



Hershey Presbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

August 9, 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 Kumi Minagawa and Natalie Otto.

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 Asahel 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), Bonnie Kertland (vocals), David Kertland (preaching), Nathanael Marengo (sound), Katy McIlvaine (vocals), Kentaro Minagawa (greeter), Anita Wood (piano), Cooper Yingst (trumpet).

Today's Ushers are Michael Kitchens, Brad Weaver, and Nick Yingst.

Counters are Nora Dolon and Kentaro Minagawa.

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

1 Thessalonians 1:1c

Grace to you and peace.

Praising God

*Call to Worship:

1 Chronicles 16:23-24

Sing to the LORD, all the earth!

Tell of his salvation from day to day.

*²⁴ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!*

*Response of Praise:

Let All Things Now Living

Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day. 1 Chron. 16:23

Capo 3: Γ F(D) Gm(Em) C(A) Γ

1. Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing
2. His law he en - forc - es: the stars in their cours - es,

F(D) B $\flat$ (G) F(D) C 7 (A 7) F(D)

to the God the Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
the sun in its or - bit, o - be - dient - ly shine;

Gm(Em) C(A)

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us,
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains,

F(D) B $\flat$ (G) F(D) C 7 (A 7) F(D)

who guides us and leads to the end of our days.
the deeps of the o - cean pro - claim him di - vine.

C⁷(A⁷)

His ban - ners are o'er us, his light goes be - fore us,
We too should be voic - ing our love and re - joic - ing,

F(D) Dm(Bm) C(A) G⁷(E⁷) C(A)

a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise,

F(D) Gm(E^m) C(A)

'til shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished,
'til all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing

F(D) B^b(G) F(D) C⁷(A⁷) F(D) 7

as for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
to God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!

Katherine K. Davis, 1939
Alt. 1990, mod.

Text © E. C. Schirmer Music Co. Used with permission.

ASH GROVE 12.11.12.11.D.
Traditional Welsh melody
Arr. by Katherine K. Davis, 1939

***Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

***Confession of Faith:**

Psalm 19

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. ² Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. ³ There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. ⁴ Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun, ⁵ which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy. ⁶ Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; ⁸ the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; ⁹ the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. ¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. ¹¹ Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

¹² Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults.

¹³ Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

***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

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

For the reading of God's Standard this month, we are reading the 7th commandment and related Scripture passages.

Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Confession of Sin

Our Father, forgive our sins.

Forgive the sins that we remember, and the sins that we have forgotten.

Forgive our many failures in the face of temptation, and those times when we have been stubborn in the face of correction.

Forgive the times we have been proud of our own achievements and those when we have failed to boast in your mighty deeds.

Forgive the harsh judgments we have made of others, and the leniency we have shown to ourselves.

Forgive the lies we have told to others, and the truths we have avoided.

Forgive us the pain we have caused others and the indulgence we have shown ourselves.

Lord God, have mercy on us and make us whole.

In Jesus Christ, our Savior's name, Amen.

Declaration of Pardon in Christ

1 Corinthians 6:13b-14

The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴ And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.

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 August 9-16

Intercession for the World:

- **In the Local Community:** Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center Doctors, Nurses, Staff, and Board of Directors
- **Civil Government:** PA Lieutenant Governor Austin Davis
- **Unreached People Group:** Bhojpuri Bihari of South Africa
Population: 54,000; Language: Bhojpuri; 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:** Donna K.
- **Leaders of Our Congregation:** Pastor Emeritus Mark Tedford
- **Supported Missionary or Organization:** Lebanon Valley Church Plant

