

Hershey PCA Core Group Meeting



January 25, 2015



The cover mosaic is from the 5th Century (c. 432-440 AD). It is part of a mosaic cycle of biblical images in the Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome, Italy. This mosaic depicts the biblical scene from Genesis 18 when the Lord appeared to Abraham. As Abraham welcomes the three men to his home, he demonstrates the ancient practice of showing hospitality to strangers.

Tonight's theme is on the biblical call to become a welcoming community.

Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Romans 12:13

*Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,
for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.*

Hebrews 13:2

Welcome & Information

Welcome to tonight's Core Group Meeting! We are glad that you are here as we seek to establish a PCA worship site in the Hershey Area. 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.

What is meant by "Core Group"? "Core Group" is a term that describes the people who are helping 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 help the new worship site begin in the Hershey Area. The Core Group Meeting is open to all and is a great opportunity for you to invite others out to hear more about our hopes and dreams for Hershey PCA! They also provide a time for conversation and an opportunity for deepening relationships with others.

Hershey PCA Core Group Meeting Schedule: All Core Group Meetings begin with a light meal at 4:30 PM followed by the meeting at 5:30 PM. Childcare is provided for the meeting. Each meeting will center on one key aspect of the new worship site. The first five meetings will center on the *kind of community* we want to become, while the final three meetings will center on the *kind of focus* that we want to have as a church:

January 11, 2015	"A Community of Jesus Christ"
January 25, 2015	"A Welcoming Community"
February 8, 2015	"A Grace-Filled Community"
February 22, 2015	"An All-Nations Community"
March 8, 2015	"A Community...in the Presbyterian Tradition"
March 15, 2015	"To Worship God"
March 22, 2015	"To Proclaim Christ"
March 29, 2015	"To Love Others"

Weekly, Sunday Worship Services in Hershey begin soon! Our plan is to begin worship services in Hershey with a two-step process. **Step 1** is to begin weekly, Sunday evening worship services. This step allows us to start holding worship services sooner. **Step 2** is to move the weekly worship service to Sunday mornings. Our current plan:

Sunday Evening Worship Services begin on April 12, 2015
Sunday Morning Worship Services begin on June 7, 2015

"Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain." Psalm 127:1

Hershey PCA Launching Teams

We are seeking to establish four Launching Teams to help start the Hershey PCA worship site. Launching Team Coordinators have expressed willingness to get the teams together and begin their work. Launching Teams do not have to do all the work on their own. Rather, they are being formed in order to make sure that their specific area of church life is ready for the launch of Hershey PCA. ***We need your help! Where would you like to serve?*** A full description of each team's responsibilities and tasks is available.

Gathering Team

Coordinators: David Cross & Glenda Trumpower

The *Gathering Team* exists to help develop a culture of outreach at Hershey PCA. Main tasks include: encourage us to be active in outreach; prayer; organize and begin *Christianity Explored*; plan ways to help us to meet and invite new people to Hershey PCA—into our homes and lives, to our Core Group Meetings, worship services, and other events.

Welcoming Team

Coordinator: Michael Miller

The *Welcoming Team* exists to help develop a friendly and welcoming meeting site and congregation at Hershey PCA. Main tasks include: encourage us to be welcoming toward existing people and toward community guests; prayer; prepare our worship site for easy access with clear and friendly communication; organize teams to welcome guests (parking, welcome table, literature table, greeters, ushers, etc.); organize teams for a “welcome time for guests”; organize church social times and congregational meals.

Worship Team

Coordinator: David Kertland

The *Worship Team* exists to help develop a functioning worship site at Hershey PCA. Main tasks include: encourage us to be a body of believers who are devoted to the worship of God; prayer; prepare the worship site for weekly corporate worship (set up and tear down, furnishings, seating, lighting and sound, sacrament preparation, etc.); coordinate with Treasurer to take, count, and deposit tithes and offerings following Trinity policies; scheduling musicians for weekly worship services.

Education Team

Coordinators: Bonnie Kertland & Cate Miller

The *Education Team* exists to help develop a pattern of discipleship training at Hershey PCA. Many of the tasks for this team focus *primarily* on getting things in place for children and youth, including to: encourage us to be a maturing body of believers who are learning to observe all that Jesus has commanded us (Matt. 28:19); prayer; prepare and staff a nursery for all Hershey PCA worship services and events; organize a Children's Church time; plan for Sunday Bible Classes for all ages (when appropriate); coordinate the joint ministries with Trinity PCA staff (Kid's Club and other Children's ministries, youth group, ESL, WIC events, etc.); including arranging rides to the Harrisburg site as needed.

