



HersheyPresbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

May 17, 2026

This Month's Front Cover Artwork

Claude Monet (1840-1926), *Blue Water Lilies (Nymphéas bleus)*, between 1916 and 1919. Oil on canvas, H: 204.0 cm. W: 200.0 cm. (80 in. x 79 in.). Paris, France: Musée d'Orsay. Purchase, 1981. © RMN-Grand Palais (Musée d'Orsay) / Hervé Lewandowski, on view, Next Level, Room 34. Accession Number: RF 1981 40. In the public domain.

"Nymphaea" is the botanical name for a water lily. Monet grew white water lilies in the water garden he had installed in his property at Giverny in 1893. From the 1910s until he died in 1926, the garden and its pond in particular, became the artist's sole source of inspiration. He said: "I have come back to things that are impossible to do: water with weeds waving in the depths. Apart from painting and gardening, I am good for nothing. My greatest masterpiece is my garden."

Eliminating the horizon and the sky, Monet focused on a small area of the pond, seen as a piece of nature, almost a close-up. No details stand out and the overall impression is one of a shapeless surface. The square format reinforces the neutrality of the composition. The lack of a frame of reference gives the fragment an infinite, limitless feeling.

Never was the artist's brushstroke so free, so detached from the description of forms. A close-up view of the canvas gives a feeling of total abstraction, because the brushstrokes are stronger than the identification of the plants or their reflections. The viewer has to make a constant visual and mental effort to piece together the landscape suggested in the painting. The unfinished borders accentuate this insistence on painting as a surface covered with paint, which was not lost on artists after the Second World War, particularly American painters exploring "abstract landscapes" and "lyrical abstraction." From <https://www.musee-orsay.fr/en/artworks/nympheas-bleus-1172>



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 aged infant through 3 years old is provided on the Lower Level of the Education Bldg. Today's Nursery Workers are Jessica Buckwalter and Natalie Otto.

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 Leah Gible.

Thank you to all who participate in making this worship service possible. Worship service participants may include in alphabetical order: Ruth Adams (greeter), Emily Church (vocals), Ephraim Church (violin), Isaiah Church (violin), Jericho Church (vocals), Laura Church (vocals), Thaddaeus Church (viola), Craig Coulbourne (preaching), David Eakin (vocals), Peter Gible (viola), Bonnie Kertland (vocals), David Kertland (leading worship), Nathanael Marengo (vocals), Katy McIlvaine (vocals), Jared Salyards (piano), Don Wood (vocals), Jeb Yingst (sound).

Today's Ushers are Keith Dolon, Michael Kitchens and Nick Yingst.

Counters are Nora Dolon and Crystal Basom.

Throughout today's service: the light face type is read by the leader; the **bold face type** is to be read or sung by the congregation.

Prelude

Praising God

*Call to Worship:

Hebrews 4:12-16

[T]he word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God,

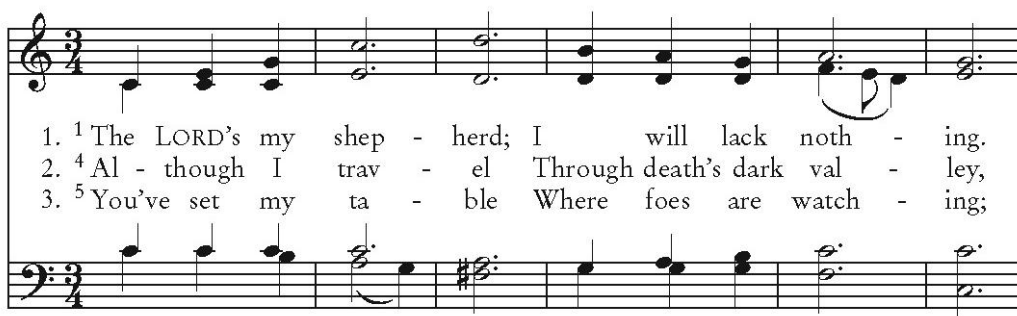
let us hold fast our confession.

