



HersheyPresbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

July 5, 2026

This Month's Front Cover Artwork

Joseph Decker (1853-1924, American), *Green Plums*, c. 1885. Oil on canvas, 9 in. x 10 ¹⁵/₁₆ in., framed: 21 ⁷/₈ in x 25 in. x 3 in.). National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C., On View in the West Building Main Floor, Gallery M69. Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon, Accession Number: 1994.59.4. Provenance: (sale, Christie, Manson & Woods, New York, 9 December 1983, no. 80, as *Greenings*); (Berry-Hill Galleries, New York); sold March 1984 to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon, Upperville, Virginia; gift 1994 to NGA. Wikidata ID: Q20189768. In the public domain.

About the artist:

"An important painter of still lifes, Joseph Decker was born in Württemberg, Germany in 1853. In 1867, the Decker family immigrated to America and settled in Brooklyn, New York, where he lived for the rest of his life with the exception of travel and study abroad.

... Decker exhibited at the National Academy of Design from 1882 to 1896. He also showed his work at the Society of American Artists, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Art Institute of Chicago, Brooklyn Art Association, and at the Fine Arts Exhibition of the Second Buffalo International Fair in 1889. He also exhibited at Art House, New York, in 1893 and 1894, which was owned by Thomas B. Clarke, a major art collector and patron of the artist. Decker's work is housed in prestigious public collections, including the National Gallery of Art, Washington DC, Yale University Art Gallery, and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts."

God's blessing is often described as peace and provision. For example, the spiritual blessings of the New Covenant are foreseen with this kind of language in Micah 4:1-4:

"It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and it shall be lifted up above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it, ² and many nations shall come, and say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ³ He shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide for strong nations far away; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore; ⁴ but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid, for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken."



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 Rachel Gimbar 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 Bonnie Kertland.

Thank you to all who participate in making this worship service possible. Worship service participants may include in alphabetical order: Emily Church (vocals), Ephraim Church (violin), Isaiah Church (violin), Jericho Church (vocals), Laura Church (vocals), Thaddaeus Church (viola), Keith Dolon (sound), David Eakin (vocals), Peter Gibble (viola), Ken Kanode (greeter), Bonnie Kertland (vocals), Nathanael Marengo (vocals), Katy McIlvaine (vocals), Anita Wood (piano), Don Wood (vocals), Cooper Yingst (trumpet), Nick Yingst (leading worship).

Today's Ushers are Asahel Church, Joe Kearns, and Chris Wagner.

Counters are Brad Weaver and Nora Dolon.

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.

Our Nation's 250th Anniversary Weekend: While our worship service remains focused on the worship of our Sovereign God, we are grateful to God's kind providence in granting that we live in a country in which we are free to worship God as the Scriptures teach and as our conscience dictates. We pray for continued years of the Lord's mercy on this nation even as we seek to be a church that proclaims the gospel and welcomes into our fellowship those being saved from all nations under heaven. *Soli Deo Gloria!*

Prelude

Greeting

Ephesians 1:2

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

Praising God

***Call to Worship:**

Psalm 46:1-7

*God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.*

*² Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,*

*³ though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.*

Selah

*⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.*

*⁵ God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.*

*⁶ The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.*

*⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

Selah

*Response of Praise:

God of Our Fathers

*Organ or trumpets
before each stanza*

1. God of our fa - thers, whose al - might - y
2. Thy love di - vine hath led us in the
3. From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti -
4. Re - fresh thy peo - ple on their toil - some

hand
past;
lence,
way,

leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry
in this free land by thee our lot is
be thy strong arm our ev - er - sure de -
lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing

band
cast;
fense;
day;

of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the
be thou our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and
thy true re - li - gion in our hearts in -
fill all our lives with love and grace di -

skies,
stay;
crease,
vine,

our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise.
thy Word our law, thy paths our cho - sen way.
thy boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
and glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er thine.

***Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

***Confession of Faith:**

Apostles' Creed

We confess our faith together using the Apostles' Creed. It is an ancient summary of what the Bible teaches about God, our need of a sufficient Savior, and our dependence on the work of God's Spirit.

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.**

* "'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*.

Facing Up to Our Sin before God

Reading of God's Standard

Exodus 20:1-2, 13

For the reading of God's Standard this month, we are reading the 6th commandment and related Scripture passages.

And God spoke all these words, saying,

² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

...

¹³ You shall not murder.

Westminster Shorter Catechism:

Q. 67. What is required in the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment requires all lawful endeavors to preserve our own life, and the life of others..

Q. 68. What is forbidden in the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment forbids the taking away of our own life, or the life of our neighbor unjustly, or whatsoever tends thereunto.

