, the second person in the Trinity, being very and eternal God, of one substance, and equal with the Father, did, when the fulness of time was come, take upon him man's nature, with all the essential properties and common infirmities thereof, yet without sin: being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost in the womb of the Virgin Mary, of her substance. So that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures, the Godhead and the manhood, were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion. Which person is very God and very man, yet one Christ, the only mediator between God and man.

***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

Isaiah 53:1-4

*Who has believed what he has heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.*

*He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

*Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.*

Confession of Sin

Declaration of Pardon in Christ

Isaiah 53:11

*Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
make many to be accounted righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.*

Offering Our Prayers to God

Prayer of Intercession & the Lord's Prayer

Hershey PCA Prayer Requests for the Week of December 29, 2024 - January 4, 2025

Intercession *for the World*:

- **Hershey Community:** Hershey Medical Center Emergency Department
- **Civil Government:** US Senator-Elect David McCormick
- **Unreached People Group:** Eastern Bedawi Bedouin of Egypt and Israel

Population: 1,437,000; 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:** Darlene K.
- **Leaders of Our Congregation:** Sound Team
- **Our Denomination (PCA):** Second City Church, Harrisburg, 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:

Ancient of Days

1.Though the

na - tions rage king-doms rise and fall there is
dread of night ov - er - whelms my soul He is

still here one with King me reign-ing ov - er all So I
with me I am not a - lone O his

will not fear for this truth re - mains: That my
love is sure and he knows my name For my

God is the An - cient of Days None a -
God is the An - cient of Days

bove him none be - fore him all of time is his hands For His

throne it shall re - main and ev - er stand All the

pow - er all the glo - ry I will trust in His name For my

God is the An - cient of days 2.Though the

days 3.Though I

may not see what the fu - ture brings I will

watch and wait for the sav - iour king then my

joy comp - lete stand - ing face to face in the

pres - ence of the An - cient of Days None a -

bove him none be - fore him all of time in his hands For His

throne it shall re - main and ev - er stand All the

pow - er all the glo - ry I will trust in His name For my

God is the An - cient of days

Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson,
Michael Farren, Jesse Reeves

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:**

Philippians 2:5-8

"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

Sermon:

The Humility of Christ

Sermon Text: Philippians 2:5-8

Paul Hepperle

1. Christ _____

2. Christ _____ Himself

3. Christ becomes _____

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.'

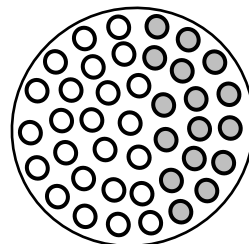
In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

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.

