

Hershey PCA Core Group Meeting



January 11, 2015



This mosaic is from a 5th Century (400 AD) floor mosaic in *The Church of the Multiplication* in Tabgha, Israel (on the NW shore of the Sea of Galilee). The church was built to commemorate the time when Jesus multiplied a few loaves and fish to feed a large crowd (Mark 6:30-44). May the same Lord Jesus multiply our gifts and talents to give spiritual food (the gospel and the Word of God) to many in the Hershey area and throughout the world from this place.

*And taking the five loaves and the two fish
he [Jesus] looked up to heaven
and said a blessing
and broke the loaves
and gave them to the disciples
to set before the people.*

*And he divided the two fish among them all.
And they all ate and were satisfied.*

Mark 6:41-42

Welcome & Information

Welcome to the first Core Group Meeting to establish a PCA worship site in the Hershey Area. We are glad that you are here! The vision for a new church in the Hershey Area was birthed at Trinity Presbyterian Church (PCA) out of a desire to reach more people for Jesus Christ.

Tonight begins that journey for us. Let us ask the Lord to establish us: *“Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.”* (Ps. 127:1)

Hershey Presbyterian Church (PCA)

Our mission is to see the establishment of **Hershey Presbyterian Church (PCA)**, a member church in the **Susquehanna Valley Presbytery** of the **Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)**. The new worship site, called “Hershey Presbyterian Church (PCA),” or “Hershey PCA” for short, will continue to operate under the oversight, and with the support, of Trinity Presbyterian Church (PCA) until the time when both worship sites (Hershey & Harrisburg) become fully self-supporting. At that time we will elect our own elders and deacons and become a local PCA church. The language used at Trinity PCA has been *“one church in two locations becoming two churches in two locations.”*

What is meant by “Core Group”?

“Core Group” is a term that describes the group of people who are committed to establish a new PCA worship site in the Hershey area.

What is a Core Group Meeting?

A Core Group Meeting is a time of fellowship, worship, Bible study, prayer, and information about how to be involved in the new worship site and its ministry in the Hershey Area.

Tonight’s Core Group Meeting

4:30-5:30 PM Light Meal and Conversations
5:30 PM Core Group Meeting

Future Hershey PCA Core Group Meeting Schedule

January 25, 2015	*	March 8, 2015
February 8, 2015	*	March 15, 2015
February 22, 2015	*	March 22, 2015

Where Are We in the Process of Starting a New Church in Hershey?

“Team Hershey” @ Trinity Presbyterian Church (PCA)

“Team Hershey” began at Trinity PCA in November 2015 after several years of conversation about the possibility of a new PCA church in Hershey. The purpose of Team Hershey was to determine who from Trinity PCA would be part of this new mission and outreach in the Hershey Area.

Hershey PCA Core Group

The Hershey PCA Core Group begins meeting tonight. The purpose of the Hershey PCA Core Group is to begin to worship, fellowship, and serve Christ together in the Hershey area. This is a time to build relationships with each other, reach out to others in the community, invite new people, and help to plan and prepare for the launch of the new church.

Hershey Presbyterian Church (PCA)

Hershey Presbyterian Church (PCA) will be launched when we begin regular, weekly Lord’s Day worship services on Sundays. To be ready to launch the weekly worship service, a number of things need to be in place including: **a lifestyle of regular weekly prayer, a culture of outreach, and ministry teams** enabling us to sustain a weekly service and related ministries. Depending on the Lord’s provision, we are working toward a start date for the weekly worship service in the Spring/Summer of 2015.

Tonight's Worship

Call to Worship

Psalm 121

A Song of Ascents.

I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where does my help come?

My help comes from the LORD,

who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved;

he who keeps you will not slumber.

Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD is your keeper;

the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day,

nor the moon by night.

The LORD will keep you from all evil;

he will keep your life.

The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from
this time forth and forevermore.

Light, Black Text = Read by Leader

Light, Blue Text = Read by Group

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

Psalms 100 is "a psalm of thanksgiving." Tonight we sing it to the tune often called "Old Hundredth."
This melody has been called "one of the best known melodies in all Christian musical traditions."

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Ps. 100:1

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line with lyrics and a basso continuo line. The lyrics are arranged in four parts, with the first part starting on the first line and the others following. The music is a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady rhythm. The lyrics are: 1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing 2. The Lord ye know is God in - deed; with - 3. O en - ter then his gates with praise, ap - 4. For why? The Lord our God is good, his to the Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with fear, his out our aid he did us make; we are his folk, he proach with joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his mer - cy is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times praise forth - tell, come ye be - fore him and re - joice. doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take. name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do. firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

The Apostles' Creed

We confess our common faith tonight with the Apostles' Creed, a summary of what the Bible teaches us about God, our need of a sufficient Savior, and our dependence on the work of the Spirit.

From the Trinity Hymnal: "Although not written by the apostles, the Apostles' Creed is a concise summary of their teachings. It originated as a baptismal confession, probably in the second century, and developed into its present form by the sixth or seventh century."

**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 resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

Holy, Holy, Holy

A chief, biblical description of our God is that he is The Holy One. Singing the word "holy" three times is a Hebrew way of saying that God is supremely holy.

Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come." Rev. 4:8

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are arranged in four stanzas, each corresponding to a system. The first system includes a four-part setting of 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!' followed by a single line of lyrics. The second system continues the four-part setting with the lyrics 'Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.' The third system continues the four-part setting with the lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!'. The fourth system concludes the piece with the lyrics 'God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!'. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The score is marked with various chords (D, Bm, A, G, E7) and includes a final double bar line.