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.**

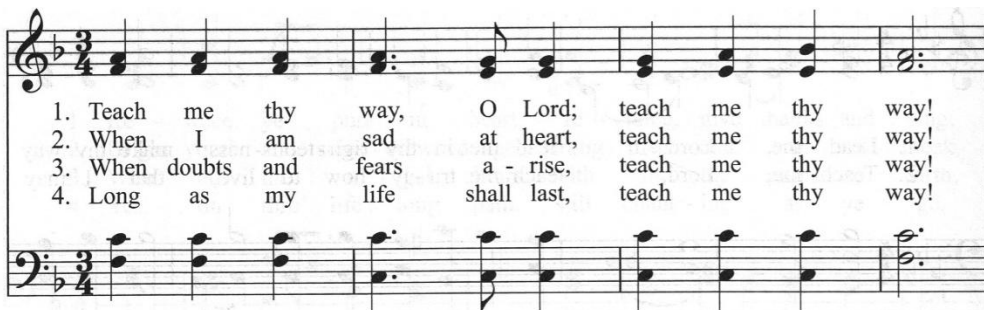
Presentation of Our Tithes & Offerings

Offertory

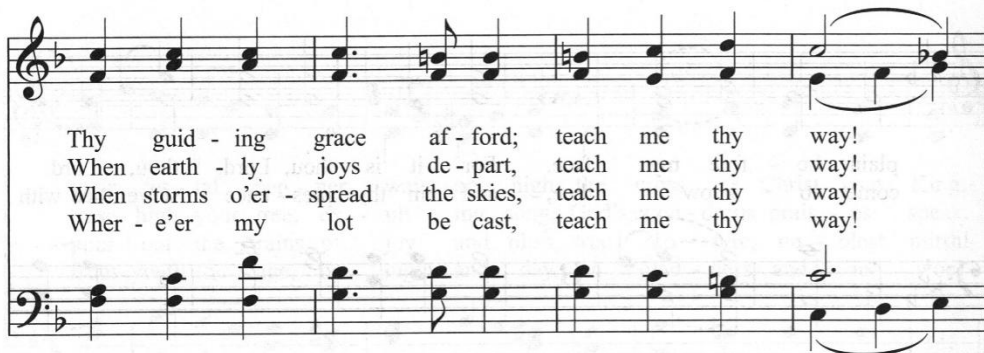
During this hymn, children from 4 years old through Grade 2 are welcome to attend Junior Church in the lower level of the education building. The Junior Church teacher will meet the children in the narthex.

***Song of Preparation:**

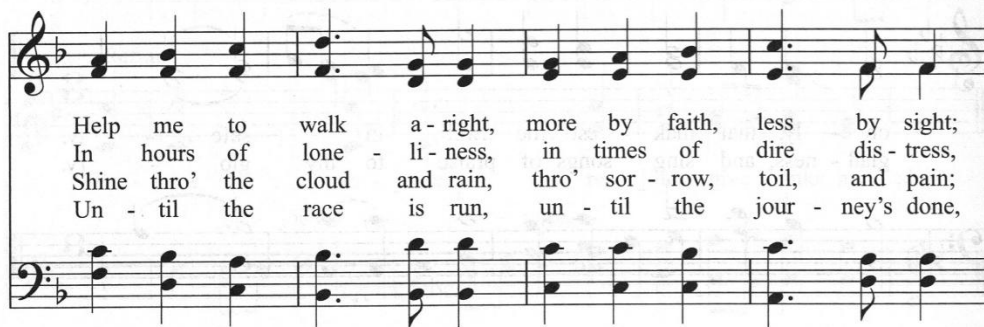
Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord



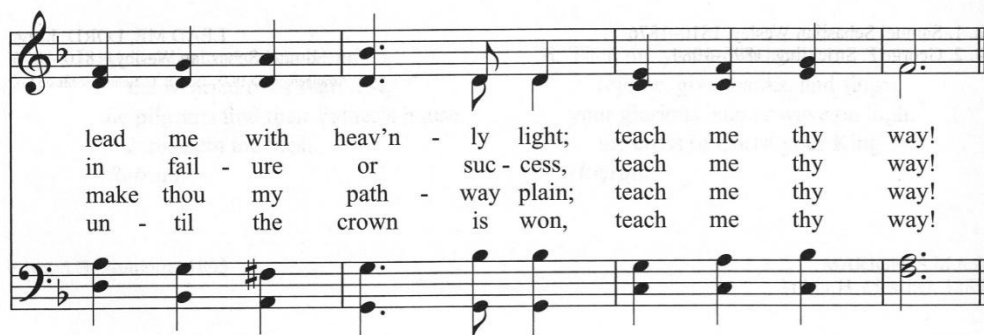
1. Teach me thy way, O Lord; teach me thy way!
 2. When I am sad at heart, teach me thy way!
 3. When doubts and fears a - rise, teach me thy way!
 4. Long as my life shall last, teach me thy way!