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,

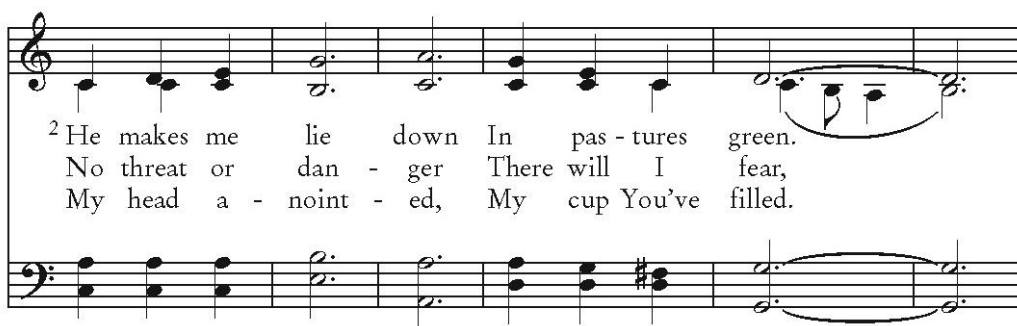
that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

*Response of Praise:

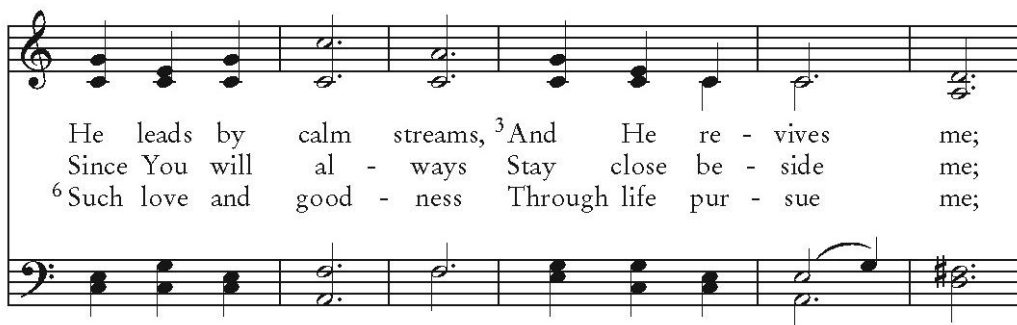
The Lord's My Shepherd (Psalm 23)



1. ¹ The LORD's my shep - herd; I will lack noth - ing.
 2. ⁴ Al - though I trav - el Through death's dark val - ley,
 3. ⁵ You've set my ta - ble Where foes are watch - ing;



² He makes me lie down In pas - tures green.
 No threat or dan - ger There will I fear,
 My head a - noint - ed, My cup You've filled.



He leads by calm streams, ³ And He re - vives me;
 Since You will al - ways Stay close be - side me;
⁶ Such love and good - ness Through life pur - sue me;



He guides in right ways For His name's sake.
 Your rod and staff give Com - fort to me.
 I'll live for - ev - er In the LORD's house.

BUNESSAN 55.54 D

Traditional Gaelic melody; arr. Brian E. Coombs, 2004

From The Book of Psalms for Worship Copyright 2010, Crown and Covenant Publications. Used by permission.

***Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

***Confession of Faith:**

The Nicene Creed

We confess our common faith today with the Nicene Creed, a summary of the Bible's teaching about God, our need of a sufficient Savior, and our dependence on the work of the Spirit. From the Trinity Hymnal: "The Nicene Creed originated at the Council of Nicea (325), and an expanded form was adopted by the Council of Chalcedon (451). It was formulated to answer heresies that denied the biblical doctrine of the Trinity and of the person of Christ."

**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.

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

***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

Matthew 11:27-30

*For the reading of God's Standard this month, we are reading
the 4th commandment and related Scripture passages.*

Jesus says: "All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Confession of Sin

**Our gracious and almighty Father,
We come before You acknowledging our sin and
our need of Your mercy.
We confess that we have too often forgotten that we are Yours.
We have lived as though You were not present,
and we have failed to honor You in our thoughts,
our words, and our deeds.
Forgive us, O Lord, for our wayward hearts.
Cleanse us from all our sin through the blood of Jesus Christ.
Renew us by Your Holy Spirit,
that we might walk in obedience to Your Word
and live for the glory of Your name.
Grant us grace to be faithful witnesses of Your mercy and truth,
that those around us might see Christ in us
and give praise to You, our God and Redeemer.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Declaration of Pardon in Christ

Romans 8:1-2

*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the
law of sin and death.*

Doxology

*This ascription of praise to God comes as a response to God's provision for us. Through it we call everyone
in the created order to celebrate and praise our Provider God.*

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow:
praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;
praise him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host:
praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.
A-men.