Tonight's Worship

Call to Worship & Opening Prayer

Psalm 131

A Song of Ascents. Of David

O LORD, my heart is not lifted up;
my eyes are not raised too high;

I do not occupy myself with things too great and
too marvelous for me.
But I have calmed and quieted my soul.

like a weaned child with its mother;
like a weaned child is my soul within me.

O Israel, hope in the LORD.
from this time forth and forevermore.

Black Text = Read by Leader
Blue Text = Read by Group

The God of Abraham Praise

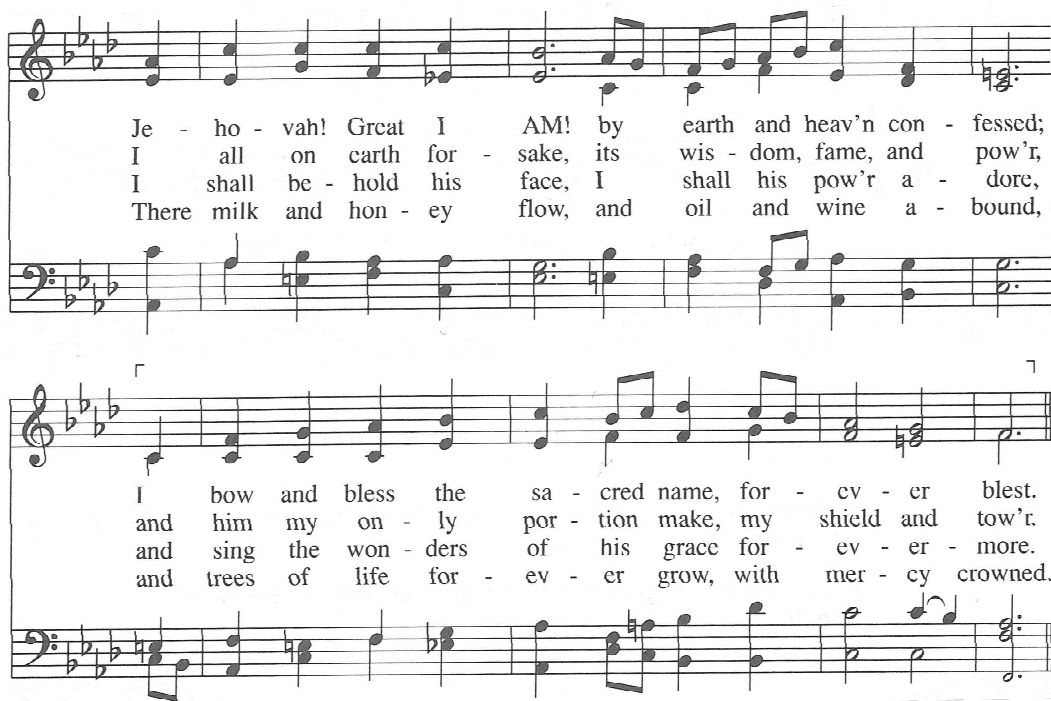
The story of this hymn is recounted at cyberhymnal.org: "One night in London, [Olivers] was attracted to a service in a Jewish synagogue, where he heard a great singer, Leoni, sing an ancient Hebrew melody in the solemn, plaintive mode and he became impressed with a desire to write a hymn to that tune. The result was our hymn, 'The God of Abraham Praise,' which in a sense is a paraphrase of the ancient Hebrew Yigdal, or doxology, though Olivers gave to it a distinctly Christian flavor." It first appeared in 1770.

Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Heb. 11:6

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 two systems of music. The first system contains four verses of lyrics. The second system contains the concluding lines of the hymn. The melody is a simple, plaintive tune. The lyrics are as follows:

1. The God of A - braham praise, who reigns en - throned a - bove,
2. The God of A - braham praise, at whose su - preme com - mand
3. He by him - self hath sworn, I on his oath de - pend;
4. The good - ly land I see, with peace and plen - ty blest,

An - cient of ev - cr - last - ing days and God of love.
from earth I rise, and seek the joys at his right hand.
I shall, on ea - gles' wings up - borne, to heav'n as - cend.
a land of sa - cred lib - er - ty and end - less rcst.



