



HersheyPresbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

December 14, 2025

The Third Sunday of Advent

Today's Front Cover

Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528), *Spruce tree (Picea abies)*, c. 1497. Watercolor and gouche on paper, 11.61 in. x 7.71 in., British Museum. Not currently on display. Object Reference Number 1846,0918.9. In the public domain.

"This striking study of a spruce tree is one of Dürer's finest watercolours. The lack of date or indication of any background makes it difficult to date, but it was probably made shortly after the artist's return to Nuremberg from the first journey that he made to Italy, at about the same time as 'Landscape with a Woodland Pool'.... Dürer's interest in landscape was primarily as a means of providing setting to his paintings and prints, and he used drawings such as this and his watercolours of alpine views for the backgrounds of, for example, the 'Feast of the Rose Garlands' of 1506 (Prague, National Gallery...) and his 'Life of the Virgin' series of woodcuts. His practice of making studies from nature in watercolour and the use of extensive landscape backgrounds in his finished works played a part in the development of landscape as a subject in its own right by the Danube school artists, Albrecht Altdorfer...and Wolf Huber."

https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/P_1846-0918-9

About the Artist:

Albrecht Dürer's technically groundbreaking body of drawings and prints had a profound and lasting influence on the development of European art. Initially trained as a goldsmith by his father, Dürer was schooled in painting by Michael Wolgemut and began making works on paper in the 1490s.

Born in the German town of Nuremberg...a free city of the Holy Roman Empire and a center of commerce, book printing, and humanist learning—Dürer grew up in a culturally and artistically stimulating environment. He...travel[ed] twice to Italy in his youth and once to the Netherlands as a mature artist. In addition to several paintings, Dürer...worked in drawing, woodcut...engraving...etching and drypoint.

Dürer's drawings...are remarkable for their realism and refined penmanship. His unprecedentedly meticulous engravings...precisely conveyed surfaces, textures, and subtle effects of light. His woodcuts...were ambitious in terms of size, graphic complexity, and the variety and novelty of the subjects depicted."

<https://www.artic.edu/artists/40561/albrecht-durer>



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 Vicki Gehron and Lauren Sanabria.

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 Katy McIlvaine.

Thank you to all who participate in making this worship service possible (worship service participants may include in alphabetical order: Emily Church (vocals), Ephraim Church (violin), Isaiah Church (violin), Thaddaeus Church (viola), Keith Dolon (greeter/sound), Peter Gobble (viola), Joe Kearns (leading worship), Bonnie Kertland (vocals), David Kertland (preaching), Nathanael Marengo (vocals), Jared Salyards (piano), Don Wood (vocals), Cooper Yingst (trumpet).

Today's Ushers are David Eakin, Michael Kitchens, and Asahel Church.

Counters are Keith Dolon and Conner Waybright.

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

Micah 5:2-5a

Read by: The Gimbar Family

"[Y]ou, 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:**

Psalms 121:1-2

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

² My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

***Response of Praise: Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth**

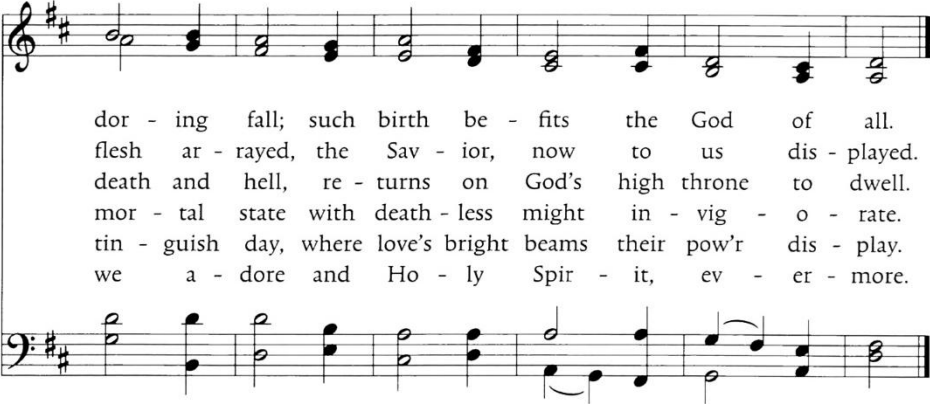


1. Come, thou Re - deem - er of the earth, and man - i -
 2. Be - got - ten of no hu - man will, but of the
 3. From God the Fa - ther he pro - ceeds, to God the
 4. O e - qual to thy Fa - ther, thou! Gird on thy
 5. Thy cra - dle here shall glit - ter bright, and dark - ness
 6. O Je - su, vir - gin - born, to thee e - ter - nal

