



HersheyPresbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

July 26, 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 Vicky Hepperle and Abby Stefanow.

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 Laura Church.

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), Peter Gibble (viola), Paul Hepperle (leading worship), Ken Kanode (greeter), Bonnie Kertland (vocals), David Kertland (preaching), Nathanael Marengo (vocals), Katy McIlvaine (vocals), Jared Salyards (piano), Jeb Yingst (sound), Cooper Yingst (trumpet).

Today's Ushers are Ephraim Church, Dave Eakin, and Joe Kearns..

Counters are Jessica Buckwalter and Conner Waybright.

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

Philippians 3:15

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

Praising God

***Call to Worship:**

Psalm 125:1-2

Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

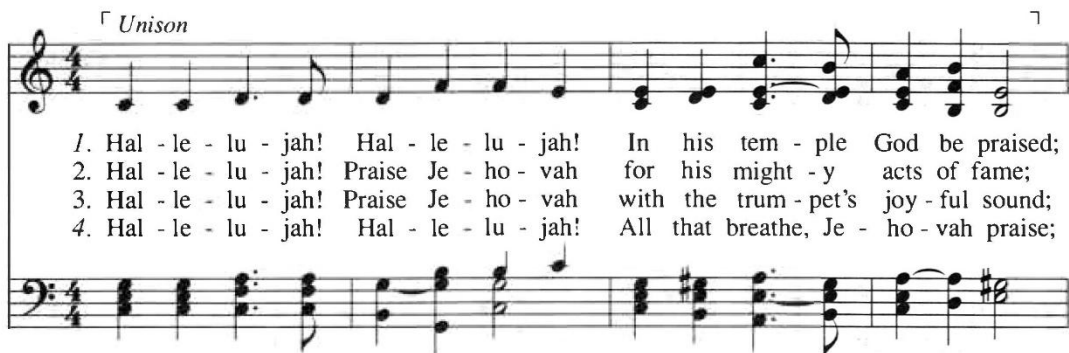
² As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the LORD surrounds his people,
from this time forth and forevermore.

*Response of Praise:

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! (from Psalm 150)

Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary. Ps. 150:1

♩ *Unison*



1. Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! In his tem - ple God be praised;
2. Hal - le - lu - jah! Praise Je - ho - vah for his might - y acts of fame;
3. Hal - le - lu - jah! Praise Je - ho - vah with the trum - pet's joy - ful sound;
4. Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! All that breathe, Je - ho - vah praise;



in the high and heav'n - ly plac - es be the sound - ing an - them raised.
ex - cel - lent his might and great - ness, fit - ting prais - es then pro - claim.
praise with harp and praise with or - gan, let his glo - rious praise a - bound.
let the voic - es God has giv - en joy - ful an - them to him raise.

♩ *Harmony*



Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! A - men.

From Psalm 150
The Psalter, 1912

ALLELUJA (LOWE) 8.7.8.7.al.
Albert Lowe, 1868

***Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

***Confession of Faith:**

Psalm 133

A Song of Ascents. Of David.

Behold, how good and pleasant it is

when brothers dwell in unity!

It is like the precious oil on the head,

running down on the beard,

on the beard of Aaron,

running down on the collar of his robes!

It is like the dew of Hermon,

which falls on the mountains of Zion!

For there the LORD has commanded the blessing,

life forevermore.

***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.

Welcome to our Newest Members!

We welcome the newest members of Hershey PCA who were recently received by our Session!

The children of member families are also received as non-communing members by right of the covenant. Because they have believing parents, their children belong here and are welcome as part of the church family. In the PCA, non-communicant members do not yet take communion, waiting until the time they are ready to profess their own personal faith in Jesus Christ to our elders. We look forward to that day! The congregation makes a promise to member parents that we will assist them in raising their children in the Lord.

New members (Received by)

Steven Hepperle (by Letter of Dismissal from another PCA Church*)

Vicky Hepperle (by Letter of Dismissal from another PCA Church*)

Brad Rhine (by Reaffirmation of Faith*)

Caitlyn Slate (by Reaffirmation of Faith*)

Nathan Stalker (by Letter of Dismissal from another PCA Church*)

Emma Jablonski (by Letter of Dismissal from another PCA Church*)

Their children received as “non-communing members under the care of the church”
(BCO 57-1): **Eleanor Stalker** and **Freddie Stalker**

To join Hershey PCA, communing members have taken the following vows (from *The Book of Church Order of the PCA*, 57-5) after attending the *Introduction to Hershey PCA* class and giving a credible profession of faith in Jesus Christ to our Session:

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners, in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

Asked to the congregation: “Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting Nathan and Emma in the Christian nurture of their children?”