Je - ho - vah! Great I AM! by earth and heav'n con - fessed;
 I all on earth for - sake, its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r,
 I shall be - hold his face, I shall his pow'r a - dore,
 There milk and hon - ey flow, and oil and wine a - bound,

I bow and bless the sa - cred name, for - ev - er blest.
 and him my on - ly por - tion make, my shield and tow'r.
 and sing the won - ders of his grace for - ev - er - more.
 and trees of life for - ev - er grow, with mer - cy crowned.

5. There dwells the Lord our King, the Lord our Righteousness,
 triumphant o'er the world and sin, the Prince of Peace.
 On Zion's sacred height his kingdom he maintains,
 and glorious with his saints in light forever reigns.
6. The whole triumphant host gives thanks to God on high;
 "Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!" they ever cry.
 Hail, Abraham's God and mine! I join the heav'nly lays;
 all might and majesty are thine, and endless praise.

The Nicene Creed

We confess our common faith tonight with the Nicene 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: "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 madew
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.

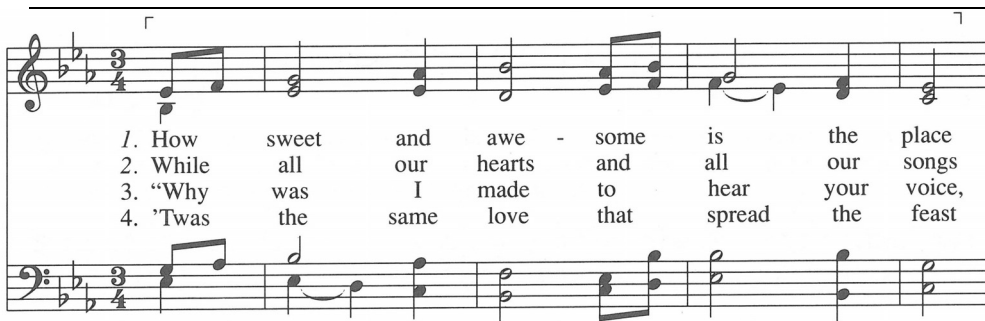
Amen.

How Sweet and Awesome is the Place

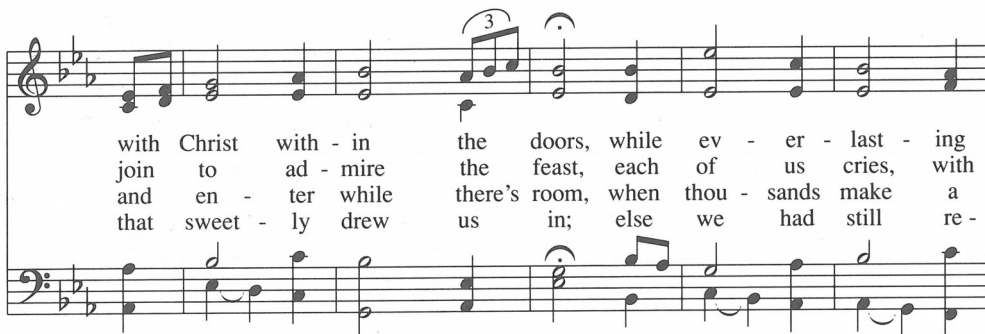
This Irish folk tune is a beautiful reflection on God's kindness to us in election. The theme moves us to be thankful and humble. It ends with a longing that others—who are now strangers to the gospel—will be brought home by the Lord and become members of his church.

Are we asking the Lord to send to us those whom he is drawing to himself?

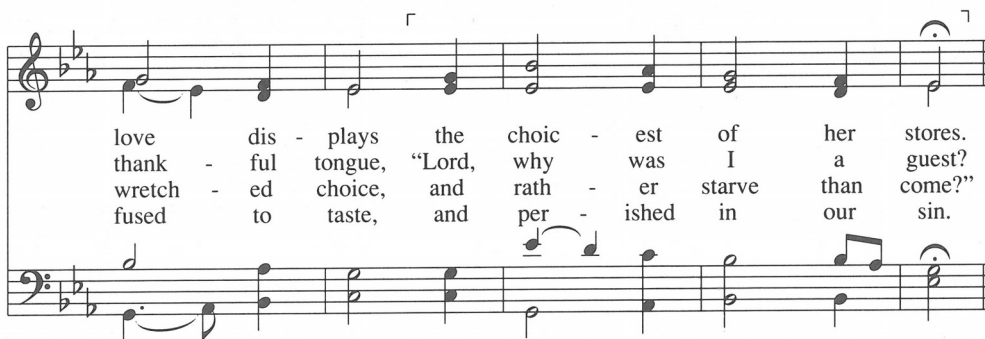
Are we ready to welcome them into God's family?



