



HersheyPresbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

August 16, 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 Rachel Ballach and Eve Dolon.

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: Ruth Adams (greeter), 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), Joe Kearns (leading worship), Bonnie Kertland (vocals), David Kertland (preaching), Nathanael Marengo (vocals), Katy McIlvaine (vocals), Anita Wood (piano), Cooper Yingst (trumpet).

Today's Ushers are Joe Kearns, Chris Wagner and Brad Weaver.

Counters are Keith Dolon and Tim Gehron.

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

2 Thessalonians 1:2

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

Praising God

*Call to Worship:

Psalms 61:1-4

Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer;

² from the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint.

Lead me to the rock that is higher than I,

³ for you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy.

⁴ Let me dwell in your tent forever!

Let me take refuge under the shelter of your wings!

*Response of Praise:

How Firm a Foundation

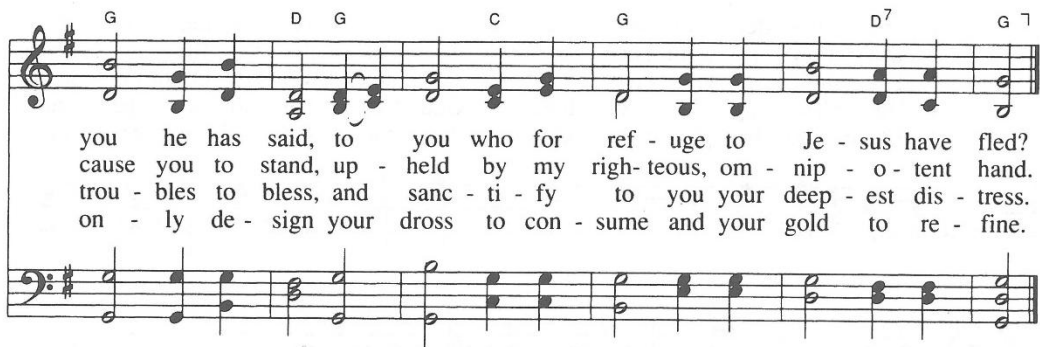
Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Is. 41:10

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major, 2/2 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with chords indicated above the staff. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Lyrics:

1. How firm a foun - da - tion, you saints of the Lord, is laid for your
2. "Fear not, I am with you, O be not dis-mayed; for I am your
3. "When through the deep wa - ters I call you to go, the riv - ers of
4. "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie, my grace, all - suf -

faith in his ex - cel - lent Word! What more can he say than to
God, and will still give you aid; I'll strength - en you, help you, and
sor - row shall not o - ver - flow; for I will be with you, your
fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply; the flame shall not hurt you; I



you he has said, to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 cause you to stand, up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 trou - bles to bless, and sanc - ti - fy to you your deep - est dis - tress.
 on - ly de - sign your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.

5. "E'en down to old age all my people shall prove
 my sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love;
 and when hoary hairs shall their temples adorn,
 like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne.
6. "The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
 I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
 that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
 I'll never, no never, no never forsake."

Rippon's *Selection of Hymns*, 1787; alt.
 Mod.

FOUNDATION 11.11.11.11.
 Traditional American melody
 J. Funk's *A Compilation of Genuine Church Music*, 1832.

*Prayer of Adoration & Invocation

***Confession of Faith:**

The Nicene Creed

We confess our common faith today with the Nicene Creed, a summary of the Bible's teaching about God, our need of a sufficient Savior, and our dependence on the work of the Spirit. From the Trinity Hymnal: "The Nicene Creed originated at the Council of Nicea (325), and an expanded form was adopted by the Council of Chalcedon (451). It was formulated to answer heresies that denied the biblical doctrine of the Trinity and of the person of Christ."

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,

Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,

begotten of his Father before all worlds,

God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,*

begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;

by whom all things were made;

who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,

and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered and was buried;

and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,

and ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father;

and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead;

whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son;

who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;

who spoke by the prophets;

and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;**

we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;

and we look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come.

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.

* The term "very God of very God" means that our Lord Jesus Christ is "true God from true God."

** "'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 a reference to what is today called the *Roman Catholic Church*.

Facing Up to Our Sin before God

Reading of God's Standard

Matthew 5:27-28

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

You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery."²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Confession of Sin

Declaration of Pardon in Christ

1 John 1:9-10

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Prayerful Response Lead Me, Lord, Lead Me in Thy Righteousness

1. Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy right-eous-ness, make thy way
2. Teach me, Lord, teach me tru - ly how to live, that I may

plain be - fore my face. For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord,
come to know thee, and in thy pres - ence serve thee with

on - ly, that mak - est me dwell in thy safe - ty.
glad - ness, and sing songs of praise to thy glo - ry.

