



Hershey Presbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

August 2, 2026

This Month's Front Cover Artwork

Vincent Van Gogh, *La Nuit étoilée* (commonly known as *Starry Night over the Rhône*), c. 1888. Oil on canvas, 72.5 cm × 92 cm (28.5 in × 36.2 in). Musée d'Orsay, Paris. Catalogue: F474; JH1592. Donation by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kahn-Sriber, in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Fernand Moch, 1975. © RMN-Grand Palais (Musée d'Orsay) / Adrien Didierjean. In the public domain.

About the painting:

"The *Starry Night Over the Rhône* is one of the most atmospheric paintings by Vincent van Gogh. Painted in September 1888 on the banks of the Rhône river in Arles, France, it captures the night sky reflected in the dark waters of the river, with the gaslit town shimmering along the far bank and the stars of the Great Bear constellation blazing overhead. This painting is often overshadowed by its more famous successor, *The Starry Night* (1889), but it holds a special place in Van Gogh's development. It was one of his first successful attempts to paint outdoors at night, a technical challenge that fascinated him. The interplay of artificial gaslight and natural starlight creates a dual luminosity that gives the canvas its extraordinary atmosphere.

Van Gogh arrived in Arles in February 1888, drawn by the promise of vivid southern light. By September, he had become obsessed with the idea of painting the night sky. He wrote to his brother Theo: 'It often seems to me that the night is much more alive and richly coloured than the day.' The banks of the Rhône, just a short walk from the Yellow House he was renting, provided the perfect subject.

Van Gogh set up his easel on the quay at night, working by the light of candles attached to his hat and easel — a practice he described in letters to Theo and to his friend the painter Émile Bernard. The gas lamps along the far bank of the river provided the golden reflections that streak across the water, while the stars above were observed and painted directly from nature.

The painting was completed in September 1888.... Van Gogh exhibited the work at the Salon des Indépendants in Paris in 1889, making it one of the few paintings he showed publicly during his lifetime. It was one of the works he considered among his best.

After Van Gogh's death in 1890, the painting passed through the hands of several collectors before being acquired by the French state. It has been displayed at the Musée d'Orsay in Paris since the museum opened in 1986, where it is one of the most visited works in the collection."

From: "*The Starry Night Over the Rhône*" by Vincent van Gogh—History, Analysis & Where to See It.



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 Yaasha Hepperle 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 Paul Hepperle.

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 (sound), Laura Church (vocals), Thaddaeus Church (viola), David Eakin (vocals), Peter Gobble (viola), Joe Kearns (leading worship), Bonnie Kertland (vocals), David Kertland (preaching), Michael Kitchens (greeter), Nathanael Marengo (vocals), Katy McIlvaine (vocals), Jared Salyards (piano), Cooper Yingst (trumpet).

Today's Ushers are Kentaro Minagawa, Michael Kitchens 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 of Peace

Galatians 1:2b

Grace to you and peace from God our Father..

Praising God

*Call to Worship:

Psalms 31:3-5

³ *Since you are my rock and my fortress,
for the sake of your name lead and guide me.*

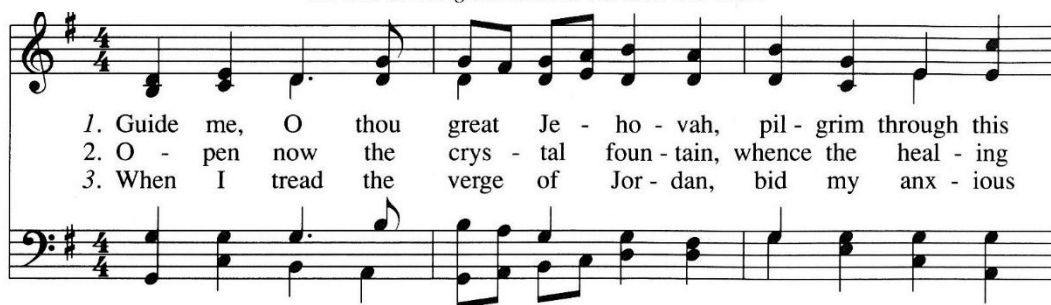
⁴ *Keep me free from the trap that is set for me,
for you are my refuge.*