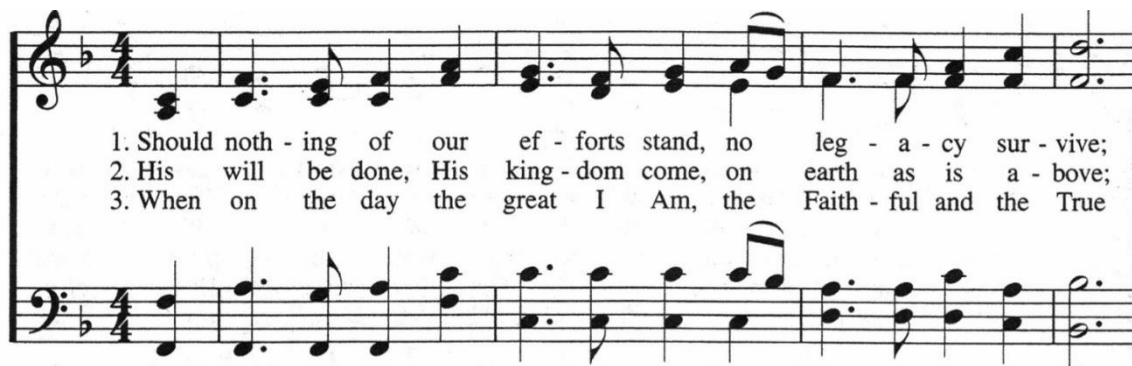


white circles = grape juice in clear cups
gray circles = wine in purple cups

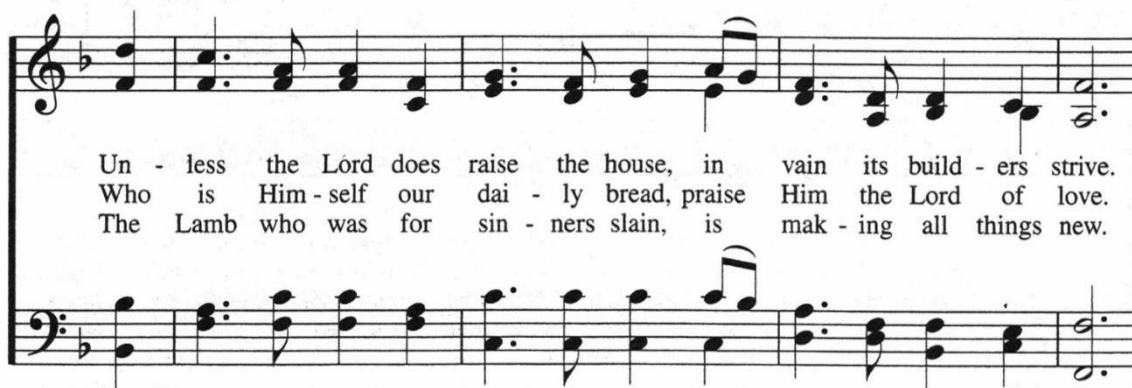
Prayer

Receiving God's Blessing

*Song of Dedication & Service:



1. Should noth - ing of our ef - forts stand, no leg - a - cy sur - vive;
2. His will be done, His king - dom come, on earth as is a - bove;
3. When on the day the great I Am, the Faith - ful and the True

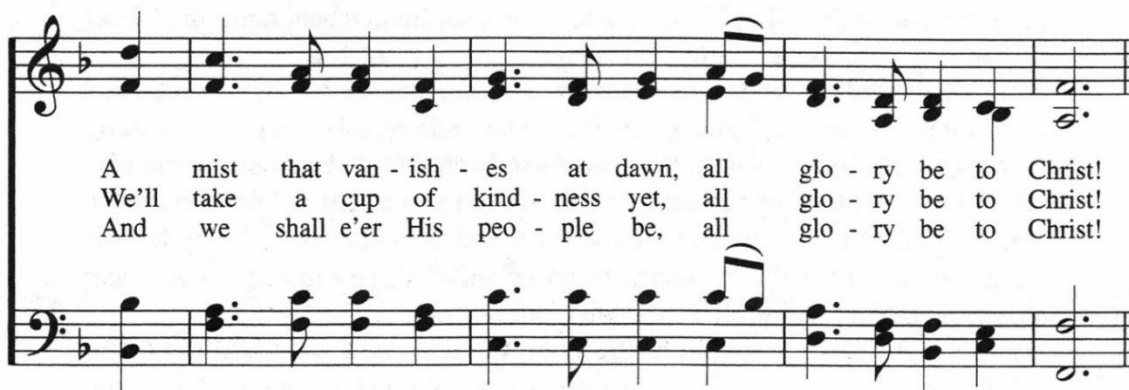


Un - less the Lord does raise the house, in vain its build - ers strive.
Who is Him - self our dai - ly bread, praise Him the Lord of love.
The Lamb who was for sin - ners slain, is mak - ing all things new.

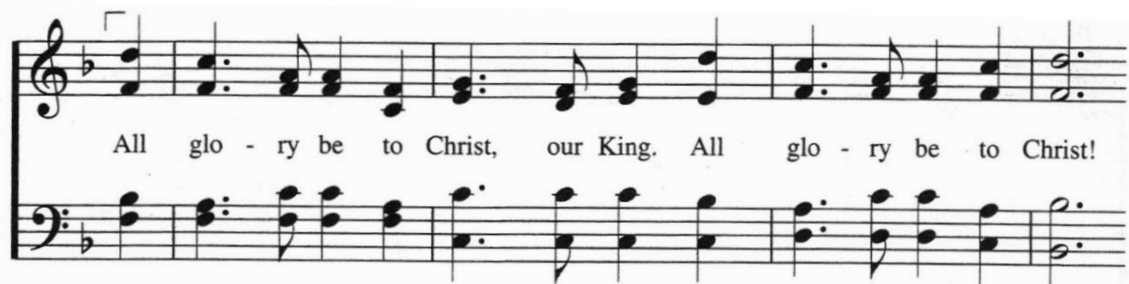


To you who boast to - mor - row's gain, tell me what is your life?
Let liv - ing wa - ter sat - is - fy the thirst - y with - out price,
Be - hold our God shall live with us and be our stead - fast light,

