

HersheyPresbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

November 29, 2026

The First Sunday of Advent

This Month's Front Cover Artwork

Joseph Michael Gandy (British, London 1771-1843 London), *Landscape with rising sun, December 1, 1828, 8:30 a.m.* 1828. Watercolor over graphite. 4 3/16 in. x 6 3/4 in. (10.6 cm. x 17.1 cm.). The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Harry G. Sperling Fund, 2005. Object number 2006.46. In the public domain.

About the artist: "Gandy made his name as a visionary architect and art theorist but here demonstrates his skills as a plein-air watercolorist. The loose, evocative study of clouds is comparable to works famously made by John Constable during the 1820s. Like other artists with an empirical bent, Gandy carefully recorded the date and time of day on this sheet at upper right in graphite as "SW / Dec 1/28 ½ 8 M"—indicating December 1, 1828, at 8:30 under a southwest wind. Morning or evening are not specified but the scene must be a sunrise, because the sun sets long before eight in England in December. The drawing was once part of an album that belonged to Gandy's friend and supporter, the sculptor Sir Richard Westmacott."

https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/370637

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 Dorinda Saul and Abby Stefanow.

A **Junior Church** for children aged 4 - Grade 2 is offered on the Lower Level of the Education Building beginning during the hymn before the sermon. Today's Junior Church Teacher is AmyLea Yingst.

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), Keith Dolon (sound), David Eakin (vocals), Paul Hepperle (preaching), Ken Kanode (greeter), Joe Kearns (leading worship), Nathanael Marengo (vocals), Katy McIlvaine (vocals), Anita Wood (piano), Don Wood (vocals), Cooper Yingst (trumpet).

Today's Ushers are Joe Kearns, Chris Wagner, and Nick Yingst.

Counters are Nora Dolon and Steve Hepperle.

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

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle — Isaiah 11:1-5

Read by: The Stalker Family

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
2 And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

Praising God

***Call to Worship:** **Psalm 95:1-6**

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

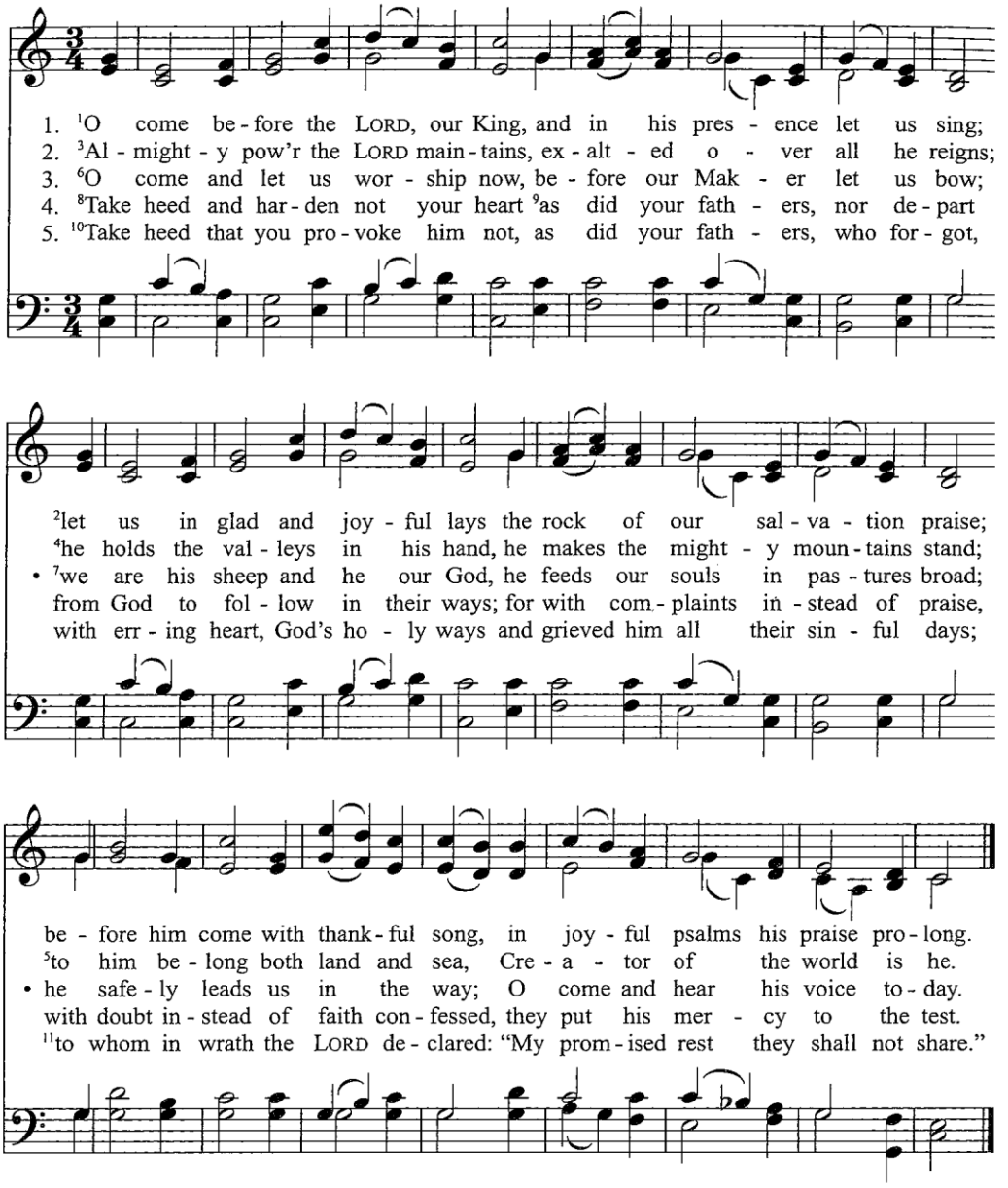
3 For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.

