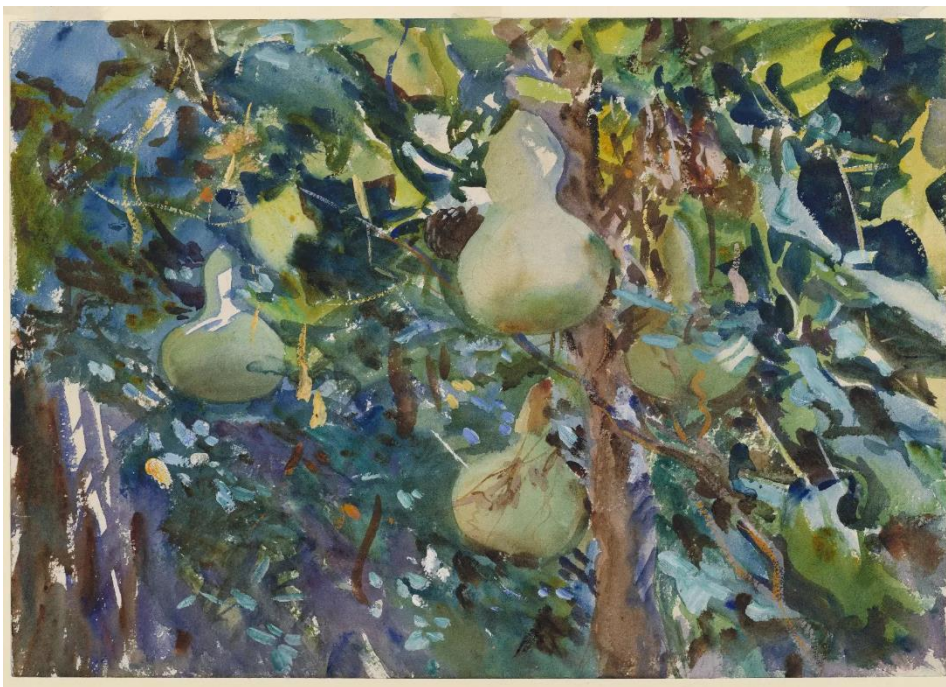




HersheyPresbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

July 20, 2025

Today's Front Cover

John Singer Sargent (American, born Italy, 1856–1925). *Gourds*, 1908. Opaque and translucent watercolor with graphite underdrawing, 13 13/16 x 19 11/16 in. (35.1 x 50 cm) frame: 24 1/4 x 30 1/4 x 1 13/16 in. (61.6 x 76.8 x 4.6 cm). Brooklyn Museum, Purchased by Special Subscription, 09.822. (Photo: Brooklyn Museum). In the public domain.

“Sargent’s extraordinary virtuosity is on display in *Gourds*, painted in Majorca in the summer or autumn of 1908, just months before the New York debut of his watercolors. In all of his garden watercolors, Sargent relied on the pictorial framework of sculptural forms to anchor his exuberant record of vivid light falling across leaves and flowers. Here the fruits, made luminous with thin washes and exposed areas of paper, punctuate a maze of layered colors and whorls of dashed, opaque highlights.”

<https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/objects/20375>



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 on the Lower Level of the Education Bldg. Today's Nursery Workers are Pauline Gehman and Yaasha Hepperle.

A **Junior Church** for children aged 4-Grade 2 is offered on the Lower Level of the Education Bldg. beginning during the hymn before the sermon. Today's Junior Church Teacher is Paul Hepperle.

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), Nora Dolon (vocals), Pastor Bob Eickelberg (administration of the Lord's Supper), Peter Gibble (viola), Paul Hepperle (leading worship), Mark Linstedt (vocals), Pam Linstedt (vocals), Nathaneal Marengo (sound), Jared Salyards (piano), Blesson Varghese (preaching), and Don Wood (vocals).

