



Hershey Presbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

December 21, 2025
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Today's Front Cover

Rudolf Schweitzer-Cumpăna (1886-1975, Romanian), *Winter on the Path*, unknown date, signed bottom right in brown and red. Oil on cardboard, 26 cm. x 37 cm., In a private collection. Fair Use.

About the artist: “Born in Pitești into an ethnic German family, he finished high school in his native town before attending the Royal Academy of Arts at Berlin from 1904 to 1909, studying under Erich Hancke, Arthur Kampf, and Anton von Werner. He then returned to Romania, where he worked prodigiously on scenes and portraits drawn from village life, houses, still lifes, churches and monasteries. He died in Bucharest.”



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 Rachel Ballach and Kumi Minagawa.

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 Bonnie Kertland.

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

Today's Ushers are Ephraim Church, Keith Dolon, and Joe Kearns.

Counters are Brad Weaver and Kentaro Minagawa.

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

Genesis 3:14-15

Read by: Dan and Nancy Flint

*"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.'"*

Praising God

*Call to Worship:

Psalm 98:1-4

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

² The LORD has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

⁴ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

*Response of Praise:

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

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,
 ploy; 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. 189
 George Frederick Handel, 1742
 Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1836

Based on Psalm 98
 Isaac Watts, 1719

***Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

***Confession of Faith:**

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 intended as a reference to what is today called the *Roman Catholic Church*.

Welcome to our Newest Members!

Join us in welcoming our newest members of Hershey PCA who were recently received by our Session!

New Member

John Vaida

Sonia Vaida

Received by

Reaffirmation of Faith

Confession of Faith, receiving baptism today

The Session has examined and approved, **John Vaida**, as an applicant for membership in this local congregation, having already been baptized into the Church of God, who comes to assume for himself the privileges and responsibilities of his inheritance in the household of faith.*

The Session has examined and approved, **Sonia Vaida**, as an applicant for admission into the Church of God by Baptism, which is a sign and seal of our engrafting into Christ, and of our engagement to be the Lord's, who is cordially welcomed into the fellowship of the household of faith.*

John and Sonia, being here present to make a public profession of faith, you do so by assent to the following declarations and promises, by which you enter into a solemn covenant with God and His Church.

- 1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners, in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?**
- 2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?**
- 3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?**
- 4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?**
- 5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?**

To join Hershey PCA, communing members have taken the above vows (from *The Book of Church Order of the PCA*, 57-5) after attending the *Introduction to Hershey PCA* class and giving a credible profession of faith in Jesus Christ to our Session:

If you are interested in pursuing membership at Hershey PCA, please talk to Pastor Kertland or one of our Ruling Elders (see back cover).

An Introduction to Hershey PCA class is offered each year for those who are interested in pursuing membership and/or learning more about our congregation and denomination.

*This statement is adapted from the PCA Book of Church Order, 57-5.

Facing Up to Our Sin before God

Reading of God's Standard

Hebrews 3:12-13

3:12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today" that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Confession of Sin

Declaration of Pardon in Christ

Hebrews 4:14-16

4:14 Since...we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Offering Our Prayers to God

Prayer of Intercession & the Lord's Prayer

Hershey PCA Prayer Requests for the Week of December 21 - 28

Intercession for the World:

- **In the Local Community:** Derry Township Supervisor Natalie Nutt
- **Civil Government:** PA State Senator Patty Kim

- **Unreached People Group:** Bezhta of Eurasia
Population: 9,800; Language: Bezhta; 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:** Lois K.
- **Leaders of Our Congregation:** RE Ephraim Church
- **Supported Missionary or Organizations:** Anees & Fareda Zaka
(Church Without Walls)

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: Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery**

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 3/4 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are written below the vocal staves.

1. Come, be-hold the won-drous mys-t'ry, in the dawn-ing of the King.
2. Come, be-hold the won-drous mys-t'ry, he the per-fect Son of Man.
3. Come, be-hold the won-drous mys-t'ry, Christ the Lord up-on the tree.
4. Come, be-hold the won-drous mys-t'ry, slain by death the God of life.

He, the theme of heav-en's prais-es, robed in frail hu-man-i-ty.
In his liv-ing, in his suf-f'ring, nev-er trace nor stain of sin.
In the stead of ru-ined sin-ners hangs the Lamb in vic-tor-y.
But no grave could e'er re-strain him; praise the Lord; he is a-live!

In our long-ing, in our dark-ness, now the light of life has come!
See the true and bet-ter Ad-am, come to save the hell-bound man.
See the price of our re-demp-tion, see the Fa-ther's plan un-fold.
What a fore-taste of de-liv'-rance, how un-wav-er-ing our hope:

Look to Christ who con-de-scend-ed, took on flesh to ran-som us.
Christ, the great and sure ful-fill-ment of the law; in him we stand.
Bring-ing man-y sons to glo-ry, grace un-measured, love un-told.
Christ in pow-er res-ur-rect-ed as we will be when he comes.

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 12:10-11; 13:1

12:10 "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. ¹¹ On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

...

13:1 On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

Sermon:

Advent: *Returning to Hope (4)*

“A Spirit of Grace and Pleas for Mercy”

Today's Text: Zechariah 12:10-11 and 13:1; Pastor David Kertland

1. “When they _____ me”

2. A _____ from sin and uncleanness

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

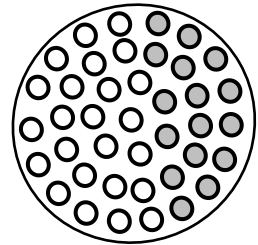
Words of Institution:

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.



