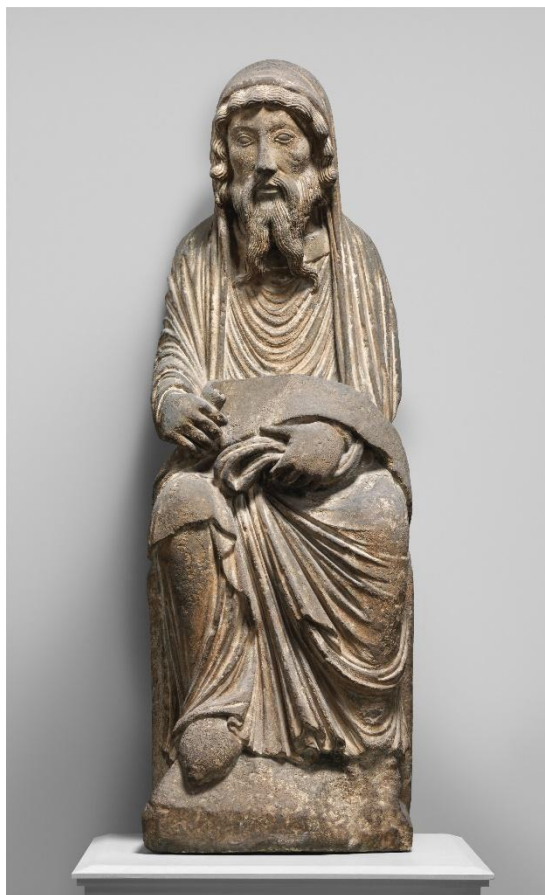




HersheyPresbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

December 7, 2025

The Second Sunday of Advent

This Month's Front Cover

The Priest Aaron, ca. 1170. Made in Noyon, Picardy (Oise). French. Medium: Limestone. Overall dimensions: 50 x 16 1/2 x 13 1/2 in. Classification: Sculpture-Stone. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Curatorial Department: Medieval Art and The Cloisters. On view at The Met Fifth Avenue in Gallery 304. The Bequest of Michael Dreicer, 1921. Object Number: 22.60.17. From the Cathedral of Noyon, Picardy; Michael Dreicer, New York (until 1922). In the public domain.

On the artwork: "This sculpture of Aaron and the opposite figure of Moses form part of a rare ensemble of key figures from the Hebrew Bible. They symbolically prefigure the redemption offered through the sacrificial death of Christ, and with other statues originally flanked an enthroned Virgin and Child that still survives in the Gothic cathedral at Noyon. The sculptures are distinguished by garments of weighty fabric arranged in swelling volumes stretched around the body. Here, the Levite priest Aaron covers his head with a veil and holds a scroll. After their removal from the cathedral in the wake of the French Revolution, the sculptures were affected by different environmental conditions."

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/466404>

On today's theme: We will be thinking today about God's love and his promise to cleanse a people for himself so that we can come into his presence and represent him in the world. That was the work of the OT priest. Also, it was the way that Israel was to point the nations to God. We too, in Christ, are to be ministers of the new covenant "*in the priestly service of the gospel of God*" (Romans 15:16) as we take Christ to all nations.

Our meditation from Zechariah 3 today reminds us that we cannot purify ourselves or make others pure, God must do it. And so we thank him for his grace through which he makes us pure by uniting us to Jesus Christ through faith and clothing us with Christ's own righteousness!

May this Advent season be a time in which your heart is stirred by the glorious grace of our God as we hear again that hope draws near as God affirms his love and promises to cleanse us through our union with Christ!



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 Yaasha Hepperle and Remy Waybright.

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 Asahel Church.

Thank you to all who participate in making this worship service possible (worship service participants may include in alphabetical order: Ruth Adams (greeter), Ephraim Church (leading worship), Isaiah Church (violin), Thaddaeus Church (viola), Nora Dolon (vocals), Peter Gible (viola), Bonnie Kertland (vocals), David Kertland (preaching), Nathanael Marengo (sound), Anita Wood (piano, Don Wood (vocals), Cooper Yingst (trumpet).

Today's Ushers are Keith Dolon, Kentaro Minagaw and Nick Yingst.

Counters are Brad Weaver and Nora Dolon.

