



Christmas Eve
2025

Lessons & Carols

Tonight's service is a joint service of two local churches both members of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

During our service tonight, we will hear the reading of seven lessons, sing a variety of carols and songs, pray, and have a mediation on a biblical text. Our Lessons & Carols service is an adaptation of an 1880 Christmas Eve service by E. W. Benson in Truro, UK. His son, A. C. Benson recalled: "My father arranged from ancient sources a little service for Christmas Eve—nine carols and nine tiny lessons." Other churches quickly adapted the service for their own use. Some of our service tonight is patterned after the King's College Chapel of King's College, Cambridge which broadcasts a traditional Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols service each year.

May you find joy and peace in the Lord tonight.

Tonight's Cover Artwork: Jan Massys (c.1510-1575), Flemish. *Hospitality Refused to the Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph*, 1558. Oil on panel. 24.4 in x 11.1 in. Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp (*Koninklijk Museum voor Schone Kunsten Antwerpen*; KMSKA), Antwerp, Belgium. Accession Number 251. commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Jan_Massys_Hospitality_refused_1558.jpg. Accessed 12/10/2025. In the public domain.



Prelude

Welcome to this special service. We are happy that you have come to share with us in this occasion which is an act of worship for us and for Christians throughout the world.

Please silence your cell phones so that they will not ring during the service.

Follow the invitations to stand or sit as you are able; feel free to remain seated, if that is more comfortable for you.

As you consider the Christmas message, we wish you a very Merry Christmas!

Call to Worship:

Pastor David Kertland
Hershey PCA

Beloved in Christ, this Christmas Eve let us find delight in hearing again the message of the angels; in heart and mind going to Bethlehem to see this thing which has come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience to the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise:

*“Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker!
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,
And the sheep of his hand.
(Psalm 95:6-7)*

Lighting of the Four Advent Wreath Candles

Isaiah 11:1-6

The Stefanow Family
Hershey PCA

*There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.*

*² And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.*

*³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.*

*⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.*

*⁶ The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.*

Away in a Manger

Hershey PCA Children's Choir

Murray, arr. Snyder

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the sky look down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

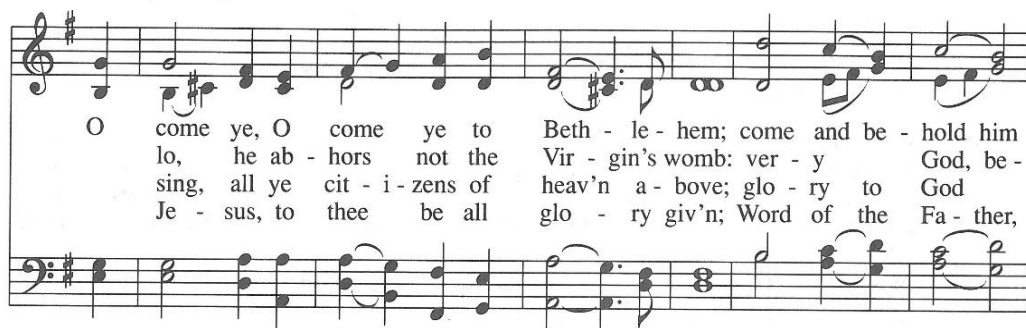
Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

*O Come, All Ye Faithful

Congregation

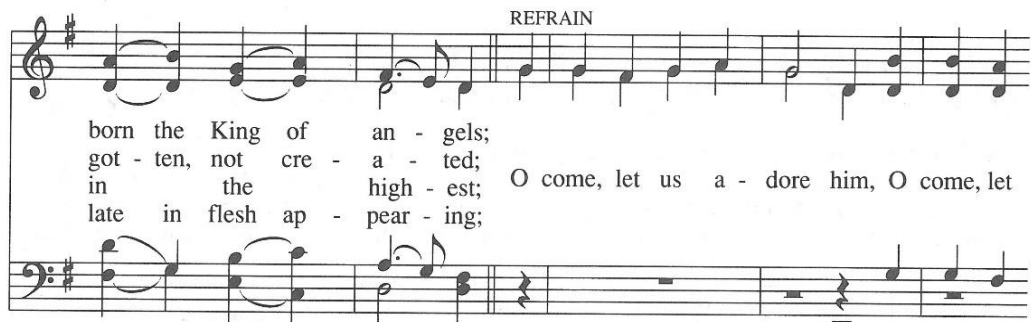


1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,
 2. God of God, Light of Light;
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing:



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,

REFRAIN



born the King of an - gels;
 got - ten, not cre - a - ted; O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let
 in the high - est;
 late in flesh ap - pear - ing;



us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

ADESTE FIDELES 6.6.10.5.6.ref.
 John Francis Wade's Cantus Diversi, 1751

Latin hymn
 Attr. to John Francis Wade, 1751
 Tr. by Frederick Oakeley, 1841; alt.