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
though the eye of sin - ful man thy glo - ry may not see,
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
per - fect in pow'r, in love, and pur - i - ty.
God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Speak, O Lord

“In public worship, the transition from praising God in song to hearing from him in his Word, is important. This hymn prepares the congregation for the divine dialogue between the Spirit of God and the heart of the listener. It corrects our tendency to look to man by ensuring that our focus is on the Lord of the Word. The lyric provides a strong reminder that we are not simply to hear the Word, but we must do what it says.”

Alistair Begg, Senior Pastor of Parkside Church, Cleveland, OH – truthforlife.org

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of Your Holy Word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility;
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail—
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us—
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises,
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory.

Words and Music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend
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Scripture

Galatians 1:1-10

Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—² and all the brothers who are with me, To the churches of Galatia:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,⁴ who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,⁵ to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—⁷ not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.¹⁰ For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Why do we exist: To glorify and enjoy God.

What kind of place do we want to be? A welcoming, grace-filled, all-nations ***community of Jesus Christ*** in the Presbyterian tradition.

What kind of focus do we want to have? As the church gathers to love God and our neighbor, we will make disciples of Jesus Christ who are learning to *worship God, proclaim Christ, and love others.*

Bible Study Notes

“Community”: “A group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common.” (<http://www.oxforddictionaries.com>)

What characteristic does a community of Jesus Christ have in common?

A commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

A Divine Origin: From God not from man.

A ‘Good News’ focus: “*Grace & Peace...*”

A Necessity: Living for God’s Approval not Man’s Approval.

Resources for further study: *The Gospel as Center: Renewing our Faith and Reforming Our Ministry Practices*, edited by D. A. Carson & Timothy Keller; *The Origin of Paul’s Religion*, by J. Gresham Machen; *The Church*, by Edmund Clowney.

Prayer Groups – Requests and Notes

Gather into groups of 4-8 people. Prayer will be guided by the leader through three focus areas.

Prayer Focus 1: *Worship God*

“Let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.”

(Hebrews 12:28-29 ESV)

Key items for prayer:

That our worship of God together would be acceptable to Him.

That our worship would be biblically informed *and* accessible to people who are new to the faith.

Prayer Focus 2: *Proclaim Christ*

“Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.” (Colossians 1:28 ESV)

Key items for prayer:

That we would be diligent to talk to our friends and neighbors about the gospel and freely bring them to our meetings.

That we see Hershey area residents come to faith through our witness.

Prayer Focus 3: *Love Others*

“As we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.” (Galatians 6:10 ESV)

Key items for prayer:

That we learn true neighbor-love for the unbelievers around us.

That we love, support, and care for each other with a Christ-like love.

Prayer Groups – Requests and Notes cont'd

And Can It be That I Should Gain

Charles Wesley wrote this hymn to celebrate his conversion. Diarmaid MacCulloch, Oxford's professor of the History of the Church, called this tune "one of the best-loved of Wesley's six thousand hymns." Through it we rejoice in our new life in union with Jesus Christ which is by grace alone.

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Rom. 5:8

1. And can it be that I should gain an in - t'rest
 2. 'Tis mys - t'ry all! Th'Im - mor - tal dies: who can ex -
 3. He left his Fa - ther's throne a - bove (so free, so
 4. Long my im - pris - oned spir - it lay fast bound in
 5. No con - dem - na - tion now I dread; Je - sus, and

in the Sav - ior's blood? Died he for me, who caused his
 plore his strange de - sign? In vain the first - born ser - aph
 • in - fi - nite his grace!), hum - bled him - self (so great his
 sin and na - ture's night; thine eye dif - fused a quick - 'ning
 all in him, is mine! A - live in him, my liv - ing

pain? For me, who him to death pur - sued? A - maz - ing love!
 tries to sound the depths of love di - vine. 'Tis mer - cy all!
 • love!), and bled for all his cho - sen race. 'Tis mer - cy all,
 ray; I woke, the dun - geon flamed with light; my chains fell off,
 Head, and clothed in righ - teous - ness di - vine, bold I ap - proach

How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst
 Let earth adore, let an - gel minds in -
 • im - mense and free; for, O my God, it
 my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and
 th'e - ter - nal throne, and claim the crown, through

die for me?
 • quire no more. A - maz - ing love! How can it
 • found out me. A - maz - ing love! How
 fol - lowed thee. A - maz - ing love! How
 Christ, my own.

REFRAIN

be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
 can it be that thou, my God,

A few items of information:

- 1) Thank you to everyone who helped make our first Core Group Meeting happen. Musicians tonight included Nick Yingst and Ephraim Church. Childcare provided tonight by Katrina Bailey and Nate Moore.
- 2) Biblical quotes are from the English Standard Version (ESV); the quote about *“All People that on Earth Do Dwell”* is from www.reference.com; the quote about *“Speak, O Lord”* is reprinted in *Keith and Kristen Getty Live at The Gospel Coalition Songbook*, page 10; quotes about *“And Can It Be”* from Wikipedia.
- 3) Use of Front Cover Mosaic image licensed from www.shutterstock.com (pic-13767766).
- 4) Front Cover Mosaic Information: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_the_Multiplication
- 5) Music used by permission: CCLI License #703337.
- 6) Help Needed for Future Core Group Meetings: We are looking for help at other Core Group Meetings, including: help to setup facility at 3:30 PM, providing a meal, childcare workers, photographers, vocals, musicians, and help to reset the facility afterwards. If you can help in future weeks, email David K at dkertland@trinityhbg.com
- 7) Volunteers Needed to Serve on Launching Teams: Help is also needed as we make plans to launch a weekly worship service. Four teams are being organized: *Gathering*, *Welcoming*, *Worship*, and *Education*. Email dkertland@trinityhbg.com to volunteer or for more information about each Launching Team.

The Hershey PCA Core Group **hersheypca.com**

an outreach ministry of
Trinity Presbyterian Church (PCA)
www.trinityhbg.com