



HersheyPresbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

December 28, 2025

Today's Front Cover

Jan van Goyen (Dutch, 1596-1656), *View of Haarlem and the Haarlemmer Meer*, 1646. Oil on wood, 13 5/8 in. x 19 7/8 in. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. On display at The Met Fifth Avenue in Gallery 615 (Curatorial Department: European Paintings). Purchase, 1871, Object Number: 71.62. In the public domain.

"The bell tower of the church of Saint Bavo in Haarlem gives this small but extraordinary panoramic view an appearance of topographic accuracy. In fact, the landscape knits together features of several different drawings from van Goyen's sketchbooks, some observed from the heights of the bell tower itself. The panoramic viewpoint and the use of atmospheric perspective, whereby the more distant elements appear green or blue, connect van Goyen's scene to the much earlier Netherlandish landscapes on view in this gallery."

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/436558>

About the Artist:

Jan van Goyen was the son of a shoemaker and started as an apprentice in Leiden, the town of his birth. Like many Dutch painters of his time, he studied art in the town of Haarlem with Esaias van de Velde. At age 35, he established a permanent studio at The Hague..." where he remained until his death.

...Jan van Goyen would be classified primarily as a landscape artist with an eye for the genre subjects of everyday life. He painted many of the canals in and around The Hague as well as the villages surrounding the countryside of Delft, Rotterdam, Leiden, and Gouda.

... [He] was famously influential on the landscape painters of his century. His tonal quality was a feature that many imitated. ... Van Goyen is mentioned by his fellow countryman Vincent van Gogh in Vincent's second letter from the asylum: "Through the iron-barred window I can make out a square of wheat in an enclosure, a perspective in the manner of Van Goyen, above which in the morning I see the sun rise in its glory."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jan_van_Goyen

The painting reminded me of the passing of time, the year quickly fleeting away as on the wind.

"Time like an ever-rolling stream, bears all its sons away; they fly forgotten as a dream dies at the opening day. Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come. O be our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home." (Quoted from a hymn based on Psalm 90 by Isaac Watts, "Our God, Our Help In Ages Past" 1719.)



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 Jessica Buckwalter and Dorinda Saul.

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 AmyLea Yingst.

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 (violin), Isaiah Church (violin), Thaddaeus Church (viola), Nora Dolon (vocals), Dave Eakin (vocals), Peter Gobble (viola), Paul Hepperle (preaching), Joe Kearns (leading worship), Bonnie Kertland (vocals), Jared Salyards (piano), Don Wood (vocals), Cooper Yingst (trumpet), Jeb Yingst (sound).

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

Counters are Nora 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

Praising God

*Call to Worship:

Isaiah 12:4-6

And you will say in that day:

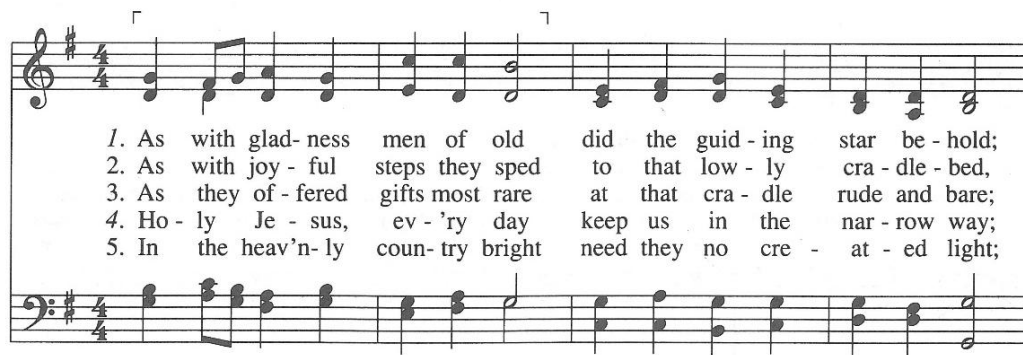
*"Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name,
**make known his deeds among the peoples,
proclaim that his name is exalted.***