Confession of Sin

Declaration of Pardon in Christ

1 Timothy 1:15-17

"The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Choral Response

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessing flow;
praise, him all creatures here below;
praise him above ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Offering Our Prayers to God

Prayer of Intercession & the Lord's Prayer

Hershey PCA Prayer Requests for the Week of July 5 - 12

Intercession *for the World*:

- **In the Local Community:** Derry Township Chief of Police Garth Warner
- **Civil Government:** Dauphin County Commissioner George Hartwick
- **Unreached People Group:** Bhirai of South Asia
Population: 1,300; Language: Urdu; 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:** Chip H.
- **Leaders of Our Congregation:** Children's Ministry Leaders
- **Supported Missionary or Organization:** Susquehanna Valley
Presbytery

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: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

♯ D A⁷ D A D G D A⁷ D

1. Come, thou fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2. Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer; hith - er by thy help I'm come;
 3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;

A⁷ D A D G D A⁷ D

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.

A⁷ D G D A⁷ D G D

Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God:
 Prone to wan - der—Lord, I feel it—prone to leave the God I love:

A⁷ D A D G D A⁷ D

praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
 here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

NETTLETON, 8.7.8.7.D.
 Asahel Nettleton, 1825

Robert Robinson, 1758

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**

Psalm 67

To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments.

A Psalm. A Song.

*May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,*

Selah

² *that your way may be known on earth,
your saving power among all nations.*

³ *Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!*

⁴ *Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.*

Selah

⁵ *Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!*

⁶ *The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, shall bless us.*

⁷ *God shall bless us;
let all the ends of the earth fear him!*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

Sermon:**“A Prayer for God’s Blessing”**

Today’s Text: Psalm 67; Pastor David Kertland

1) God graciously blesses _____ in Christ.

2) God’s gracious blessing overflows in prayer for _____ .

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

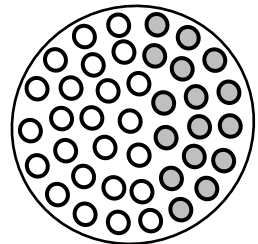
Words of Institution:

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: O God, Show Mercy To Us (Psalm 67)**

1. ¹O God, show mer - cy to us, And bless us with Your
2. For You will judge the peo - ples With per - fect eq - ui -

grace; And cause to shine up - on us The
ty; To na - tions of the whole earth A

bright - ness of Your face; ²So that the whole world
gov - er - nor You'll be. ⁵O God, let peo - ples

o - ver May tru - ly know Your way, And
praise You; Let all the peo - ples praise. ⁶The

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. It consists of four systems of music. The first system contains the first two lines of the song. The second system contains the next two lines. The third system contains the next two lines. The fourth system contains the final two lines. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some lines split between the two parts. The score is a simple harmonic setting of the psalm.

so that Your sal - va - tion All na - tions see dis -
earth has brought its boun - ty Through - out its har - vest

played. ³O God, let peo - ples praise You; Let
days Since God, our God, will bless us. ⁷Yes,

all the peo - ples praise. ⁴Let na - tions come re -
God will bless - ing send, That all the earth may

joic - ing And songs of glad - ness raise.
fear Him To its re - mot - est end.

Gustav Holst, 1918; arr. Brian E. Coombs, 2003

THAXTED 76.76 T

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

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 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!

Today's Service Information

- 1) **Artwork:** Joseph Decker (1853-1924, American), *Green Plums*, c. 1885. Oil on canvas, 9 in. x 10 15/16 in. National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C., Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon, Accession Number: 1994.59.4. In the public domain. <https://www.nga.gov/artworks/89673-green-plums>.
- 2) **Music:** "God of Our Fathers" (710), "Gloria Patri" (735), "Doxology" (731), and "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" (457) are reprinted from *The Trinity Hymnal* (Great Commissions Publications, Suwannee, GA, 2000). "O God, Show Mercy to Us" (67C) is reprinted from *The Book of Psalms for Worship* (Crown & Covenant Publications, Pittsburgh, PA, 2010). Music used by permission: CCLI License #20711820 and CCLI Streaming License #20711837.
- 3) **Quotes: Page 2:** Artist biography from <https://www.godelfineart.com/artists/joseph-decker>. Some of the quotes describing worship elements are from: *Leading in Prayer: A Workbook for Ministers* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995). Biblical quotes are from the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise noted.
- 4) **On the Sermon:** Along with the Hebrew and English texts, a variety of commentaries and other study aids have been consulted in preparing this and other sermons from the Psalms, including: the insights, sermons, and writings of Christopher Ash, Augustine, James Montgomery Boice, Robert Bratcher, John Calvin, John Chrysostom, Franz Delitzsch, Matthew Henry, Timothy Keller, Derek Kidner, Tremper Longman, Dane Ortlund, Richard Phillips, William Rayburn, Michael Wilcock, and others. Not every commentator or pastor listed is consulted for each sermon, yet many of the insights belong to these and others, while the form and specific use of the Scripture text, along with any errors that follow from them, are my own.
- 5) **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).



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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