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

Prelude

Introducing Today's Guest Speaker, Blesson Varghese:

Ken & Diane Kanode

Blesson Varghese is a student at Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in South Carolina. He is from Nepal where his father serves as a pastor and head of an orphanage. He went to Bible college and then taught in his home church context for several years before deciding to seek further theological education. He is married to Manju, and they have one daughter.

Praising God

***Call to Worship:**

Psalm 96:1-4

Oh sing to the LORD a new song;

sing to the LORD, all the earth!

² Sing to the LORD, bless his name;

tell of his salvation from day to day.

³ Declare his glory among the nations,

his marvelous works among all the peoples!

⁴ For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;

he is to be feared above all gods.

Light Text = Read by Leader

Bold Text = Read by All

*Response of Praise:

Sing to the Lord, Sing His Praise

(From Psalm 96)

1. Sing to the Lord, sing his praise, all you peo- ples, new be your
2. Tell of his won-drous works, tell of his glo- ry, till through the
3. Vain are the hea- then gods, i- dols and help-less; God made the
4. Give un- to God Most High glo- ry and hon- or, come with your

song as new hon- ors you pay; sing of his maj- es- ty,
na- tions his name is re- vered; praise and ex- alt him, for
heav'ns, and his glo- ry they tell; hon- or and maj- es- ty
of- f'rings and hum- bly draw near; in ho- ly beau- ty now

bless him for- ev- er, show his sal- va- tion from day to day.
he is al- might- y; God o- ver all let the Lord be feared.
shine out be- fore him, beau- ty and strength in his tem- ple dwell.
wor- ship Je- ho- vah, trem- ble be- fore him with god- ly fear.

5. Make all the nations know God reigns forever;
earth is established as he did decree;
righteous and just is the King of the nations,
judging the people with equity.

6. Let heav'n and earth be glad; waves of the ocean,
forest and field, exultation express;
for God is coming, the Judge of the nations,
coming to judge in his righteousness.

***Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

***Confession of Faith:**

The Nicene Creed

**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.

***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.**

* 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*.

Facing Up to Our Sin before God

Reading of God's Standard

Romans 13:9-10

For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Confession of Sin (from Leading in Prayer, page 85)

Holy God, Lord most gracious!

Rebuke us not in your anger,

nor chasten us in your wrath!

You are holy, and we cannot stand in your presence.

Yet you have called us to come to you.

We feel unworthy, for we have failed you again and again.

We feel like running away, yet you keep calling us.

Have mercy on us, O God. Have mercy!

Holy God, Father most gracious!

Rebuke us not in your anger, nor chasten us in your wrath!

Heal us from our sin, for we are troubled.

Deliver us for the sake of your steadfast love.

Our sins trouble us, O God.

We are troubled by how they have hurt others.

We are troubled by how they have hurt us.

Your ways are right! O righteous God!

And whenever we have refused to follow them

we have found out how right they are.

Have mercy on us, O God. Have mercy!

Holy God, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Have mercy on us for the sake of your Son,

who died to free us from our sins.

To you be honor and glory! Amen.

Declaration of Pardon in Christ

Acts 5:30-32

The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree.

³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

Offering Our Prayers to God

Prayer of Intercession & the Lord's Prayer

Hershey PCA Prayer Requests for the Week of July 20 - July 26, 2025

Intercession *for the World*:

- **In the Local Community:** Derry Township Supervisor
Dominic V. Giovanniello
- **Civil Government:** US Representative Scott Perry
- **Unreached People Group:** Belama, of India
Population:25,000; Language: Odia; Religion: Hinduism
"...pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (Matt. 9:38)

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

- **Health issues:** Peter M.
- **Leaders of Our Congregation:** Director of Covenant Family Ministries:
Paul Hepperle
- **Supported Missionary or Organizations:** John & Kathy Clow
(MTW, Honduras)

The Lord's Prayer: We will close our prayer 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 the Song of Preparation, children from 4 years old through Grade 2 are welcome to attend Junior Church in the lower level of the education building. The Junior Church teacher will meet the children at the front in the narthex.