Lesson 1

Genesis 3:8-15, 22-24

Ishmael Woodard
Lebanon Valley PCA

God announces that the seed of the woman
shall bruise the serpent's head.

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴ 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."

Lesson 2

Genesis 22:15-18

The McIlvaine Family

Hershey PCA

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed
the nations of the earth shall be blessed.

And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Congregation

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
 3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ - teous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,

with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

REFRAIN
 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King."

MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.D.ref.
 Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, 1840
 Arr. by William H. Cummings, 1856

Charles Wesley, 1739, 1753; all

Lesson 3

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Sonia Vaida

Hershey PCA

Isaiah foretells Christ's birth and kingdom.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

...

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Lesson 4

Isaiah 42:1-4

The Casimiro Family
Lebanon Valley PCA

Isaiah foretells the glory of the coming servant of God.

Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ² He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³ a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴ He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Choral Ensemble
Hershey PCA

Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the word began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed,
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race;
and the Babe the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven adore him,
angel hosts his praises sing,
pow'rs, dominions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore.
Christ, to thee with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be:
honor, glory and dominion,
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore.

Evening Prayer

Pastor Cisco Victa
Lebanon Valley PCA

We pray tonight for the needs of this world; for peace and goodwill over the earth; for peace, purity, and love within the Church you came to build.

In particular, we pray tonight for our Nation, our Commonwealth, and all those governing, residing, or this night visiting in Dauphin and Lebanon counties, along with the ongoing work of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), her churches, missionaries, and partners in ministry throughout the world.

At this time, we also remember in Your name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry, the abused, the exploited, and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely, the isolated and those unloved; the elderly and the little children; those retired ministers and their widows who have served the gospel throughout life; and all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love Him not.

Lastly, we give thanks to You, O God, for all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in our Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises we humbly offer up to You, our Father, in Jesus's Name, and we sum up all our prayers, praying in the words which our Lord Jesus Christ Himself taught us:

“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.**

Light Text = by Leader
Bold Text = by All in Unison

Lesson 5

Zechariah 4:1-6

Pastor David Kertland
Hershey PCA

Zechariah foretells of the Spirit's work in our salvation.

And the angel who talked with me came again and woke me, like a man who is awakened out of his sleep. ² And he said to me, "What do you see?" I said, "I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold, with a bowl on the top of it, and seven lamps on it, with seven lips on each of the lamps that are on the top of it. ³ And there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left." ⁴ And I said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these, my lord?" ⁵ Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" I said, "No, my lord." ⁶ Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts."

Evening Meditation

Pastor David Kertland

"By My Spirit"

Text: Zechariah 4:1-6

*All My Heart This Night Rejoices

Congregation



1. All my heart this night re-joic - es as I hear, far and near,
2. Forth to - day the Con-qu'ror go - eth, who the foe, sin and woe,
3. Hark! a voice from yon-der man - ger, soft and sweet, doth en-treat,
4. Dear-est Lord, thee will I cher - ish, live for thee, and with thee,



sweet-est an - gel voic - es. "Christ is born," their choirs are sing -
death and hell, o'er-throw - eth. God is man, man to de - liv -
"Flee from woe and dan - ger; breth-ren, from all ills that grieve
dy - ing shall not per - ish; but shall dwell with thee for - ev -



ing till the air ev - 'ry-where now with joy is ring - ing.
er; his dear Son now is one with our blood for - ev - er.
you, you are freed; all you need I will sure - ly give you."
er there on high, in the joy that can al - ter nev - er.



Words: Paul Gerhardt, 1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1858
Music: Johann Georg Ebeling, 1666

WARUM SOLLT' ICH MICH DENN GRÄMEN
8 336 8 336

Lesson 6

Matthew 1:18-25

Assistant Pastor Paul Hepperle
Hershey PCA

Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Lighting of the Center Candle:

The center candle is lit after the reading of the birth of Jesus Christ in recognition that the light of the world has come.

The Nativity
: 18.6 x 27.8 cm (7 5/16 x 19 15/16 in)
Rosewald Collection
National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC



Lesson 7

John 1:1-5, 14, 17-18

Pastor Cisco Victa
Lebanon Valley PCA

John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

...

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

...

¹⁷ [T]he law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side,² he has made him known.