Throughout the service: the light face type is read by the leader; the **bold face type** is read by the congregation.

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle

Malachi 3:1-4

Read by: Chris and Jamie Wagner

Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Praising God

***Call to Worship:**

Revelation 22:17, 20

"The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come.'

And let the one who hears say, 'Come.'

And let the one who is thirsty come;

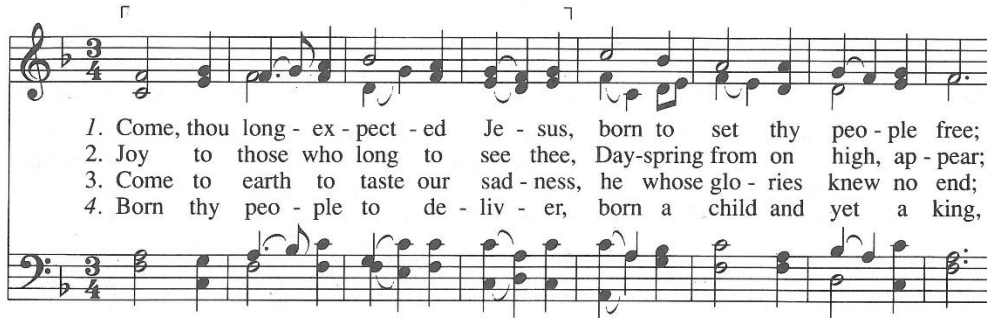
let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

²⁰ *He who testifies to these things says,*

'Surely I am coming soon.'

*Response of Praise:

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus



1. Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, ap - pear;
 3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ries knew no end;
 4. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 come, thou prom - ised Rod of Jes - se, of thy birth we long to hear!
 by his life he brings us glad - ness, our Re - deem - er, Shep - herd, Friend.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
 O'er the hills the an - gels sing - ing news, glad tid - ings of a birth:
 Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber, born with - in a cat - tle stall;
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
 "Go to him, your prais - es bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."
 this the ev - er - last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7.D.
 Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855

St. 1. 4. Charles Wesley, 1744
 St. 2-3. Mark E. Hunt, 1978
 Text of stanzas 2 & 3 © 1978, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. Used by permission.

Prayer of Adoration & Invocation

***Confession of Faith:**

The Apostles' Creed

We confess our faith together using the Apostles' Creed. It is an ancient summary of what the Bible teaches about God, our need of a sufficient Savior, and our dependence on the work of God's Spirit.

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
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.**

* “‘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

Isaiah 60:1-3

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. ³ And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising."

Confession of Sin

From Isaiah 64:6-9; in Unison

"We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷ There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. ⁸ But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹ Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people."

Declaration of Pardon in Christ

Isaiah 62:11-12

"Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.' ¹² And they shall be called The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD; and you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

Offering Our Prayers to God

Prayer of Intercession & the Lord's Prayer

Hershey PCA Prayer Requests for the Week of December 7 - 14

Intercession for the World:

- **In the Local Community:** Derry Township Supervisor Michael Corado
- **Civil Government:** Dauphin County Commissioner Mike Pries
- **Unreached People Group:** Betawi of Indonesia
Population: 6,891,000; Language: Betawi; Religion: Islam
"...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:** Elmer and Pat Cope
- **Leaders of Our Congregation:** Pastor Emeritus Bob Eickelberg
- **Supported Missionary or Organizations:** Rick & Clare Hivner
(Frontier Ventures, CA)

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 this hymn, 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 in the narthex.

*Song of Preparation:

Savior of the Nations, Come

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND 7.7.7

Attr. Ambrose of Milan, 4th century

Para. Martin Luther, 1524

Trans. William Morton Reynolds, 1850

Based on plainsong melody
Eyn Enchiridion, Erfurt, 1524
As in *Songs of Syon*, 1910

1. Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make here Your home.
2. From the God-head forth You came, And re - turn un - to the same,
3. You, the cho - sen Ho - ly One, Have o'er sin the vic - tory won.
4. Bright-ly does Your man - ger shine, Glo - rious is its light di - vine.

Mar - vel - now, O heaven and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.
Cap - tive lead - ing death and hell. High the song of tri - umph swell!
Bound-less shall Your king - dom be; When shall we its glo - ries see?
Let not sin o'er - cloud this light; Ev - er be our faith thus bright.