4 In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.

5 The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.

6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

*Response of Praise: O Come Before the Lord, Our King



The Psalter, 1912; alt.

ST. PETERSBURG 8.8.8.8.8.8.
Dmitri Bortniansky, 1825

***Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

***Confession of Faith: Romans 4:18-5:1**

"In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." 19 He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. 20 No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, 21 fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. 22 That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness." 23 But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, 24 but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, 25 who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.
5 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

***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 — Romans13:8-10

For the reading of God's Standard this month, we are reading the 10th commandment and related Scripture passages.

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Confession of Sin

Declaration of Pardon in Christ — Romans 3:23-25

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

Choral Response — Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings 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 November 29-December 6

Intercession *for the World*:

- **In the Local Community:** Derry Township Chief of Police Garth Warner
- **Civil Government:** US Senator John Fetterman
- **Unreached People Group:** Biafada of Guinea-Bissau
  Population: 51,000; Language: Biafada; 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:** Pauline G.
- **Leaders of Our Congregation:** Pastor Emeritus Mark Tedford
- **Supported Missionary:** Covenant Theological Seminary

The Lord's Prayer:

We close our prayer in unison with this version of the Lord's Prayer.

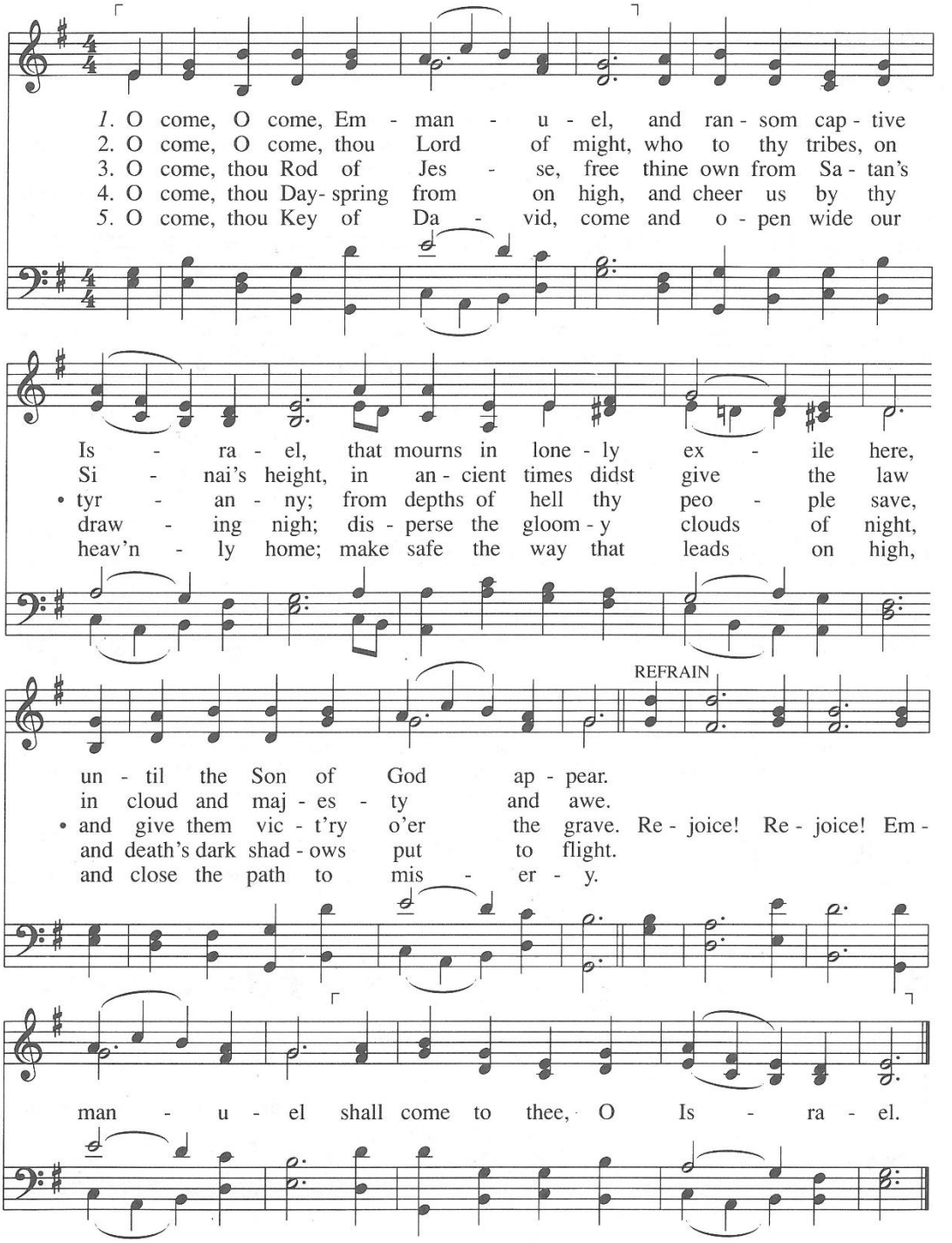
"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, 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: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