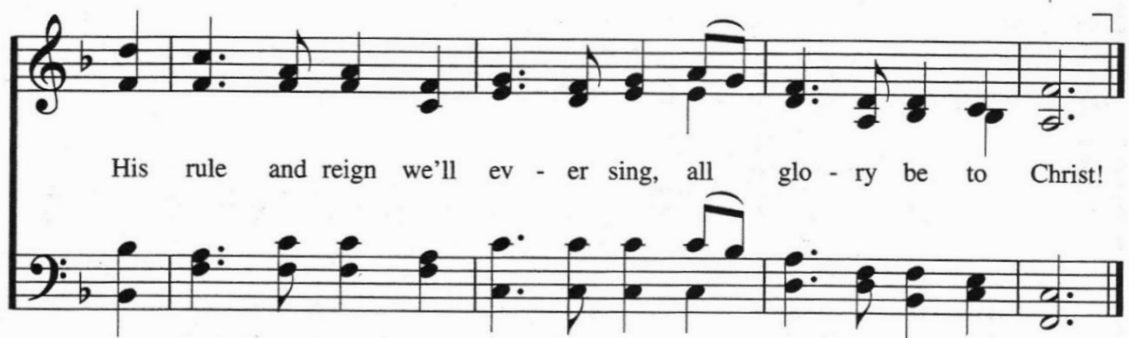
(Please turn the page.) —————>



A mist that van - ish - es at dawn, all glo - ry be to Christ!
 We'll take a cup of kind - ness yet, all glo - ry be to Christ!
 And we shall e'er His peo - ple be, all glo - ry be to Christ!



All glo - ry be to Christ, our King. All glo - ry be to Christ!



His rule and reign we'll ev - er sing, all glo - ry be to Christ!

Words: Dustin Kensrue

Music: *Auld Lang Syne* - Scottish traditional

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Receiving God's Blessing

*Benediction:

Hebrews 13:20-21

*Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,
equip you with everything good that you may do his will,
working in us that which is pleasing in his sight,
through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.
Amen.*

*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:** *Post Tenebras Lux* (After Darkness, Light) Stained Glass Window in the Bibliothèque de Genève (University of Geneva Library), Switzerland. Photo by David Kertland, 2019.
- 2) **Music:** "O Come All Ye Faithful" (208) is reprinted from *The Trinity Hymnal* (Great Commission Publications, Atlanta, GA, 2000). Music for "Ancient of Days" was adapted from <https://cityalight.com/song/ancient-of-days/>. "All Glory Be to Christ" (133) is reprinted from *Hymns of Grace* (The Master's Seminary Press, Los Angeles, CA, 2015). Music used by permission: CCLI License #20711820 and CCLI Streaming License #20711837.
- 3) **Quotes:** Page 2: on the artwork: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post_tenebras_lux, and <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/conferences/pillars-of-christian-orthodoxy-2011-ligonier-academy-conference/post-tenebras-lux>. 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) 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.



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



The Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), was formed in 1973 to be a denomination that is “**Faithful to the Scriptures, True to the Reformed Faith, and Obedient to the Great Commission.**” Various organizations of the PCA include:



Mission to the World (www.mtw.org): international missions in keeping with the Great Commission



Mission to North America (www.pcamna.org): North American missions in keeping with the Great Commission.



Committee on Discipleship Ministries

(www.pcacdm.org, www.cepbookstore.com, www.gcp.org): Curriculum and other resources to assist leaders in the local church as they make disciples (Matthew 28:19) among children, youth, and adults in the congregation.



Covenant College (www.covenant.edu):

our denominational college on Lookout Mountain, GA (overlooking Chattanooga, TN)



Covenant Theological Seminary

(www.covenantseminary.edu): our denominational seminary in St. Louis, MO.



PCA Administrative Committee (www.pcaac.org): promotes the unity, purity, and mission of the PCA.



Reformed Universities Ministries (www.ruf.org): the PCA college campus ministry



Ridge Haven Camp, Conference Center, Retreat Center, and Residential Community

(www.ridgehaven.org): providing camps, retreats, conferences, and etc.



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