



HersheyPresbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

May 31, 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 Lauren Sanabria and AmyLea Yingst.

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 Paul Hepperle.

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 (sound), Laura Church (vocals), Thaddaeus Church (viola), David Eakin (vocals), Peter Gibble (viola), Bonnie Kertland (vocals), David Kertland (preaching), Nathanael Marengo (sound), Katy McIlvaine (vocals), Jared Salyards (piano), Don Wood (vocals), Cooper Yingst (trumpet), Nick Yingst (leading worship).

Today's Ushers are Ephraim Church, Joe Kearns, and Brad Weaver.

Counters are Brad Weaver 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

Greeting

Philippians 1:2

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Praising God

*Call to Worship:

Psalms 126:1-3

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,

we were like those who dream.

² *Then our mouth was filled with laughter,*

and our tongue with shouts of joy;

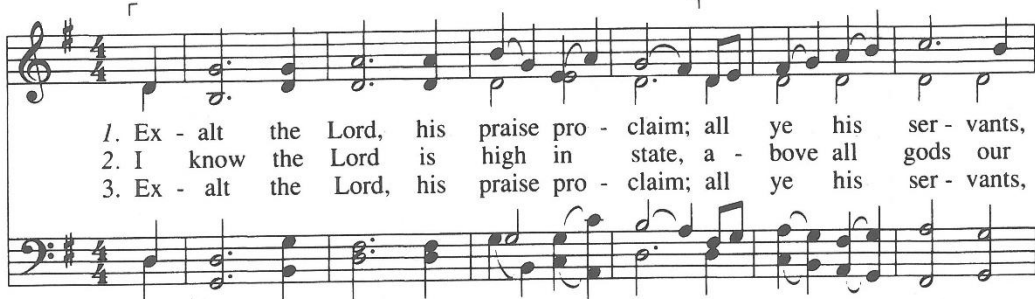
then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

³ ***The LORD has done great things for us;***

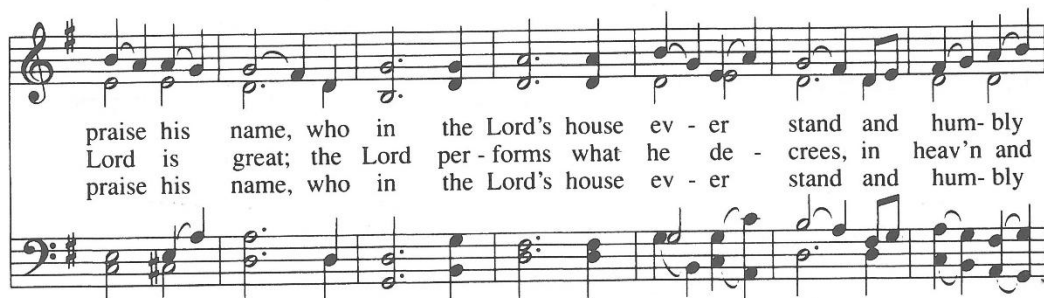
we are glad.

***Response of Praise:**

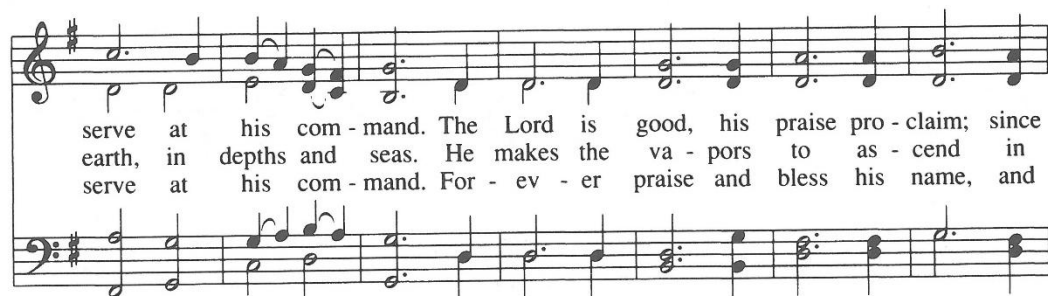
Exalt the Lord, His Praise Proclaim



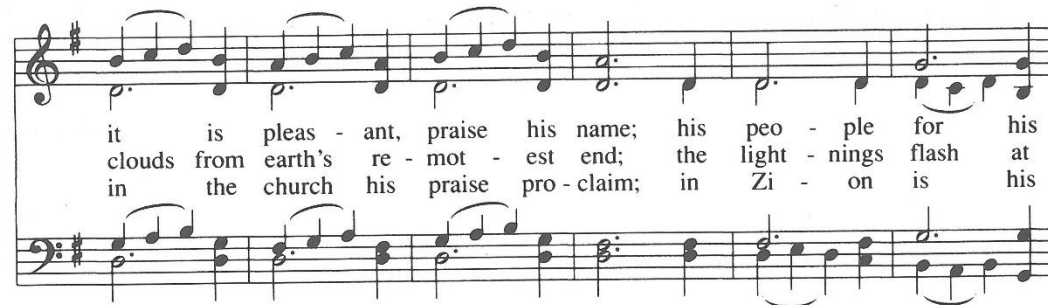
1. Ex - alt the Lord, his praise pro - claim; all ye his ser - vants,
2. I know the Lord is high in state, a - bove all gods our
3. Ex - alt the Lord, his praise pro - claim; all ye his ser - vants,