VENI EMMANUEL L.M.ref.
Plainsong, 13th cent.
Arr. by Thomas Helmore, 1856

Latin antiphons, 12th cent.
Latin hymn, 1710
Tr. by John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1961

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 **Psalm 72**

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the royal son!
2 May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice!
3 Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness!
4 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the children of the needy,
and crush the oppressor!
5 May they fear you while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!
6 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth!
7 In his days may the righteous flourish,
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!
8 May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth!
9 May desert tribes bow down before him,
and his enemies lick the dust!
10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands
render him tribute;
may the kings of Sheba and Seba
bring gifts!
11 May all kings fall down before him,
all nations serve him!
12 For he delivers the needy when he calls,
the poor and him who has no helper.
13 He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.
14 From oppression and violence he redeems their life,
and precious is their blood in his sight.
15 Long may he live;
may gold of Sheba be given to him!
May prayer be made for him continually,

and blessings invoked for him all the day!
16 May there be abundance of grain in the land;
on the tops of the mountains may it wave;
may its fruit be like Lebanon;
and may people blossom in the cities
like the grass of the field!
17 May his name endure forever,
his fame continue as long as the sun!
May people be blessed in him,
all nations call him blessed!
18 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.
19 Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may the whole earth be filled with his glory!
Amen and Amen!
20 The prayers of David, the son of Jesse, are ended.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

Sermon: "A Glorious Reign"

Today's Text: Psalm 72 Assistant Pastor Paul Hepperle

1. The Hoped for _____

2. The Promised _____

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)

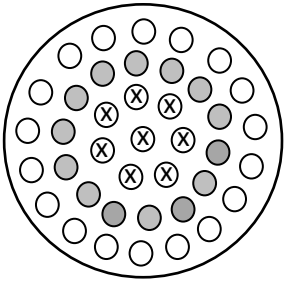
Prayer

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 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.



white circles = grape juice in clear cups
gray circles = wine in purple cups

Prayer

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.