1. How sweet and awe - some is the place
 2. While all our hearts and all our songs
 3. "Why was I made to hear your voice,
 4. 'Twas the same love that spread the feast



with Christ with - in the doors, while ev - er - last - ing
 join to ad - mire the feast, each of us cries, with
 and en - ter while there's room, when thou - sands make a
 that sweet - ly drew us in; else we had still re -



love dis - plays the choic - est of her stores.
 thank - ful tongue, "Lord, why was I a guest?
 wretch - ed choice, and rath - er starve than come?"
 fused to taste, and per - ished in our sin.

5. Pity the nations, O our God,
 constrain the earth to come;
 send your victorious Word abroad,
 and bring the strangers home.

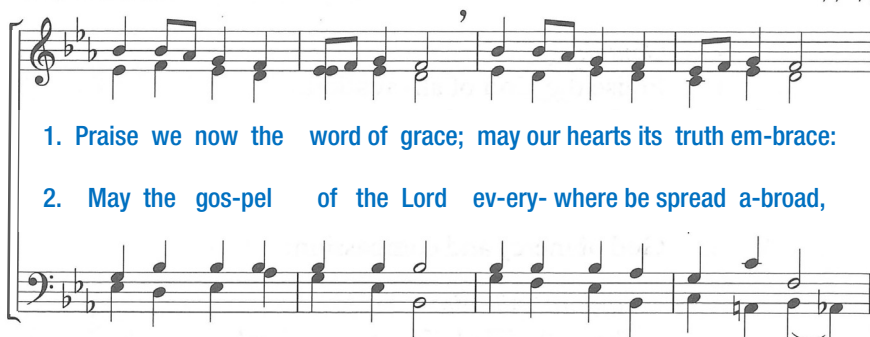
6. We long to see your churches full,
 that all the chosen race
 may, with one voice and heart and soul,
 sing your redeeming grace.

Preparing to Hear God's Word Read

This brief tune reminds us to listen to God's Word with receptive anticipation.
And, it encourages us to take what we hear and proclaim it to the world.

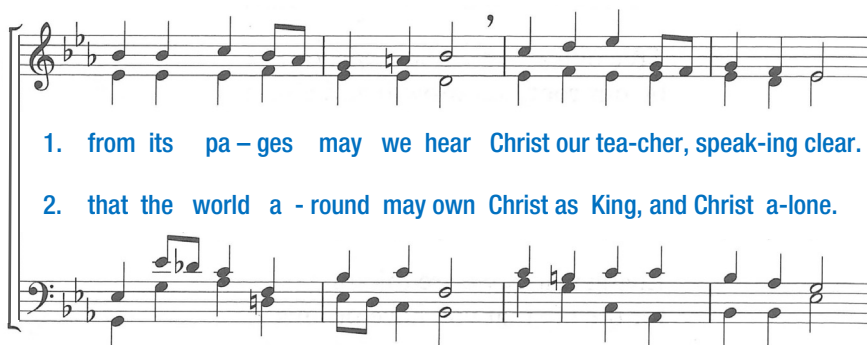
SAVANNAH

77 77



1. Praise we now the word of grace; may our hearts its truth em-brace:

2. May the gos-pel of the Lord ev-ery- where be spread a-broad,



1. from its pa-ges may we hear Christ our tea-cher, speak-ing clear.

2. that the world a-round may own Christ as King, and Christ a-lone.

Words by Sidney Newman Sedgwick (1872-1941)

Tune: Savannah; Music: Melody from Hernhut collection, . 1740 in John Wesley's *A Collection of Tunes, Set to Music, As they are commonly sung at the Foundery* 1742.