PUER NOBIS
LM



fest thy vir - gin - birth: let ev - 'ry age a -
 Spir - it, thou art still the Word of God, in
 Fa - ther back he speeds, runs out his course to
 flesh - ly man - tle now, the weak - ness of our
 glow with new - born light, no more shall night ex -
 praise and glo - ry be, whom with the Fa - ther



dor - ing fall; such birth be - fits the God of all.
 flesh ar - rayed, the Sav - ior, now to us dis - played.
 death and hell, re - turns on God's high throne to dwell.
 mor - tal state with death - less might in - vig - o - rate.
 tin - guish day, where love's bright beams their pow'r dis - play.
 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Words: Ambrose, 4th c.; tr. J. M. Neale, 1851, alt.
 Music: Latin carol, 14th c.; adapt. Daniel Rump's *Liedbüchlein*, 1587; harm. G. R. Woodward, 1902, alt.

Prayer of Adoration & Invocation

***Confession of Faith:**

Luke 1:26-35

Leader: *In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said,*

Congregation: “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!”

Leader: *But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her,*

Congregation: “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He 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, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Leader: *And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵ And the angel answered her,*

Congregation: “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.”

***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

Romans 11:33 - 12:2

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴ 'For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?' ³⁵ 'Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?' ³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Confession of Sin

Declaration of Pardon in Christ

Romans 3:21-25

"[N]ow the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith."

Offering Our Prayers to God

Prayer of Intercession & the Lord's Prayer

Hershey PCA Prayer Requests for the Week of December 14-21

Intercession for the World:

- **In the Local Community:** Derry Township Supervisor Dominic V. Giovanniello
- **Civil Government:** Derry Township State Representative Thomas Mehaffie
- **Unreached People Group:** Betora of India
Population: 400; 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:** Ken K.
- **Leaders of Our Congregation:** Pastor Emeritus Mark Tedford
- **Supported Missionary or Organizations:** Richard & Lynne Smith
(RUF-I, Penn State)

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.**

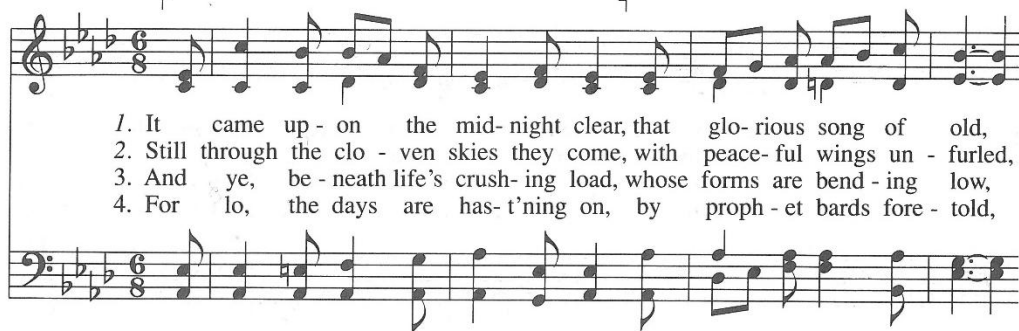
Presentation of Our Tithes & Offerings

Offertory:

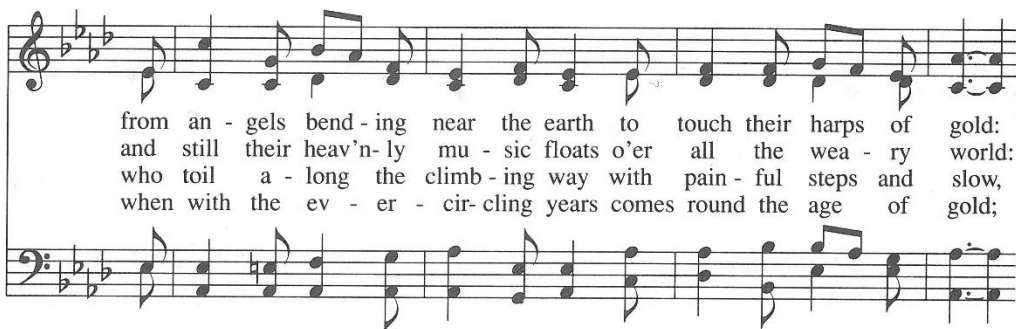
During this hymn, children from 4 years old through Grade 2 are welcome to attend Junior Church in the lower level of the education building. The Junior Church teacher will meet the children in the narthex.

*Song of Preparation:

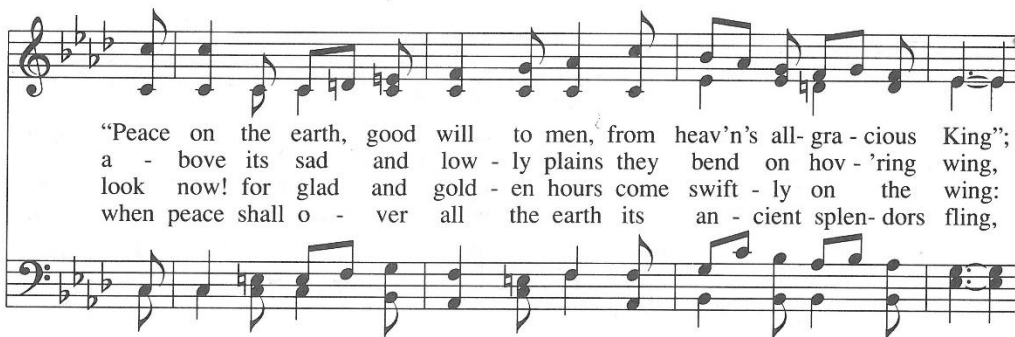
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



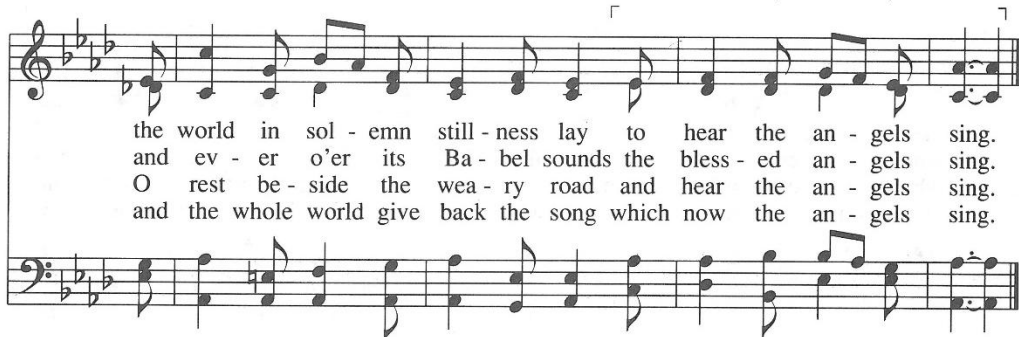
1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
 2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace - ful wings un - furled,
 3. And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
 4. For lo, the days are has - t'ning on, by proph - et bards fore - told,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years comes round the age of gold;



"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav'n's all - gra - cious King";
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
 look now! for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing:
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



the world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 O rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing.
 and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

CAROL C.M.D.
 Richard S. Willis, 1850

Edmund H. Sears, 1850

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 6:9-15

And the word of the LORD came to me: ¹⁰ "Take from the exiles Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah, who have arrived from Babylon, and go the same day to the house of Josiah, the son of Zephaniah. ¹¹ Take from them silver and gold, and make a crown, and set it on the head of Joshua, the son of Jehozadak, the high priest. ¹² And say to him, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Behold, the man whose name is the Branch: for he shall branch out from his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD. ¹³ It is he who shall build the temple of the LORD and shall bear royal honor, and shall sit and rule on his throne. And there shall be a priest on his throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.' ¹⁴ And the crown shall be in the temple of the LORD as a reminder to Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Hen the son of Zephaniah.