*⁵ "Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.*

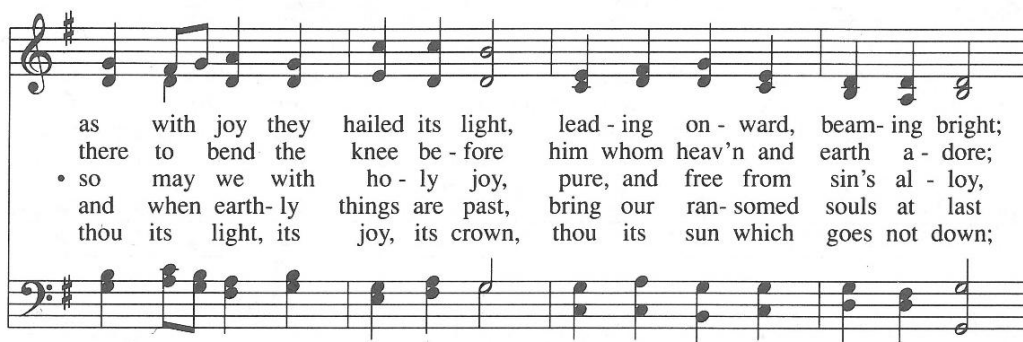
*⁶ Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."*

*Response of Praise:

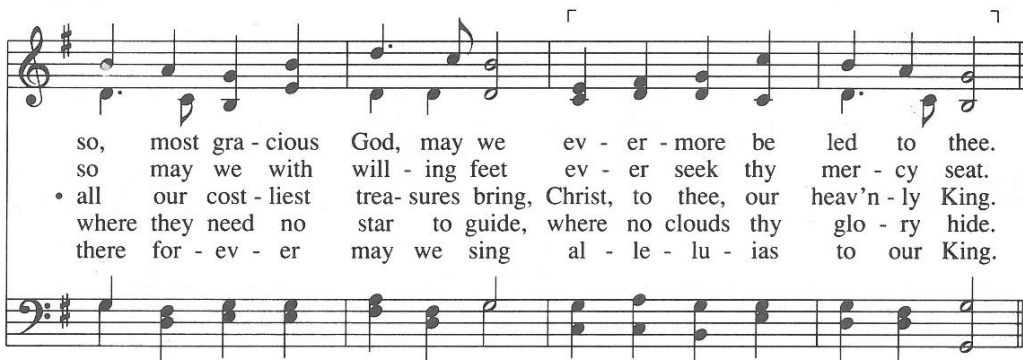
As with Gladness Men of Old



1. As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;
 2. As with joy-ful steps they sped to that low-ly cra-dle-bed,
 3. As they of-fered gifts most rare at that cra-dle rude and bare;
 4. Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day keep us in the nar-row way;
 5. In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright need they no cre-at-ed light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward beam-ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be-fore him whom heav'n and earth a-dore;
 • so may we with ho-ly joy, pure, and free from sin's al-loy,
 and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last
 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra-cious God, may we ev-er-more be led to thee.
 so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.
 • all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly King.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.
 there for-ev-er may we sing al-le-lu-ias to our King.

William Chatterton Dix, 1860
 Alt. 1961

DIX 7.7.7.7.7.
 Conrad Kocher, 1838
 Arr. by William H. Monk, 1861

Prayer of Adoration & Invocation

***Confession of Faith:**

Matthew 10:24-33

Jesus said:

²⁴ "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household. ²⁶ So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸ And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³² So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven."

***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

1 Chronicles 16:23-25

Sing to the LORD, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day.

²⁴ Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! ²⁵ For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and he is to be feared above all gods.

Confession of Sin

Declaration of Pardon in Christ

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

[I]f anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Offering Our Prayers to God

Prayer of Intercession & the Lord's Prayer

Hershey PCA Prayer Requests for the Week of December 28 – January 4

Intercession for the World:

- **In the Local Community:** Derry Township Supervisor Carter Wyckoff
- **Civil Government:** PA Governor Josh Shapiro
- **Unreached People Group:** Bhabra of South Asia
Population: 77,500; Language: Various; Religion: Hinduism & 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:** Donna K.
- **Leaders of Our Congregation:** RE Joe Kearns
- **Supported Missionary or Organizations:** Committee on Discipleship Ministries (CDM)

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:

All Glory Be to Christ

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each with four lines of text corresponding to the four parts of the choir.