Scripture

Exodus 23: 9: *"You shall not oppress a sojourner. You know the heart of a sojourner, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt."*

Leviticus 19:33-34: *"When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. ³⁴ You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God."*



Ephesians 2:11-22: *"Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called 'the uncircumcision' by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹² remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."*



Romans 12:13: *"Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality."*

1 Peter 4:9: *"Show hospitality to one another without grumbling."*

Hebrews 13:2: *"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."*

Why do we exist: To glorify and enjoy God.

What kind of people 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

Welcoming: "The action of greeting with welcome or of making welcome."

Hospitality: "The act or practice of being hospitable; the reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers, with liberality and goodwill."

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

We are called to be *a welcoming community*.

1) The Lord's Call to Be a Welcoming People:

Matthew 25: 31-46

Luke 15:1-7

Exodus 23:9; Leviticus 19:33-34; Deuteronomy 10:17-19; 24:17-22

Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:2; 1 Peter 4:7-10

2) The Biblical Practice of Hospitality:

Genesis 18:1-8

Psalm 23

3) The Practices of a Welcoming Community:

Prayers of Intercession for One Another & the World

Requests and Notes

Gather into groups of 4-8 people. Begin by taking personal prayer requests from group members. A place is provided to note requests. Prayer will be guided by the leader through the focus areas.

Prayer Focus 1: *A Welcoming Community—to One Another*

“Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.” (1 Peter 4:9)

Prayer Focus 2: *A Welcoming Community—to the Hershey Community*

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” (Hebrews 13:2)

Prayer Focus 3: *Praying for One Another & the Worldwide Church*

"...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints..."
(Ephesians 6:18)

Prayer Requests:

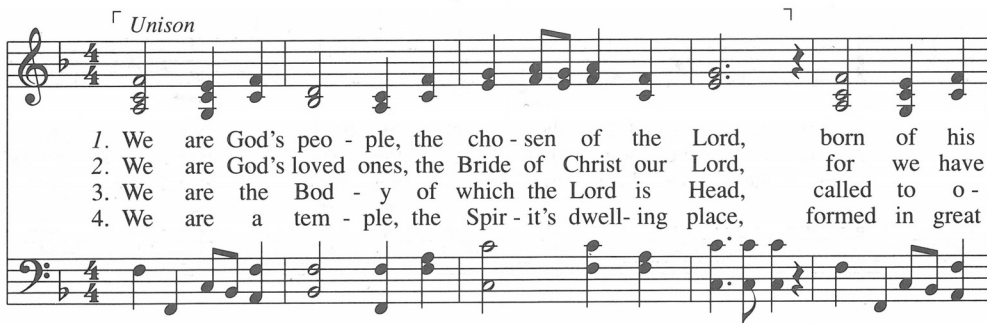
On Next Page:

We Are God's People

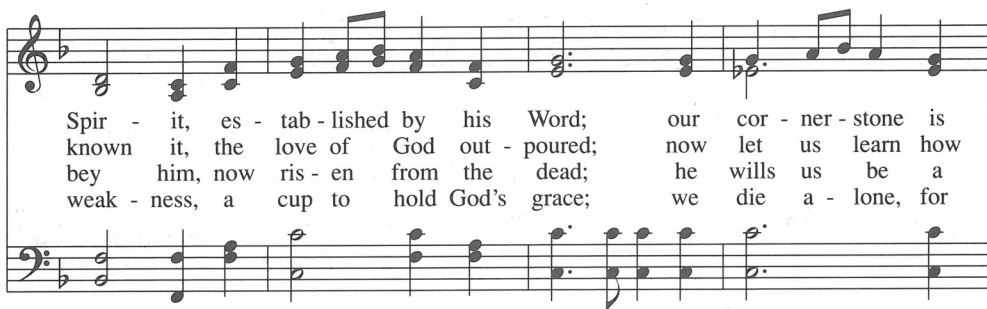
Edmund Clowney, Late Professor and Past President of Westminster Theological Seminary, was known for his teaching on the church as well as his emphasis on Christ-centered sermons. Of him, Charles D. Drew has written: "Anyone who has seen Ed's artwork, or sung his hymns, or read his poetry...knows that a deep love for aesthetics drove him. He did not simply love theology. He loved the beauty of theology—better, the beauty of the God of theology." This song celebrates the Bible's varied teaching about the church.