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):

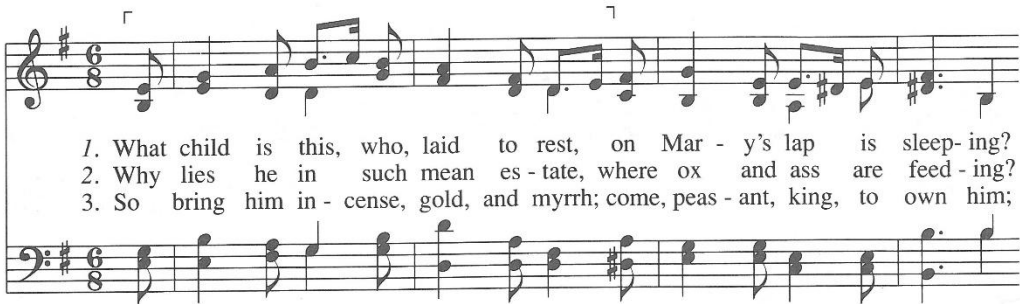
Prayer of Belief: "Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared to admit, but in Jesus I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you 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 to our pastor who can suggest ways for you to take next steps in the faith.

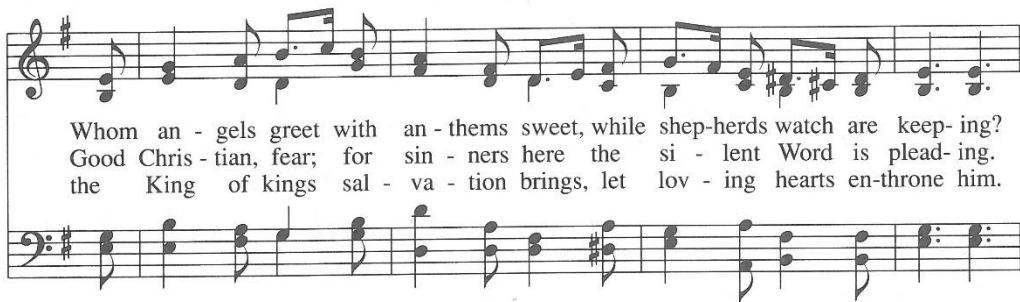
Receiving God's Blessing

*Song of Dedication & Service:

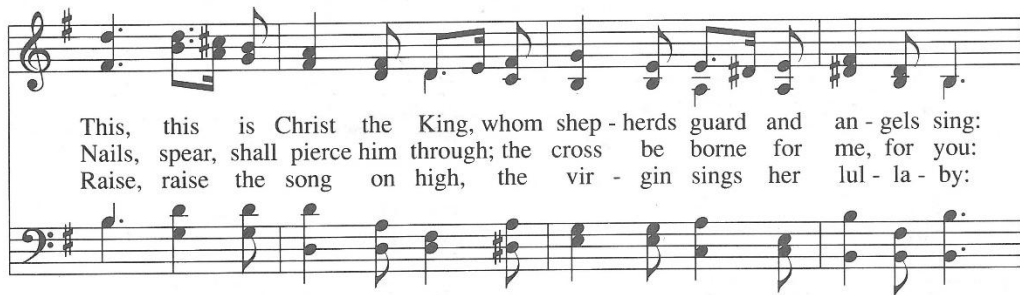
What Child Is This



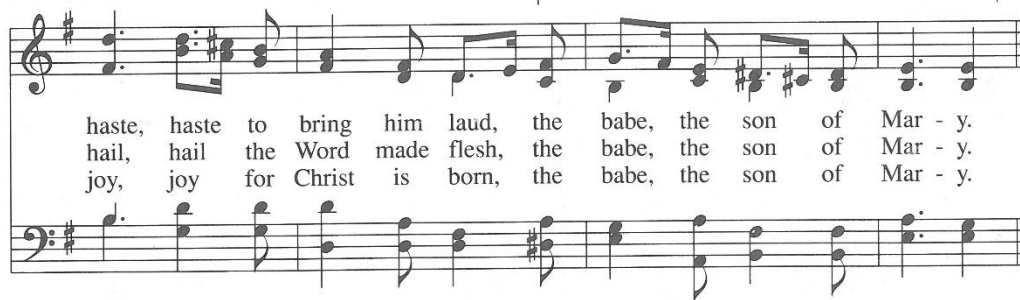
1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
 2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate, where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him;



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 the King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing:
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by:



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y.
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y.
 joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y.

GREENSLIEVES, 8, 7, 8, 7, ref.
 English melody, 16th cent.

Traditional English carol
 Adapted by William C. Dix, ca. 1865

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: Rudolf Schweitzer-Cumpăna (1886-1975, Romanian), *Winter on the Path*, unknown date, signed bottom right, brown and red. Oil on cardboard, 26 cm. x 37 cm., In a private collection. Fair Use. <https://www.invaluable.com/auction-lot/rudolf-schweitzer-cumpana-winter-on-the-path-86-c-72d4b368b6>.
- 2) **Music:** "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come" (195) and "What Child Is This" (213) are reprinted from *The Trinity Hymnal* (Great Commission Publications, Atlanta, GA, 2000). "Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery" (184) is reprinted from *The Sing! Hymnal* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway and Nashville, TN: Getty Music, 2025). Music used by permission: CCLI License #20711820 and CCLI Streaming License #20711837.
- 3) **Quotes:** Page 2: <https://www.wikiart.org/en/rudolf-schweitzer-cumpana>. 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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