



HersheyPresbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

July 12, 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 Lauren Sanabria and Caity Slate.

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 Eve Dolon.

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), David Eakin (vocals), Paige Eickelberg (greeter), Peter Gibble (viola), Joe Kearns (leading worship), Bonnie Kertland (vocals), Nathanael Marengo (vocals), Katy McIlvaine (vocals), Jared Salyards (piano), Don Wood (vocals), Cooper Yingst (trumpet).

Today's Ushers are Chris Wagner, Brad Weaver 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

Greeting of Peace

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Praising God

***Call to Worship:**

Psalm 86:4-9

*Gladden the soul of your servant,
for to you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.*

***⁵ For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.***

*⁶ Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;
listen to my plea for grace.*

***⁷ In the day of my trouble I call upon you,
for you answer me.***

*⁸ There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,
nor are there any works like yours.*

***⁹ All the nations you have made shall come
and worship before you, O Lord,
and shall glorify your name.***

*Response of Praise:

All People that on Earth do Dwell

1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing
 2. The Lord ye know is God in - deed; with -
 3. O en - ter then his gates with praise, ap -
 4. For why? The Lord our God is good, his

to the Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with fear, his
 out our aid he did us make; we are his folk, he
 proach with joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his
 mer - cy is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times

praise forth - tell, come ye be - fore him and re - joice.
 doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
 name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
 firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

***Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

***Confession of Faith:**

Based on Psalm 51

Christian, what do you believe?

We believe that the Lord is holy, righteous, and just, and that all our hope rests in His steadfast love and abundant mercy.

We confess that we are sinners by nature and by choice, unable to cleanse ourselves or earn God's favor by our own works.

We believe that God alone can wash away our guilt, create in us clean hearts, and renew steadfast spirits within us.

We trust that He does not despise those who come before Him with broken and contrite hearts, but receives them according to His covenant mercy.

We believe that true worship flows from forgiven hearts, and that those whom God restores will gladly proclaim His righteousness and praise.

Our confidence is not in ourselves, but in the gracious salvation of the Lord, who forgives sin, restores His people, and delights to dwell with them forever.

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.**

Facing Up to Our Sin before God

Reading of God's Standard

Matthew 5:21-22

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

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' ²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.

Confession of Sin

Declaration of Pardon in Christ

1 John 1:8-9

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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 12 - 19

Intercession *for the World*:

- **In the Local Community:** Hershey Volunteer Fire Department Chief
Patrick Leonard
- **Civil Government:** Dauphin County Commissioner Mike Pries
- **Unreached People Group:** Bhisti of South Asia
Population: 615,000; 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:** Catherine S.
- **Leaders of Our Congregation:** Church Musicians
- **Supported Missionary or Organization:** Anees & Fareda Zaka
(Church Without Walls)

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:

The Earth and Its Riches

1. ¹The earth and its rich - es a - bun - dant - ly stored,
 2. ³O who shall the mount of the LORD God as - cend?
 3. ⁵Yes, he from the LORD shall a bless - ing re - ceive;
 4. ⁷O gates, lift your heads! An - cient doors, lift them high!
 5. ⁹O gates, lift your heads! An - cient doors, lift them high!

the world and its dwell - ers be - long to the LORD.
 And who in the place of his ho - li - ness stand?
 • the God of sal - va - tion shall righ - teous - ness give.
 The great King of glo - ry to en - ter draws nigh!
 The great King of glo - ry to en - ter draws nigh!

²For he on the seas its foun - da - tions has laid,
⁴The man of pure heart and of hands with - out stain,
 • ⁶Thus look - ing to him is a whole bless - ed race;
⁸O who is the King that in glo - ry draws near?
¹⁰This great King of glo - ry, O who can he be?

and firm on the wa - ters its pil - lars has stayed.
 who swears not to i - dols, nor serves what is vain.
 • all those who, like Ja - cob, are seek - ing your face.
 The LORD, might - y LORD of the bat - tle, is here!
 The LORD God of hosts, King of glo - ry is he!

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**

Jonah 3:1-10

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ² "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you." ³ So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. ⁴ Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵ And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

⁶ The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷ And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, ⁸ but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. ⁹ Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish."

¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

Sermon: “Repentance of Ninevah”

Today’s Text: Jonah 3:1-10 Assistant Pastor Paul Hepperle

1) Declaration of _____ .

2) Repentance of _____ .

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

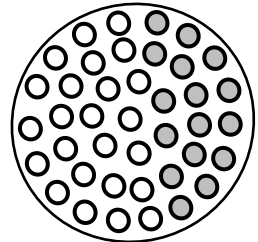
Words of Institution:

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:**

Sing a New Song to Jehovah



1. ¹Sing a new song to Je - ho - vah for the won - ders he has wrought;
2. ³Truth and mer - cy toward his peo - ple he has ev - er kept in mind,
3. ⁷Seas with all your full - ness thun - der, all earth's peo - ples now re - joice;



his right hand and arm most ho - ly tri - umph to his cause have brought.
and his full and free sal - va - tion he has shown to all man - kind.
⁸floods and hills in praise u - nit - ing, to the Lord lift up your voice.



²In his love and ten - der mer - cy he has made sal - va - tion known,
⁴Sing, O earth, sing to Je - ho - vah, prais - es to Je - ho - vah sing;
⁹For, be - hold, the Lord is com - ing, robed in jus - tice and in might;



in the sight of ev - 'ry na - tion he his righ - teous - ness has shown.
^{5/6}with the swell - ing notes of mu - sic shout be - fore the Lord, the King.
he a - lone will judge the na - tions, and his judg - ment shall be right.



AUSTRIAN HYMN 8.7.8.7.D.
Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797

The Psalter, 1912; 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.*

*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
- 2) **Music:** "God of Our Fathers" (710), "Gloria Patri" (735), "Doxology" (731), and "All People that on Earth do Dwell" (1) are reprinted from *The Trinity Hymnal* (Great Commissions Publications, Suwannee, GA, 2000). "The Earth and Its Riches" (24B) and "Sing a New Song to Jehovah" (98C) is reprinted from *The Trinity Psalter Hymnal* (Trinity Psalter Hymnal Joint Venture (OPC & URCNA), Willow Grove, PA, 2018). 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).

* 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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