*Song of Preparation:

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

1. O for a thou- sand tongues to sing my great Re- deem - er's praise,
 2. My gra- cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
 3. Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease;
 4. He breaks the pow'r of reign - ing sin, he sets the pris - 'ner free;

the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace.
 to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.
 'tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
 his blood can make the foul - est clean, his blood a - vailed for me.

5. He speaks and, list'ning to his voice,
 new life the dead receive;
 the mournful, broken hearts rejoice;
 the humble poor believe.

6. Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,
 your loosen'd tongues employ;
 ye blind, behold your Savior come;
 and leap, ye lame, for joy.

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.
 Alt. 1961

AZMON C.M.
 Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829
 Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839

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**

Habakkuk 1:1-11

The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw.

² O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear?

Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save?

³ Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong?

Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise.

⁴ So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth.

For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted.

⁵ "Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded.

For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told.

⁶ For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation,
who march through the breadth of the earth, to seize dwellings not their own.

⁷ They are dreaded and fearsome; their justice and dignity go forth from themselves.

⁸ Their horses are swifter than leopards, more fierce than the evening wolves;
their horsemen press proudly on.

Their horsemen come from afar; they fly like an eagle swift to devour.

⁹ They all come for violence, all their faces forward.

They gather captives like sand.

¹⁰ At kings they scoff and at rulers they laugh.

They laugh at every fortress, for they pile up earth and take it.

¹¹ Then they sweep by like the wind and go on, guilty men, whose own might is their god!"

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Sermon:

“The Lord of History”

Today's Text: Habakkuk 1:1-11

Blesson Varghese

Notes:

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 (see below)

Prayer

Words of Institution:

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

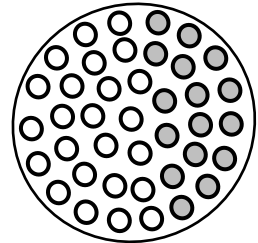
"[T]he Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

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."

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

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.

Receiving God's Blessing

***Song of Dedication & Service: Praise the Lord! My Soul, O Praise Him!**
(From Psalm 146)

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are from Psalm 146 and are distributed across four systems of music. The first system contains the first four lines of the song. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system contains the next four lines. The fourth system contains the final four lines. The score includes a variety of musical notations, including eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, as well as rests and repeat signs. The lyrics are written in a clear, sans-serif font below the corresponding musical staves.

1. ¹Praise the LORD! My soul, O praise him! ²I will praise him all my days.
2. ⁵O how blest the man who trusts in Ja-cob's God to be his aid.
3. He will al - ways ren - der jus - tice for the sake of those op - pressed.
4. ⁹How the LORD loves all the righ - teous, and the al - i - en de - fends,

I will sing while I have be - ing; I will sing to God my praise!
O how blest the one whose hope up - on the LORD his God is stayed,
⁷He gives food to those who hun - ger, sat - is - fies their emp - ti - ness.
helps the or - phan and the wid - ow, judg - ment on the wick - ed sends.

³Put no con - fi - dence in princ - es, mor - tal men who can - not save.
⁶he who made the earth and heav - en and the seas, with all their store;
⁸God re - leas - es all the pris - 'ners, to the blind the LORD gives sight.
¹⁰God the LORD will reign for - ev - er; Zi - on's God for - ev - er - more

⁴All their plans will come to noth - ing when they per - ish in the grave.
he who keeps his word for - ev - er, he is faith - ful ev - er - more.
He lifts up those bowed in an - guish and re - lieves them from their plight.
reigns through ev - 'ry gen - er - a - tion. Hal - le - lu - jah! Praise the LORD!