⁵ *Into your hands I commit my spirit;
deliver me, LORD, my faithful God.*

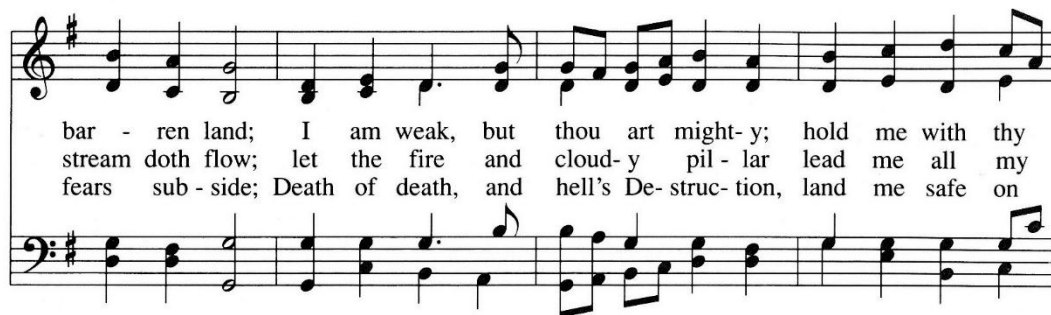
*Response of Praise:

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

He will be our guide even to the end. Ps. 48:14



1. Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might - y; hold me with thy
 stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my
 fears sub - side; Death of death, and hell's De - struc - tion, land me safe on



pow'r - ful hand; Bread of heav - en, Bread of heav - en,
 jour - ney through; strong De - liv - 'rer, strong De - liv - 'rer,
 Ca - naan's side; songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es



feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.
 be thou still my strength and shield, be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee, I will ev - er give to thee.

***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 to be 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 7th 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.
... ¹⁴ You shall not commit adultery.*

Westminster Shorter Catechism:

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

A. The seventh commandment requires the preservation of our own and our neighbor's chastity, in heart, speech, and behavior.

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

A. The seventh commandment forbids all unchaste thoughts, words, and actions.

Confession of Sin

Declaration of Pardon in Christ

Romans 5:1

[S]ince we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Choral Response

Benediction

The musical score is written for a choir in 4/4 time, featuring a soprano line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score is divided into two systems. The first system includes a 'Unison' marking above the soprano line. The lyrics for the first system are: '1. May the grace of Christ our Sav - ior and the Fa - ther's bound - less love, 2. Thus may we a - bide in u - nion with each oth - er and the Lord,'. The second system includes a 'Benediction' marking above the soprano line. The lyrics for the second system are: 'with the Ho - ly Spir - it's fa - vor, rest up - on us from a - bove. and pos - sess, in sweet com - mu - nion, joys which earth can - not af - ford.'

1. May the grace of Christ our Sav - ior and the Fa - ther's bound - less love,
2. Thus may we a - bide in u - nion with each oth - er and the Lord,

with the Ho - ly Spir - it's fa - vor, rest up - on us from a - bove.
and pos - sess, in sweet com - mu - nion, joys which earth can - not af - ford.

Offering Our Prayers to God

Prayer of Intercession & the Lord's Prayer

Hershey PCA Prayer Requests for the Week of August 2 - 9

Intercession *for the World*:

- **In the Local Community:** Hershey Public Library Director Alison Jacobine
- **Civil Government:** PA Governor Josh Shapiro
- **Unreached People Group:** Bhojki of India
Population: 4,300; Language: Kangri; 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:** Ken K.
- **Leaders of Our Congregation:** Pastor Emeritus Bob Eickelberg
- **Supported Missionary or Organization:** Covenant Theological
Seminary

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:**

**I Will At All Times Bless the Lord
(from Psalm 34:1-8)**

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The lyrics are written below the staves, with some words appearing on multiple lines to align with the melody. The score includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The lyrics are: 1. I will at all times bless the LORD; His 2. 3 Come, let us mag - ni - fy the LORD, And 3. 5 How ra - diant, those who looked to Him! Their praise my mouth will al - ways voice. 2 And in the LORD my praise His name in u - ni - ty! 4 I sought the LORD, and fac - es free from shame shall be. 6 The LORD heard when this soul shall boast; The poor will hear it and re - joice. in re - ply, From all my fears He res - cued me. poor man cried, And from all trou - ble set him free.

4. ⁷ Encircling those who fear the LORD
His angel camps, and rescues them.
⁸ O taste and see the LORD is good;
How blessed are those who trust in Him.

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 1:6-18

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. ⁸ But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹ The LORD grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!" Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. ¹⁰ And they said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." ¹¹ But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹² Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, ¹³ would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me." ¹⁴ Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵ And she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." ¹⁶ But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." ¹⁸ And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

Ruth: Not Without a Redeemer (2)

Sermon: “Finding Home in Times of Trouble”

Today's Text: Ruth 1:6-18; Pastor David Kertland

1) Desiring Home: _____ and _____

2) _____ Home

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

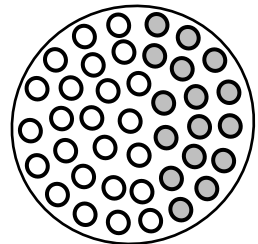
Words of Institution:

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

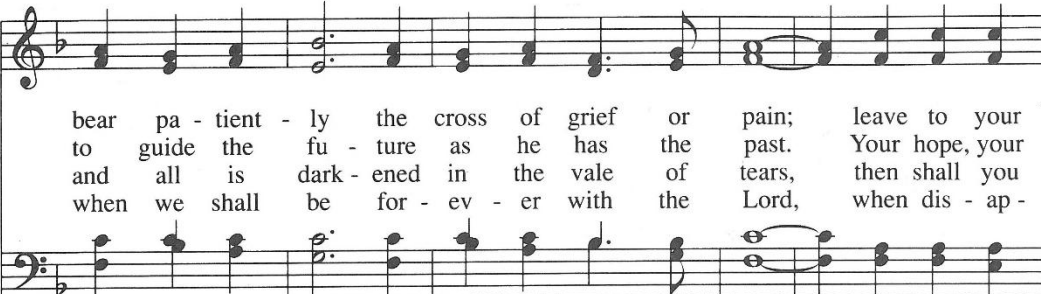
***Song of Commitment:**

Be Still My Soul

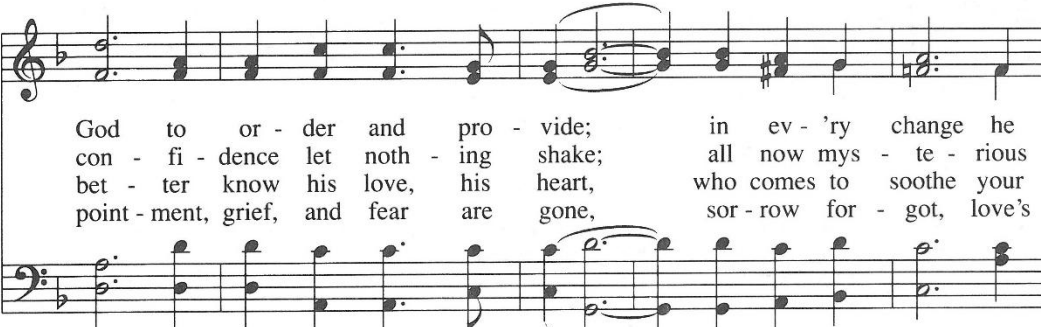
Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Jas. 5:7



1. Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;
2. Be still, my soul: your God will un - der - take
3. Be still, my soul: when dear - est friends de - part,
4. Be still, my soul: the hour is has - t'ning on



bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain; leave to your
to guide the fu - ture as he has the past. Your hope, your
and all is dark - ened in the vale of tears, then shall you
when we shall be for - ev - er with the Lord, when dis - ap -



God to or - der and pro - vide; in ev - 'ry change he
con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake; all now mys - te - rious
bet - ter know his love, his heart, who comes to soothe your
point - ment, grief, and fear are gone, sor - row for - got, love's

faith - ful will re - main. Be still, my soul: your best, your heav'n - ly
 shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still
 sor - row and your fears. Be still, my soul: your Je - sus can re -
 pur - est joys re - stored. Be still, my soul: when change and tears are

Friend through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
 know his voice who ruled them while he dwelt be - low.
 pay from his own full - ness all he takes a - way.
 past, all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

Katharina von Schlegel, 1752
 Tr. by Jane Borthwick, 1855; alt. 1990, mod.
 Tune © Breitkopf & Härtel, Wiesbaden. Used by permission.

FINLANDIA 10.10.10.10.10.10.
 Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr.

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.*

*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:** Vincent Van Gogh, *La Nuit étoilée* (commonly known as *Starry Night over the Rhône*), c. 1888. Oil on canvas, 72.5 cm × 92 cm (28.5 in × 36.2 in). Musée d'Orsay, Paris. Catalogue: F474; JH1592. Donation by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kahn-Sriber, in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Fernand Moch, 1975. © RMN-Grand Palais (Musée d'Orsay) / Adrien Didierjean. In the public domain. (<https://www.musee-orsay.fr/en/artworks/la-nuit-etoilee-78696>)
- 2) **Music:** "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" (598), "Gloria Patri" (735), "Benediction" (730), "Be Still My Soul" (689) are reprinted from *The Trinity Hymnal* (Great Commissions Publications, Suwannee, GA, 2000). "I Will At All Times Bless the Lord," verses 1-4, is reprinted from *The Book of Psalms for Worship*, Crown and Covenant Publications, Pittsburgh, PA, 2011, 34B. Music used by permission: CCLI License #20711820 and CCLI Streaming License #20711837.
- 3) **Quotes: Page 2:** Edited from "*The Starry Night Over the Rhône*" by Vincent van Gogh—*History, Analysis & Where to See It*. (<https://paintingrecognition.com/blog/paintings/starry-night-over-the-rhone.html>) 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).



Hershey Presbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

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