If you are interested in pursuing membership at Hershey PCA,
please talk to Pastor Kertland or one of our Ruling Elders (see back cover).

* *The Book of Church Order of the Presbyterian Church in America* (BCO) 57-6.

Facing Up to Our Sin before God

Reading of God's Standard

Mark 10:17-27

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

And as [Jesus] was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸ And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" ²⁰ And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth." ²¹ And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." ²² Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. ²³ And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴ And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶ And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God."

Confession of Sin

Declaration of Pardon in Christ

Galatians 3:26-29

...in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

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 26 – August 2

Intercession *for the World*:

- **In the Local Community:** Amy Walker – Derry Township Director of Parks And Recreation
- **Civil Government:** PA State Senator Patty Kim
- **Unreached People Group:** Bhoi of South Asia
Population: 6,772,300; 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:**
- **Leaders of Our Congregation:** Sunday School and Junior Church Teachers
- **Supported Missionary or Organization:** Covenant College

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:

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth.
Is. 42:16

1. God moves in a mys - te - rious way his won - ders to per - form;
2. Deep in un - fath - om - a - ble mines of nev - er - fail - ing skill
3. Ye fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take; the clouds ye so much dread
4. Judge not the Lord by fee - ble sense, but trust him for his grace;

he plants his foot - steps in the sea, and rides up - on the storm.
he trea - sures up his bright de - signs, and works his sov - ereign will.
are big with mer - cy, and shall break in bless - ings on your head.
be - hind a frown - ing prov - i - dence he hides a smil - ing face.

5. His purposes will ripen fast,
unfolding ev'ry hour;
the bud may have a bitter taste,
but sweet will be the flow'r.

6. Blind unbelief is sure to err,
and scan his work in vain;
God is his own interpreter,
and he will make it plain.

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**

Ruth 1:1-7

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. ² The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there. ³ Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, ⁵ both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

⁶ When Naomi heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. ⁷ With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

Ruth: Not Without a Redeemer (1)

Sermon:

“Does God Care about Me?”

Today’s Text: Ruth 1:1-7; Pastor David Kertland

1) Where is _____ ? (ambiguity and pain)

2) In whom will I _____ ? (hidden providence and faith)

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

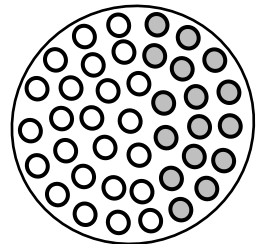
Words of Institution:

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:**

God of Grace



1. God of grace, a - maz - ing won - der, ir - re - sist - i - ble and free;
2. God of grace, who loved and knew me long be - fore the world be - gan;
3. God of grace, I stand as - tound - ed, cleansed, for - giv - en, and se - cure.



oh, the mir - a - cle of mer - cy, Je - sus reach - es down to me.
sent my Sav - ior down from heav - en—per - fect God and per - fect man.
All my fears are now con - found - ed, and my hope is ev - er sure.



God of grace, I stand in won - der, as my God re - stores my soul.
God of grace, I trust in Je - sus; I'm ac - cept - ed as his own.
God of grace, now crowned in glo - ry, where one day I'll see your face;



His own blood has paid my ran - som; awe - some cost to make me whole.
Ev - 'ry day new grace sus - tains me, as I lean on him a - lone.
and for - ev - er I'll a - dore you in your ev - er - last - ing grace.



AMAZING WONDER
87 87 D

Words & Music: Keith Getty, Jonathan Rea
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Being Sent to Serve God

*Benediction:

Numbers 6:24

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:** "Hallelujah! Hallelujah!" (10), "Gloria Patri" (735), "Doxology" (731), "God Moves in a Mysterious Way" (128) are reprinted from *The Trinity Hymnal* (Great Commissions Publications, Suwannee, GA, 2000). "God of Grace" (156) is reprinted from *The Sing! Hymnal* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway and Nashville, TN: Getty Music, 2025). 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 may have been consulted in preparing this and other sermons from the book of Ruth, including: the insights, sermons, and writings of Eric Alexander, David Atkinson, Christopher Ash, Daniel I. Block, John Calvin, Iain M. Duguid, Sinclair Ferguson, Mary Wilson Hannah, Matthew Henry, Adam J. Howell, Robert Jamieson, C. F. Keil, Peter H. W. Lau and Gregory Goswell, André LaCocque, Leon Morris, Jonathan Prime, and Barry G. Webb. 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).



HersheyPresbyterian

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