Offering Our Prayers to God

Prayer of Intercession & the Lord's Prayer

Hershey PCA Prayer Requests for the Week of May 17 – 24

Intercession for the World:

- **In the Local Community:** Derry Township Supervisor Bruno Bellucci
- **Civil Government:** Dauphin County Commissioner Mike Pries
- **Unreached People Group:** Bhathiara of South Asia
Population: 352,400; Language: Various; Religion: Hinduism and 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:** Peter M.
- **Leaders of Our Congregation:** Pastor David Kertland
- **Supported Missionary or Organizations:** Covenant Theological Seminary

The Lord's Prayer:

We close our prayer in unison with this version of the Lord's Prayer.

**"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: "Here Is Love, Vast as the Ocean" arr. Molly Ijames
Jared and Grace Salyards

Words to the hymn are on page 17.

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:

O Spirit, Fill Our Hearts

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-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 four lines, corresponding to the four parts of the choir. The first line of lyrics is: '1. O Spi - rit, fill our hearts, so full of sin and grief, 2. When left to our own way, a - bid - ing in the flesh, 3. Yet as the Fa - ther grants, ac - cord - ing to his plan, 4. To whom then shall we go? We trust and rest in thee,'. The second line of lyrics is: 'with words that fill us with thy life, dis - pel - ling un - be - lief. we choose not thee, O Christ, a - las; we turn to wick - ed - ness. he gives e - ter - nal life to those who from his pres - ence ran. who from our fears and sins and grief has come to set us free!'. The score ends with a double bar line.

1. O Spi - rit, fill our hearts, so full of sin and grief,
2. When left to our own way, a - bid - ing in the flesh,
3. Yet as the Fa - ther grants, ac - cord - ing to his plan,
4. To whom then shall we go? We trust and rest in thee,

with words that fill us with thy life, dis - pel - ling un - be - lief.
we choose not thee, O Christ, a - las; we turn to wick - ed - ness.
he gives e - ter - nal life to those who from his pres - ence ran.
who from our fears and sins and grief has come to set us free!

Based on John 6:60–70
Elisabeth Shafer, 2010
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CLARIDGE S.M.
Elisabeth Shafer, 2010
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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**

Philippians 1:6

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

Sermon:

“God Finishes His Work”

MTW Missionary, Pastor Craig Coulbourn

Notes:

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

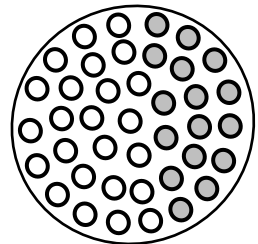
Words of Institution:

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 Commitment:

Jesus Shall Reign

He will rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. Ps. 72:8

Chords: D A7 D G C#dim D A E7 A 7 D

1. Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does his suc -
 2. To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3. Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his
 4. Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns; the pris - 'ner
 5. Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

Chords: G D Em D A D A7 D G D A7 D

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from shore to
 throng to crown his head; his name, like sweet per - fume, shall
 • love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es shall pro -
 leaps to lose his chains, the wea - ry find e - ter - nal
 hon - ors to our King; an - gels de - scend with songs a -

Chords: A 7 D G C#dim D Em7 D Em D A7 D 7

shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 • claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 rest, and all the sons of want are blest.
 gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men!

Being Sent to Serve God

*Benediction:

Romans 15:13

*May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit
you may abound in hope.*

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 pastors and other Hershey PCA members and friends.

After the service, greet someone you don't know. The time following the worship service is a great time for mutual, one-another ministry in Christ! We encourage you to look for others you don't know, introduce yourself, and welcome them in the name of Jesus 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).



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