The musical score is written for two staves, treble and bass clef, in 4/4 time. The melody is in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are written below the staves, with four verses of the hymn. The score includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The lyrics are: 1. Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make here Your home. 2. From the God-head forth You came, And re - turn un - to the same, 3. You, the cho - sen Ho - ly One, Have o'er sin the vic - tory won. 4. Bright-ly does Your man - ger shine, Glo - rious is its light di - vine. The second system of the score continues the melody and includes the lyrics: Mar - vel - now, O heaven and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth. Cap - tive lead - ing death and hell. High the song of tri - umph swell! Bound-less shall Your king - dom be; When shall we its glo - ries see? Let not sin o'er - cloud this light; Ev - er be our faith thus bright.

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

Zechariah 2:10 – 3:10

2:10 “Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst, declares the LORD. ¹¹ And many nations shall join themselves to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people. And I will dwell in your midst, and you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. ¹² And the LORD will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem.”

¹³ Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD, for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

3:1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. ² And the LORD said to Satan, ‘The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?’ ³ Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments. ⁴ And the angel said to those who were standing before him, ‘Remove the filthy garments from him.’ And to him he said, ‘Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments.’ ⁵ And I said, ‘Let them put a clean turban on his head.’ So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD was standing by.

⁶ And the angel of the LORD solemnly assured Joshua, ⁷ ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts: If you will walk in my ways and keep my charge, then you shall rule my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you the right of access among those who are standing here. ⁸ Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, you and your friends who sit before you, for they are men who are a sign: behold, I will bring my servant the Branch. ⁹ For behold, on the stone that I have set before Joshua, on a single stone with seven eyes, I will engrave its inscription, declares the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day. ¹⁰ In that day, declares the LORD of hosts, every one of you will invite his neighbor to come under his vine and under his fig tree.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

Sermon: **Advent: *Returning to Hope (2)***
Hope Draws Near

Today's Text: Zechariah 2:10 – 3:10; Pastor David Kertland

1. God _____ his love.

2. God promises to _____ his people.

Preparing for the Lord's Supper

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

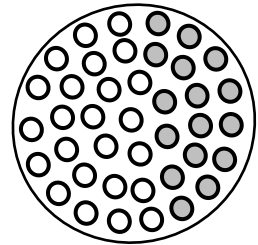
Words of Institution:

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.



Prayer

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

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.

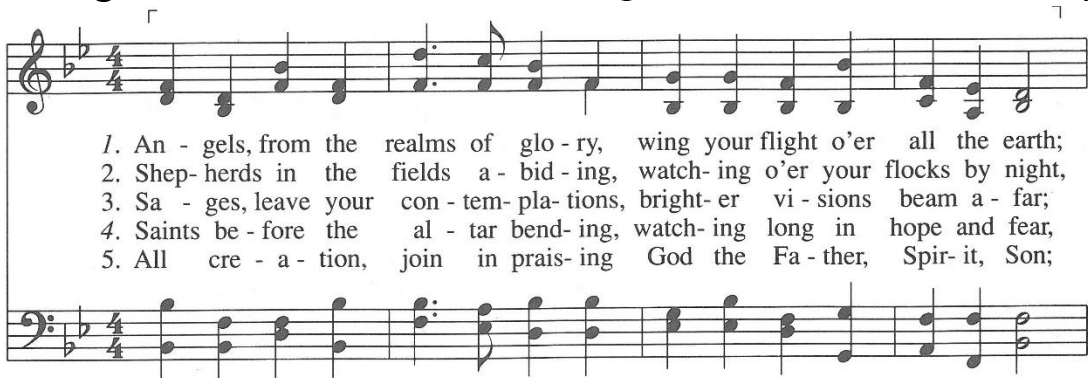
If you are not a believer in Jesus today, we are glad that you are here with us this morning! We invite you to stay and observe this part of the service, but ask that you do not participate. It is a celebration of the Christian's union with the risen Jesus. As the bread and wine are received by the congregation, 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."