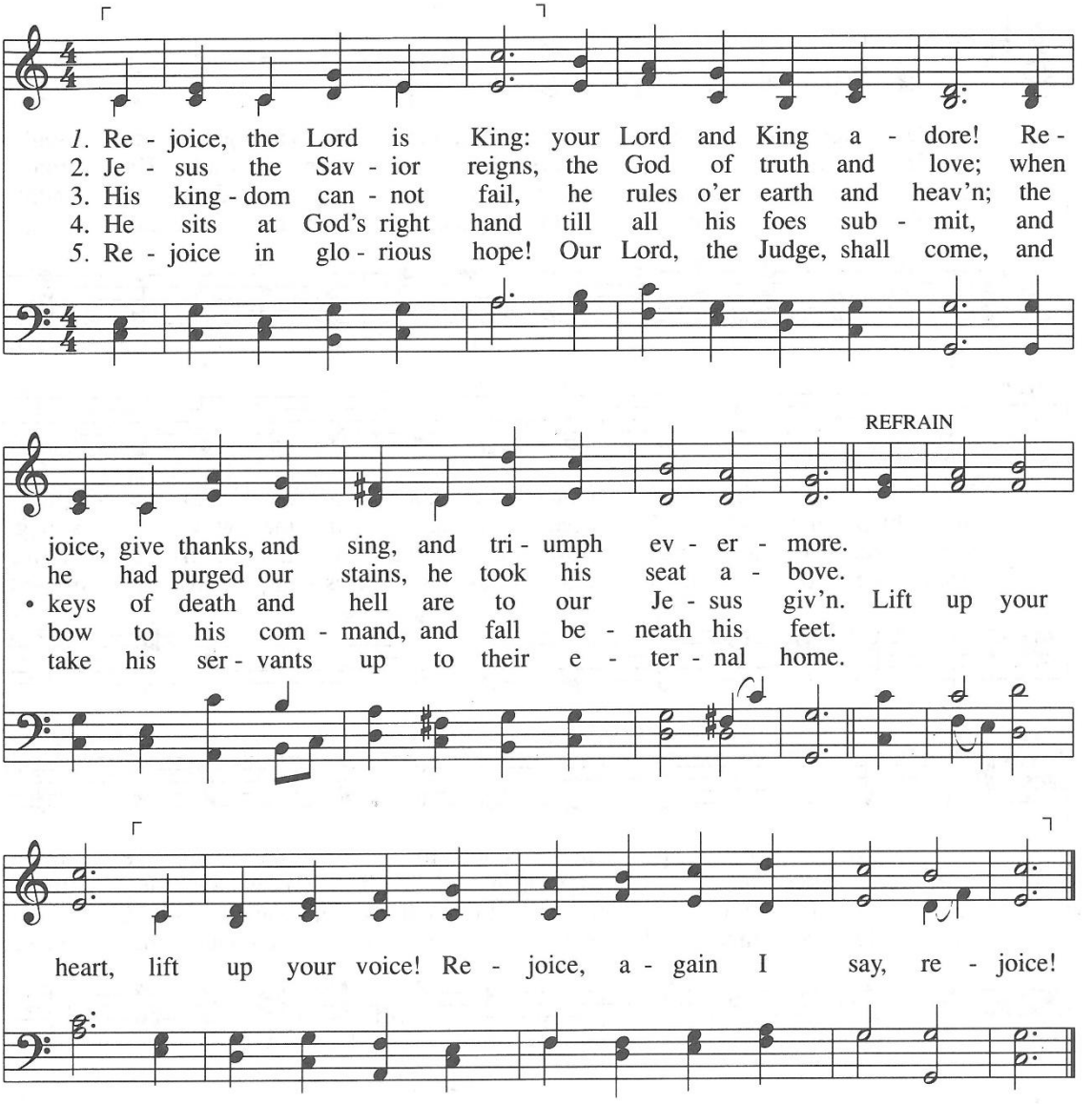
If you are not a believer in Jesus today, we are glad that you are here with us this morning! We invite you to stay and observe this part of the service, but ask that you do not participate. It is a celebration of the Christian's union with the risen Jesus. As the bread and wine are received by the congregation, 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: Rejoice, the Lord is King!**



Charles Wesley, 1746; alt.

DARWALL 6.6.6.6.8.8.
John Darwall, 1770

Being Sent to Serve God

*Benediction: Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

*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:** cover: Joseph Michael Gandy, *Landscape with rising sun, December 1, 1828, 8:30 a.m.*, 1828. Watercolor over graphite. www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/370637. In the public domain.
2) **Music**: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (194), "Gloria Patri" (735), "Doxology" (731), "Rejoice, the Lord is King!" (310) are reprinted from *The Trinity Hymnal* (Great Commissions Publications, Suwannee, GA, 2000). "O Come Before the Lord, Our King" (95A) 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:** https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/370637. 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 Psalms, including: the insights, sermons, and writings of Christopher Ash, Augustine, C. John Collins, John Calvin, F. Delitzsch, Sinclair Ferguson, Merk D. Futato, John Goldingay, Allan Harman, E. W. Hengstenberg, Matthew Henry, James Houston, Timothy Keller, Derek Kidner, Tremper Longman III, Dane Ortlund, Richard Phillips, William Still, Bruce Waltke, N. T. Wright, Michael Wilcox, Gerald Wilson, along with BibleWorks and Logos Bible Study Software. 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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