Thy guid - ing grace af - ford; teach me thy way!
 When earth - ly joys de - part, teach me thy way!
 When storms o'er - spread the skies, teach me thy way!
 Wher - e'er my lot be cast, teach me thy way!



Help me to walk a - right, more by faith, less by sight;
 In hours of lone - li - ness, in times of dire dis - tress,
 Shine thro' the cloud and rain, thro' sor - row, toil, and pain;
 Un - til the race is run, un - til the jour - ney's done,



lead me with heav'n - ly light; teach me thy way!
 in fail - ure or suc - cess, teach me thy way!
 make thou my path - way plain; teach me thy way!
 un - til the crown is won, teach me thy way!

CAMACHA 6.4.6.4.6.6.4.
 B. Mansell Ramsey, 1919

B. Mansell Ramsey, 1919

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 1:1-8a, 9b, 14b, 18, 19-22

Review: Ruth 1:1-8a, 9b, 14b, 18

In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. ² The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³ But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, ⁵ and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband. ⁶ Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the LORD had visited his people and given them food. ⁷ So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return 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...." ... ⁹ Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. ... ¹⁴ And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. ... ¹⁸ And when Naomi saw that she [Ruth] was determined to go with her, she said no more.

Today's text: Ruth 1:19-22

¹⁹ So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women said, "Is this Naomi?" ²⁰ She said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. ²¹ I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the LORD has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?" ²² So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

Ruth: Not Without a Redeemer (3)

Sermon: “When Grace is Hard to See”

Today’s Text: Ruth 1:19-22; Pastor David Kertland

1) A _____ Providence

2) Reading Providence _____

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

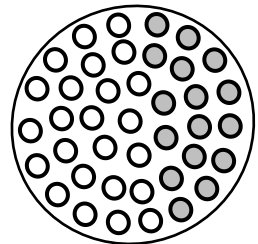
Words of Institution:

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.

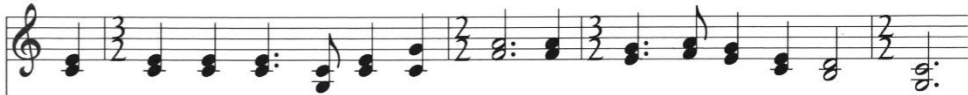
Receiving God's Blessing

***Song of Commitment:**

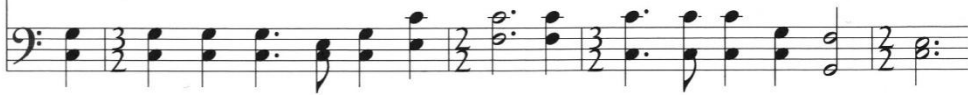
Grace



1. Your grace, that leads the sin - ner home from death to life for - ev - er
2. Your grace, that reach - es far and wide to ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion,
3. Your grace that I can - not ex - plain, not by my earth - ly wis - dom:
4. Let praise rise up and o - ver - flow, my song re - sound for - ev - er;



and sings the song of righ - teous - ness by blood and not by mer - it.
has called my heart to en - ter in the joy of your sal - va - tion.
the Prince of Life with - out a stain was trad - ed for this sin - ner.
for grace will see me wel - comed home to walk be - side my Sav - ior.



By grace I am re - deemed, by grace I am re - stored; and



now I free - ly walk in - to the arms of Christ, my Lord.



RESTORING GRACE
87 87 with refrain

Words & Music: Jonny Robinson, Niki Shepherd, Rich Thompson
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Lines Music / Rich Thompson Music

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:** "Let All Things Now Living" (125), "Gloria Patri" (735), "Doxology" (731), "Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord" (606) are reprinted from *The Trinity Hymnal* (Great Commissions Publications, Suwannee, GA, 2000). "Grace," (148) 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:** 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). **Page 7:** Confession of Sin from <https://www.waysidechurch.org/corporate-prayers-of-confession>, prayer 8. 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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