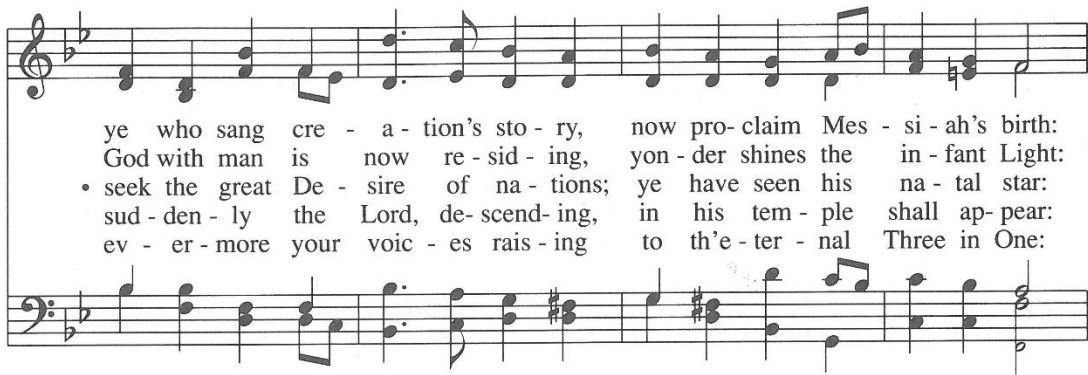
Have you prayed this prayer for the first time this morning? If so, let someone near you know! Also, feel free to talk to our pastor who can suggest ways for you to take next steps in the faith.

Receiving God's Blessing

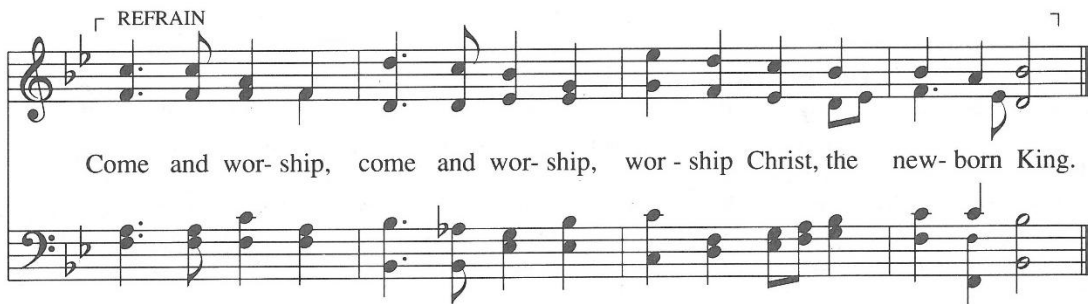
*Song of Dedication & Service: Angels, from the Realms of Glory



1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2. Shep- herds in the fields a - bid - ing, watch- ing o'er your flocks by night,
3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright- er vi - sions beam a - far;
4. Saints be - fore the al - tar bend- ing, watch- ing long in hope and fear,
5. All cre - a - tion, join in prais- ing God the Fa - ther, Spir- it, Son;



ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with man is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant Light:
• seek the great De - sire of na - tions; ye have seen his na - tal star:
sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to th'e - ter - nal Three in One:



REFRAIN

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Being Sent to Serve God

*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.
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. We encourage you to look for others you don't know and welcome them in the name of Christ! The time after worship is a great time for mutual, one-another ministry in Christ!

Today's Service Information

- 1) **Artwork:** Cover: Georges de La Tour (French, 1593-1652). The Repentant Magdalen. c. 1635/1640. Oil on canvas, overall dimensions 44.5 in. x 36.5 in., framed 56 in x 49 in. x 4.25 in. Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund. National Gallery, Washington, D.C. Accession Number: 1974.52.1. Accessed on 11/25/2025. In the public domain.
- 2) **Music:** "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" (196) and "Angels from the Realms of Glory" (218) are reprinted from *The Trinity Hymnal* (Great Commission Publications, Atlanta, GA, 2000). "Savior of the Nations, Come" (14) is reprinted from *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1990). Music used by permission: CCLI License #20711820 and CCLI Streaming License #20711837.
- 3) **Quotes:** Page 2: www.nga.gov/artworks/54386-repentant-magdalen and marcsjims.com/2022/09/19/art-explained-the-repentant-magdalene. Some of the quotes describing worship elements are from: *Leading in Prayer: A Workbook for Ministers* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995). See references on individual pages. 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.



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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