RIPLEY 8.7.8.7.D.
Lowell Mason, 1839

OPC/URCNA 2016
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Receiving God's Blessing

*Benediction:

Numbers 6:24-26

*The LORD bless you and keep you;
25 the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
26 the LORD lift up his countenance^{da} 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:** John Singer Sargent (American, born Italy, 1856–1925). *Gourds*, 1908. Opaque and translucent watercolor with graphite underdrawing, 13 13/16 x 19 11/16 in. (35.1 x 50 cm) frame: 24 1/4 x 30 1/4 x 1 13/16 in. (61.6 x 76.8 x 4.6 cm). Brooklyn Museum, Purchased by Special Subscription, 09.822. (Photo: Brooklyn Museum). In the public domain. Accessed 06/30/2025.
- 2) **Music:** "Sing to the Lord, Sing His Praise (62)," O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (164) are reprinted from *The Trinity Hymnal* (Great Commission Publications, Atlanta, GA, 2000). "Praise the Lord! My Soul, O Praise Him! (146), is reprinted from *The Trinity Psalter Hymnal* (Trinity Psalter Hymnal Joint Venture (OPC & URCNA), Willow Grove, PA, 2018). Music used by permission: CCLI License #20711820 and CCLI Streaming License #20711837
- 3) **Quotes:** Page 2: <https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/objects/20375>. 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).

The Stated Clerk's Summary and Reflections of the 52nd General Assembly of the PCA (2025)

The Lord continues to bless His Church in a time of cultural challenge. We saw the fruit of that in reports delivered to our General Assembly.

This past year we have seen continued evidence of the Lord's favor toward the Presbyterian Church in America. We unapologetically proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a culture that is increasingly hostile to the biblical message that is exclusive. We see Christian brothers and sisters ridiculed and, in some instances, charged with crimes for upholding biblical standards. Despite the challenges of our surrounding culture, the Church is advancing, proclaiming the good news of redemption and growing in numbers. Encouraging indicators of that in 2024 included a net increase of 22 churches, over 5,500 professions of faith by children, over 5,600 professions of faith by adults, and over 5,500 infant baptisms. Each of the latter three items represents a new high. Surely, we should see these as undeserved blessings.

The fields are ripe unto harvest and the PCA is sowing and reaping.

Assembling to Celebrate and to Advance the Ministry of the Church

Hosted by the Tennessee Valley Presbytery, the 52nd General Assembly met in Chattanooga, Tennessee to review our collective work and to conduct the business of the Church. As always, the General Assembly consisted of a mix of worship, the work of the Church, and an extended family reunion. The theme of the 52nd Assembly was "Lift Your Eyes," encouraging commissioners to remember our Creator, King, and Savior whom we serve.

In worship, outgoing Moderator RE Steve Dowling exhorted the Assembly Tuesday evening to maintain zeal for Christ in ourselves and in new believers. Wednesday, TE Dennis Lewis urged us to "look up" to the glory of God, "look in" to see our need for a Savior, and "look out" to go, bearing witness to Christ. Thursday, TE Dennis Johnson preached on lifting our eyes to see the fields are ripe for harvest.

The Assembly convened Tuesday evening following worship and elected TE Kevin DeYoung of Christ Covenant Church in Matthews, NC to serve as Moderator. He moderated the Assembly with grace and humor. As the father of nine children, he has experience managing competing voices striving to be heard.

Further, TE Bryan Chapell addressed the Assembly followed by Provisional Stated Clerk John Bise, who delivered the Stated Clerk's report, summarizing the work of the Presbyterian Church in America.

We were blessed to have a large enrollment of 2350 commissioners, making this our second largest Assembly ever. There was plenty of work for these commissioners, reviewing and hearing reports from our various Committees and Agencies and acting upon overtures. ...

For the full Stated Clerk's Report from this year's General Assembly, see <https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Provisional-Stated-Clerk-Summary-GA-2025.pdf>.

Full copies are also available in the narthex. To learn more about the PCA General Assembly, see <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/faqs-pca-general-assembly/>.



Hershey Presbyterian

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

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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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

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