1. Should noth - ing of our ef - ferts stand, no leg - a - cy sur - vive;
2. His will be done, His king - dom come, on earth as is a - bove;
3. When on the day the great I Am, the Faith - ful and the True

Un - less the Lord does raise the house, in vain its build - ers strive.
Who is Him - self our dai - ly bread, praise Him the Lord of love.
The Lamb who was for sin - ners slain, is mak - ing all things new.

To you who boast to - mor - row's gain, tell me what is your life?
Let liv - ing wa - ter sat - is - fy the thirst - y with - out price,
Be - hold our God shall live with us and be our stead - fast light,

A mist that van - ish - es at dawn, all glo - ry be to Christ!
We'll take a cup of kind - ness yet, all glo - ry be to Christ!
And we shall e'er His peo - ple be, all glo - ry be to Christ!

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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

Psalms 107

*Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!*

² *Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
whom he has redeemed from trouble
³ and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.*

⁴ *Some wandered in desert wastes,
finding no way to a city to dwell in;*

⁵ *hungry and thirsty,
their soul fainted within them.*

- ⁶ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.
⁷ He led them by a straight way
till they reached a city to dwell in.
- ⁸ Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wondrous works to the children of man!
⁹ For he satisfies the longing soul,
and the hungry soul he fills with good things.
- ¹⁰ Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death,
prisoners in affliction and in irons,
¹¹ for they had rebelled against the words of God,
and spurned the counsel of the Most High.
¹² So he bowed their hearts down with hard labor;
they fell down, with none to help.
¹³ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.
- ¹⁴ He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death,
and burst their bonds apart.
¹⁵ Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wondrous works to the children of man!
¹⁶ For he shatters the doors of bronze
and cuts in two the bars of iron.
- ¹⁷ Some were fools through their sinful ways,
and because of their iniquities suffered affliction;
¹⁸ they loathed any kind of food,
and they drew near to the gates of death.
¹⁹ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.
²⁰ He sent out his word and healed them,
and delivered them from their destruction.
- ²¹ Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wondrous works to the children of man!
²² And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving,
and tell of his deeds in songs of joy!
- ²³ Some went down to the sea in ships,
doing business on the great waters;

*24 they saw the deeds of the LORD,
his wondrous works in the deep.
25 For he commanded and raised the stormy wind,
which lifted up the waves of the sea.
26 They mounted up to heaven; they went down to the depths;
their courage melted away in their evil plight;
27 they reeled and staggered like drunken men
and were at their wits' end.
28 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.
29 He made the storm be still,
and the waves of the sea were hushed.
30 Then they were glad that the waters were quiet,
and he brought them to their desired haven.
31 Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wondrous works to the children of man!
32 Let them extol him in the congregation of the people,
and praise him in the assembly of the elders.*

*33 He turns rivers into a desert,
springs of water into thirsty ground,
34 a fruitful land into a salty waste,
because of the evil of its inhabitants.
35 He turns a desert into pools of water,
a parched land into springs of water.
36 And there he lets the hungry dwell,
and they establish a city to live in;
37 they sow fields and plant vineyards
and get a fruitful yield.
38 By his blessing they multiply greatly,
and he does not let their livestock diminish.
39 When they are diminished and brought low
through oppression, evil, and sorrow,
40 he pours contempt on princes
and makes them wander in trackless wastes;
41 but he raises up the needy out of affliction
and makes their families like flocks.
42 The upright see it and are glad,
and all wickedness shuts its mouth.*

*⁴³ Whoever is wise, let him attend to these things;
let them consider the steadfast love of the LORD.*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
***Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

Sermon: *“Let the Redeemed of the Lord Say So!”*

Today’s Text: Psalm 107; Assistant Pastor Paul Hepperle

A hymn of _____ and _____

1. Redeemed from: _____

2. Redeemed from: _____

3. Redeemed from: _____

4. Redeemed from: _____

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

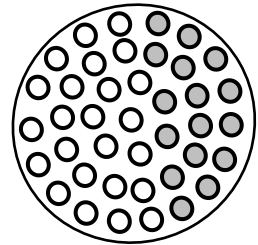
Words of Institution:

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: 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

Being Sent to Serve God

***Benediction:**

Jude 1:24-25

*Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling
and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy,
²⁵ to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord,
be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority,
before all time and now and forever.
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!

* 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).



HersheyPresbyterian
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