We are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Ps. 100:3

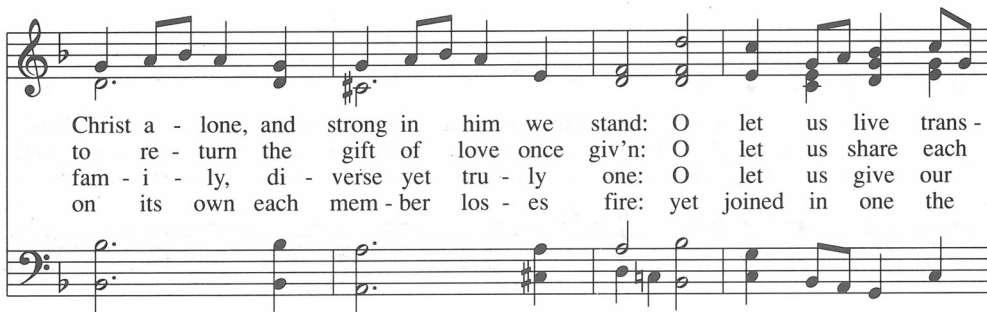
Unison



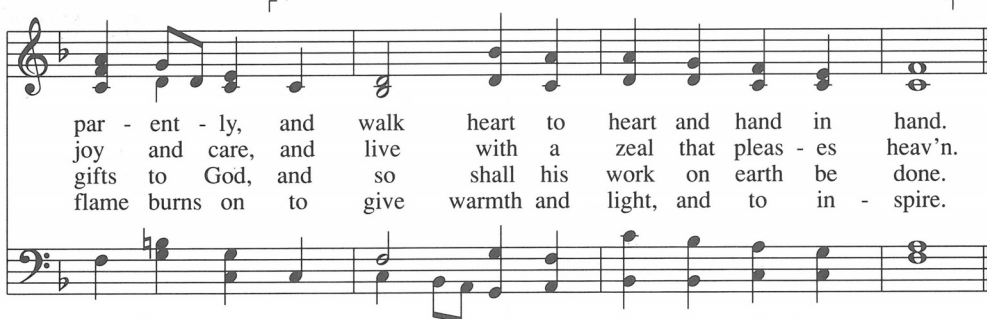
1. We are God's peo - ple, the cho - sen of the Lord, born of his
 2. We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord, for we have
 3. We are the Bod - y of which the Lord is Head, called to o -
 4. We are a tem - ple, the Spir - it's dwell - ing place, formed in great



Spir - it, es - tab - lished by his Word; our cor - ner - stone is
 known it, the love of God out - poured; now let us learn how
 bey him, now ris - en from the dead; he wills us be a
 weak - ness, a cup to hold God's grace; we die a - lone, for



Christ a - lone, and strong in him we stand: O let us live trans -
 to re - turn the gift of love once giv'n: O let us share each
 fam - i - ly, di - verse yet tru - ly one: O let us give our
 on its own each mem - ber los - es fire: yet joined in one the



par - ent - ly, and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.
 joy and care, and live with a zeal that pleas - es heav'n.
 gifts to God, and so shall his work on earth be done.
 flame burns on to give warmth and light, and to in - spire.

Hershey Presbyterian Church (PCA)

We are seeking to establish **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.*”

A few items of information:

- 1) Our pianist is Nick Yingst; childcare is provided by Patty and Jonathan Logan.
- 2) Biblical quotes are from the English Standard Version (ESV).
- 3) Front Cover Mosaic: The JPEG image of the mosaic was downloaded from http://counterlightsrantsandblather1.blogspot.com/2009_08_01_archive.html. Use of the image implies no endorsement of the opinions expressed in the blog.
- 4) Music used by permission: CCLI License #703337.
- 5) “The God of Abraham Praise” (No. 34), “How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place” (No. 469), and “We Are God’s People” (No. 355) are reprinted from the Trinity Hymnal (Great Commission Publications, Atlanta, GA. 2000). The hymn on page 9 is reprinted from *Ancient and Modern: Hymns and Songs for Refreshing Worship—Full Music Edition* (Hymns Ancient & Modern Ltd, London. 2013, 386i)
- 6) Definitions on page 12 are from The Oxford English Dictionary Online (www.oed.com); the quote on page 14 is from *Heralds of the king: Christ-Centered Sermons in the Tradition of Edmund P. Clowney*. Ed. Dennis E. Johnson, Crossway. 2009, 105.

The Hershey PCA Core Group

hersheypca.com

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