¹⁵ "And those who are far off shall come and help to build the temple of the LORD. And you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. And this shall come to pass, if you will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

Sermon:

Advent: *Returning to Hope (3)*

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace...”

Today's Text: Zechariah 6:9-15; Pastor David Kertland

1. A _____ Peace

2. A _____ 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

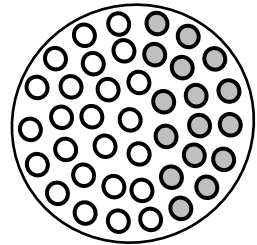
"[T]he Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

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.

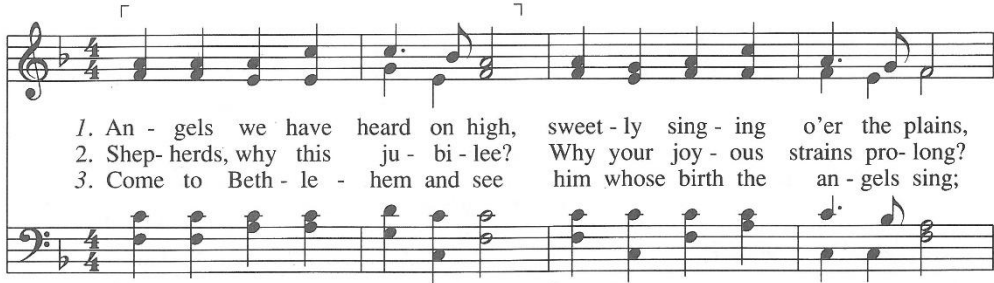
If you are not a believer in Jesus today, we are glad that you are here with us this morning! We invite you to stay and observe this part of the service, but ask that you do not participate. It is a celebration of the Christian's union with the risen Jesus. As the bread and wine are received by the congregation,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

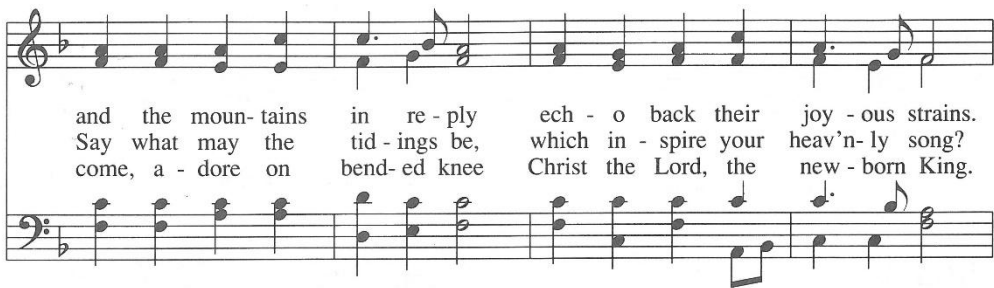
Have you prayed this prayer for the first time this morning? If so, let someone near you know! Also, feel free to talk to our pastor who can suggest ways for you to take next steps in the faith.

Receiving God's Blessing

***Song of Dedication & Service: Angels 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 7.7.7.7 ref.
Traditional French melody
Arr. by Edward S. Barnes, 1937

Traditional French carol

Being Sent to Serve God

*Benediction:

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

*Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus...
make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all...
so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father,
at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.”
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: Spruce tree (*Picea abies*), c. 1497. Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528), Watercolor and gouche on paper, 11.61 in. x 7.71 in., British Museum. Not currently on display. Object Reference No. 1846,0918.9. In the public domain.
- 2) **Music:** “Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth” (718) is reprinted from *The Sing! Hymnal* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway and Nashville, TN: Getty Music, 2025). “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” (200) 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:** Page 2: www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/P_1846-0918-9 and www.artic.edu/artists/40561/albrecht-durer. 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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