praise his name, who in the Lord's house ev - er stand and hum - bly
Lord is great; the Lord per - forms what he de - crees, in heav'n and
praise his name, who in the Lord's house ev - er stand and hum - bly



serve at his com - mand. The Lord is good, his praise pro - claim; since
earth, in depths and seas. He makes the va - pors to as - cend in
serve at his com - mand. For - ev - er praise and bless his name, and



it is pleas - ant, praise his name; his peo - ple for his
clouds from earth's re - mot - est end; the light - nings flash at
in the church his praise pro - claim; in Zi - on is his

own he takes and his pe - cu - liar trea - sure makes.
 his com - mand; he holds the tem - pest in his hand.
 dwell - ing place; praise ye the Lord, show forth his grace.

Psalm 135:1-7, 21
The Psalter, 1912

CREATION L.M.D.
 From Franz Joseph Haydn, *The Creation*, 1798; arr.

***Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

***Confession of Faith:**

Philippians 2:5-11

Leader:

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

Congregation:

**who, though he was in the form of God,
did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,
being born in the likeness of men.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself by becoming obedient
to the point of death,
even death on a cross.
Therefore God has highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

***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

Ezekiel 20:18-20

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

And I said to their children in the wilderness, Do not walk in the statutes of your fathers, nor keep their rules, nor defile yourselves with their idols. ¹⁹ I am the LORD your God; walk in my statutes, and be careful to obey my rules, ²⁰ and keep my Sabbaths holy that they may be a sign between me and you, that you may know that I am the LORD your God.

Confession of Sin

Declaration of Pardon in Christ

Hebrews 5:7-9

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. ⁸ Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ⁹ And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

Choral Response

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system contains the first line of the hymn, and the second system contains the second line. The lyrics are printed below the staves. The music features a mix of half notes, quarter notes, and eighth notes, with some rests. The final measure of the second system is a full bar rest, indicating the end of the response.

Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord;

in - cline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. A - men.

Anon.

WHELPTON 5.5.6.5,
George Whelpton, 1897

Offering Our Prayers to God

Prayer of Intercession & the Lord's Prayer

Hershey PCA Prayer Requests for the Week of May 31-June 6

Intercession *for the World*:

- **In the Local Community:** Derry Township Supervisor Rob Myers
- **Civil Government:** PA State Senator Patty Kim
- **Unreached People Group:** Bhatta of India
Population: 351,000; Language: Bhatri; 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:** Elmer and Pat C.
- **Leaders of Our Congregation:** Deacon Brad Weaver
- **Supported Missionary or Organizations:** Mission to North America (MNA)