.

Candle Lighting

As we see the light of the candles spread throughout the dark room, we are reminded that Jesus is the Light of the world (John 1:4; 8:12). He has called his followers to announce the good news to the world so that all nations might come and worship him.

Safety concern:

To prevent dripping and damage to furniture and flooring, we ask that lit candles always be kept **vertical**. Let the person next to you put their unlit candle into your flame. Please extinguish the flame immediately following tonight's benediction. Thank you.

LED candles are available for young worshippers and those who prefer flameless light.



The Adoration of the Shepherds

From the Studio of Rembrandt van Rijn, Anonymous artist, pen and brown ink with gray-brown wash

Overall: 18.6 x 27.8 cm (7 5/16 x 19 15/16 in)

Widener Collection; National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; 1942.9.660; Open Access.

*Silent Night! Holy Night!

Congregation

Capo 1: Γ B $\flat$ (A) Γ F 7 (E 7) B $\flat$ (A) E $\flat$ (D)

1. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright round yon
 2. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep- herds quake at the sight! Glo - ries
 3. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light ra - dant
 4. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light; with the

B $\flat$ (A) E $\flat$ (D) B $\flat$ (A)

vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,
 stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
 beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
 an - gels let us sing al - le - lu - ia to our King;

F 7 (E 7) B $\flat$ (A) Γ F 7 (E 7) B $\flat$ (A) Γ

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!

Joseph Mohr, 1818
Tr. ca. 1850

STILLE NACHT Irreg.
Franz Gruber, 1818

*Benediction

2 Corinthians 13:14

Assistant Pastor Paul Hepperle

Hershey PCA

*“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

Tonight’s Service Information

- 1) **Artwork: Cover:** Jan Massys (c.1510-1575), Flemish. *Hospitality Refused to the Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph*, 1558. Oil on panel. 24.4 in x 11.1 in. Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp (*Koninklijk Museum voor Schone Kunsten Antwerpen*; KMSKA), Antwerp, Belgium. Accession Number 251. commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Jan_Massys_Hospitality_refused_1558.jpg. Accessed 12/10/2025. In the public domain. **Page 16:** “The Nativity” (Albrecht Dürer, 1504, 1943.3.3557, Open Access. www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/Collection/art-object-page.6675.html); **Page 18:** “The Adoration of the Shepherds” (the studio of Rembrandt van Rijn, 1606-1669, 1942.9.660, Open Access. www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/Collection/art-object-page.18_38.html) Artwork is in the public domain.
- 2) **Music: Carols:** “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (208), “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” (203), and “Silent Night! Holy Night!” (210) are reprinted from the *Trinity Hymnal* (Atlanta, GA: Great Commission Publications, 2000). “All My Heart This Night Rejoices” (771) is reprinted from *The Sing! Hymnal* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway and Nashville, TN: Getty Music, 2025). Music used by permission: CCLI License #703337.
- 3) **Thank you to participants this evening. Pianist:** Anita Wood. **Sound Board:** Jeb Yingst. Other participants may include: **Instruments:** Ephraim Church (violin), Isaiah Church (violin), Thaddaeus Church (viola), Aki Minagawa (violin), Sachi Minagawa (viola); Cooper Yingst (trumpet); **Ensemble:** Asahel Church, Emily Church, Ephraim Church, Laura Church, Jericho Church, Nora Dolon, Dan Flint, Nancy Flint, Yaasha Hepperle, Bonnie Kertland, Grace Salyards (directing), Jared Salyards, Jamie Wagner, Bradley Weaver, Don Wood, and AmyLea Yingst; **Children’s Choir:** Adah Church, Isaiah Church, Moses Church, Naphtali Church, Reuben Church, Shadrach Church, Thaddaeus Church, Kate Dolon, Keziah Hepperle, Lydia McIlvaine, Tommy McIlvaine, Lilly Salyards, Sadie Tsai, Zander Tsai, Zoey Tsai.
- 4) **Quotes:** Biblical quotes are from the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise noted. The comments on page 2 and the Evening Prayer on Page 12 have been modified and revised from the 2022 King’s College Chapel booklet for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.



HersheyPresbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

Meeting Sundays

9:00 AM Bible Classes for all ages

10:00 AM Worship Service

850 Hill Church Road, Hummelstown, PA 17036

(717) 489-1535

hersheypca.com



LEBANON VALLEY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

Meeting Sundays

10:00 AM Worship Service

452 Ebenezer Road, Lebanon, PA 17042

(717) 769-9627

lebanonvalleypca.com