LEAD ME, LORD 10.8
Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-1876

St. 1. Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-1876
St. 2. George F. Strickling
Tune © E. C. Schirmer, Inc. Used by permission.

Offering Our Prayers to God

Prayer of Intercession & the Lord's Prayer

Hershey PCA Prayer Requests for the Week of August 16 - 23

Intercession for the World:

- **In the Local Community:** Hershey Medical Center Emergency Department
- **Civil Government:** PA Supreme Court Justices
- **Unreached People Group:** Bhoksa of India
Population: 62,000; Language: Buksa; 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:** Peter M.
- **Leaders of Our Congregation:** Ruling Elder Ephraim Church
- **Supported Missionary or Organization:** Mission to North America (MNA)

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: "All Things New"

The words of the song are provided on following page.

Music by Elaine Hagenburg; Words by Frances Ridley Havergal;

The chorus is adapted from Revelation 21:5-6.

Offertory Meditation: “All Things New”

Light after darkness, gain after loss,
Strength after weakness, crown after cross;
Sweet after bitter, hope after fears,
Home after wandering, praise after tears.

Alpha and Omega,
Beginning and the end,
He is making all things new.
Springs of living water
Shall wash away each tear,
He is making all things new.

Sight after mystery, sun after rain,
Joy after sorrow, peace after pain;
Near after distant, gleam after gloom,
Love after wandering, life after tomb.

The music is by Elaine Hagenburg.
The words are by Frances Ridley Havergal.
The chorus is adapted from Rev. 21:5,6.

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:**

O Sing a New Song to the Lord
Psalms 96:1-6

1. ¹O sing a new song to the LORD, Let
 2. Pro - claim this good news con - stant - ly, ³His
 3. ⁴Be - hold the great - ness of the LORD! So
 4. Not so the LORD! He heav - en made, ⁶And

all the earth sing to the LORD. ²Sing to the LORD and
 glo - ry and His maj - es - ty; His mir - a - cles to
 great - ly should He be a - dored, And feared a - bove all
 there be - fore Him is dis - played All splen - dor, maj - es -

bless His name, And His sal - va - tion loud pro - claim!
 all de - clare Through - out the na - tions ev - ery - where.
 else by far, ⁵For Gen - tile gods mere i - dols are.
 ty and grace; All strength dwells in His ho - ly place.

Musikalisches Handbüch, Hamburg, 1690

WINCHESTER NEW LM

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

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 1:11-22

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.

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 (4)

Sermon: “When Grace is Hard to See, Part 2”

Today’s Text: Ruth 1:11-22; Pastor David Kertland

1) An _____ Future

2) _____ Providence Properly

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

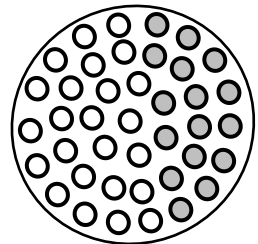
Words of Institution:

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:**

My Times Are in Thy Hand

My times are in your hands. Ps. 31:15

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence. The lyrics are printed below the staff, with line numbers 1 through 4 indicating different verses. The lyrics are: 1. My times are in thy hand; my God, I wish them there; 2. My times are in thy hand, what - ev - er they may be; 3. My times are in thy hand; why should I doubt or fear? 4. My times are in thy hand, Je - sus the Cru - ci - fied; my life, my friends, my soul, I leave en - tire - ly to thy care. pleas - ing or pain - ful, dark or bright, as best may seem to thee. My Fa - ther's hand will nev - er cause his child a need - less tear. those hands my cru - el sins had pierced are now my guard and guide.

1. My times are in thy hand; my God, I wish them there;
2. My times are in thy hand, what - ev - er they may be;
3. My times are in thy hand; why should I doubt or fear?
4. My times are in thy hand, Je - sus the Cru - ci - fied;
my life, my friends, my soul, I leave en - tire - ly to thy care.
pleas - ing or pain - ful, dark or bright, as best may seem to thee.
My Fa - ther's hand will nev - er cause his child a need - less tear.
those hands my cru - el sins had pierced are now my guard and guide.

Based on Psalm 31
William F. Lloyd, 1824

VIGIL S.M.
St. Albans Tune Book, 1875; 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:** "How Firm a Foundation" (94), "Gloria Patri" (735), "Lead Me, Lord, Lead Me in Thy Righteousness" (727), "My Times are in Thy Hand" (684) are reprinted from *The Trinity Hymnal* (Great Commissions Publications, Suwannee, GA, 2000). "O Sing a New Song to the Lord," (96C) 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:** 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
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

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