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.**

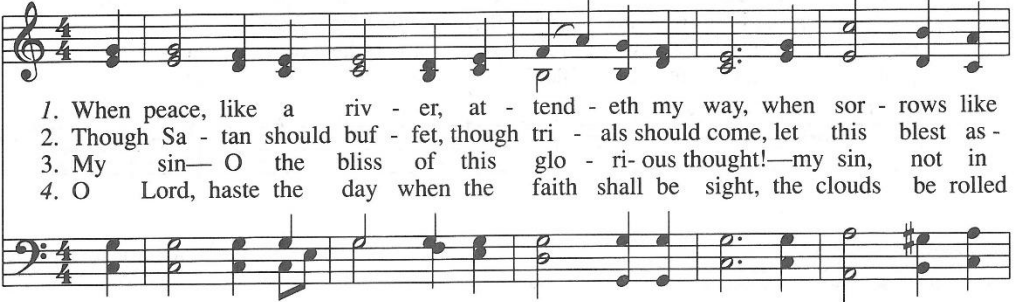
Presentation of Our Tithes & Offerings

Offertory

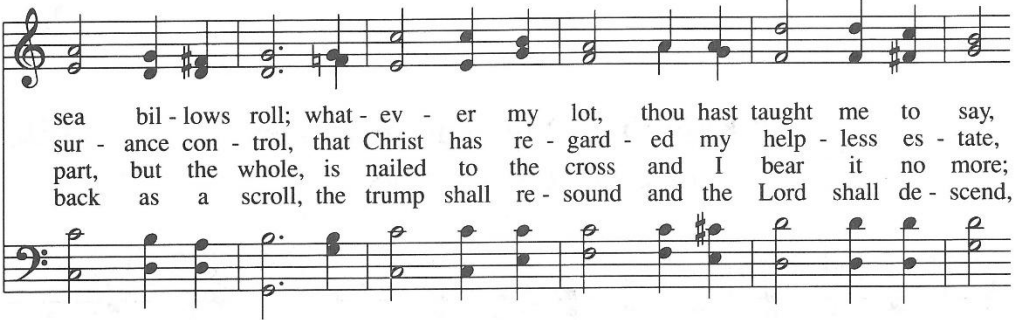
During this hymn, children from 4 years old through Grade 2 are welcome to attend Junior Church in the lower level of the education building. The Junior Church teacher will meet the children in the narthex.

*Song of Preparation:

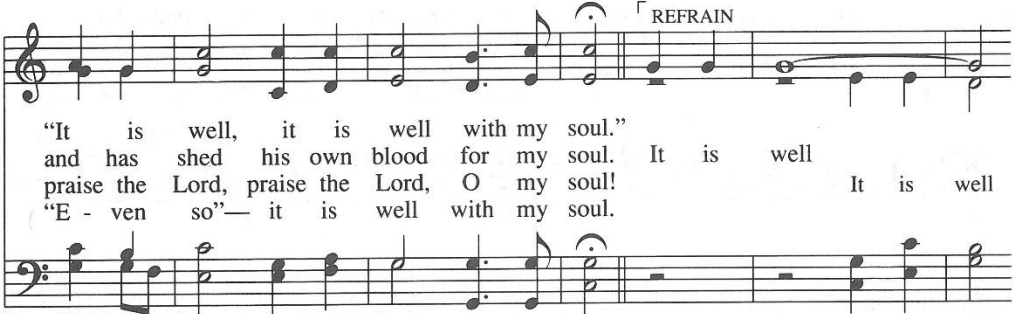
It Is Well with My Soul



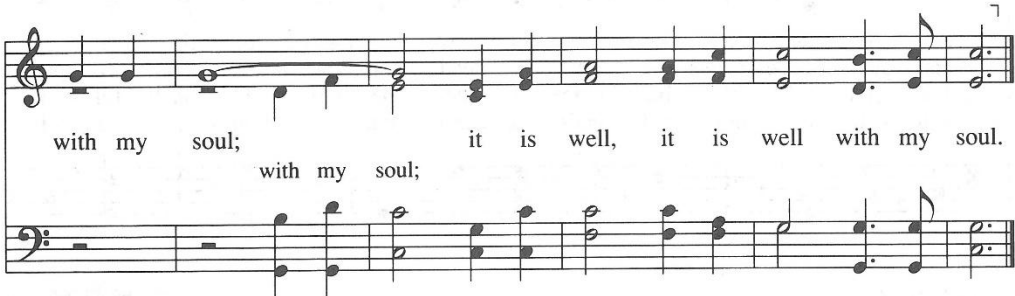
1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way, when sor - rows like
 2. Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let this blest as -
 3. My sin— O the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought!—my sin, not in
 4. O Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled



sea bil - lows roll; what - ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
 sur - ance con - trol, that Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es - tate,
 part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more;
 back as a scroll, the trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de - scend,



REFRAIN
 "It is well, it is well with my soul."
 and has shed his own blood for my soul. It is well
 praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! It is well
 "E - ven so"— it is well with my soul.



with my soul;
 with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.

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**

John 20:24-31

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." ²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

The Christ, the Son of God (9): *The Gospel of John* Chapters 18-21

Sermon: “Christ’s Apostolic Witness”

Today’s Text: John 20:24-31; Pastor David Kertland

1) _____: Jesus appears to the Apostles

2) “That you may _____.”

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

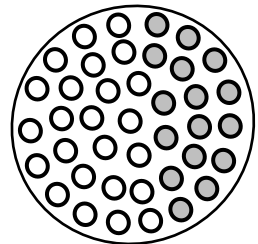
Words of Institution:

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 Commitment: Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing**

1. Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with
 2. Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's
 3. So that when your love shall call us, Sav - ior, from the

joy and peace; let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,
 joy - ful sound: may the fruits of your sal - va - tion
 world a - way, let no fear of death ap - pall us,

tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace: O re - fresh us,
 in our hearts and lives a - bound: ev - er faith - ful,
 glad your sum - mons to o - bey: may we ev - er,

O re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
 ev - er faith - ful to the truth may we be found;
 may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

SICILIAN MARINERS 8.7.8.7.8.7.
 Sicilian melody, 18th cent.; arr.

Attr. to John Fawcett, 1773; alt.
 St. 3 recast by Godfrey Thring, mod.

Being Sent to Serve God

*Benediction:

Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you;

²⁵ the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

²⁶ the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

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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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

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