

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you and has turned away your enemies. **Zephaniah 3:14-15**

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid, for the Lord is my strength and my might; God has become my salvation. **Isaiah 12:2**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. **Philippians 4:4**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance." **Luke 3:7**

**Preacher**  
Rev. Bill Sitterley  
**Piano**  
Georgiann Toole  
**Assistants**  
Evelyn Groff  
William Gibbs  
Leslie Williams

#### To Our Guests

Glad you're with us. Please sign the guest book by the front door and fill in a visitor's card from the pew pocket. After the service enjoy a cup of fair trade coffee with friends in the Fellowship Hall.

#### Childcare Available

In the nursery at the 11:00 service  
See ushers for assistance.

## GATHERING OUR HEARTS

### Introit (2x)

Surely it is God who saves us.  
We will trust in Love and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is our stronghold and our sure defense,  
and God will be our savior.

### Proclamation

In life and death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God,  
whom alone we worship and serve.

### Call to Prayer

Lift up your hearts  
*We lift them up to the Lord*

### Prayer

### Lighting of Advent Candle

† † †

### \*Hymn 87

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

## ENCOUNTERING GRACE

### Prayer for Wholeness

Creator God, you have given us a world of such goodness and abundance. You show us the great power of love, and invite us to create with you. But we are afraid. We fill our lives with diversions, and turn away from suffering and darkness. Teach us to trust you, and inspire us to be messengers of hope, peace and joy.

### Silence

### Kyrie (2x)

Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy  
Lord, have mercy on us

### Declaration of Grace & Gratitude

### \*Response

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

### Welcome

### Blessing the World

Cyprus, Greece, Turkey

### \*\*Hymn 94

"Now the Heavens Start to Whisper"

### First Pew

### Parish Life

### Hymn 93

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

## HEARING THE WORD

### Reading

### Interlude

### Lesson

Luke 3:7-18

### Sermon

"This is Good News?"

### \*Hymn 434

"Restore in Us, O God"

## SHARING THE GIFTS OF LIFE

### Eucharistic Prayer

### Communion

Come and fill our hearts with your love.  
You alone, O Lord, are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts with your love.  
Alleluia.

## SERVING THE WORLD

### Presenting Offerings

### Offertory

"Sing All Ye Nations"  
Daniel C. Meyer

### Affirmation

† † †

### \*Credo

With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### \*Response

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis deo.  
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia.

† † †

### Charge and Benediction

### Postlude

John's cry repent! is not a summons to futility nor is it a call to grit your moral teeth so you can change all your naughty habits to nice ones before Santa arrives. No. That way leads to spiritual paralysis. The call of John the Baptizer is a call to turn our attention from ourselves toward the Good News - the One who makes all things new.

**Rev. Roy Howard**

The wilderness is an untamed, unpredictable place of solitude and searching. It is a place as dangerous as it is breathtaking, a place as sought after as it is feared. But it turns out to be the place of true belonging, and it's the bravest and most sacred place you will ever stand."

**Brené Brown**

To repent is to come to your senses. It is not so much something you do as something that happens. True repentance spends less time looking at the past and saying, "I'm sorry," than to the future and saying, "Wow!"

**Frederick Buechner**

We can become listeners to each other's hearts, fellow travelers who hear each other into fullness and into God.

**Wendy M. Wright**

**Flowers placed today by**  
the Price family fund

\* stand if you are able

\*\* children grades 5 and  
younger to the first pew

**Sermons & Newsletters**  
shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

**Sunday flowers**  
sign up in office

**Kyrie** by Bro. Stefan Waligur

*Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church: An Inclusive Spiritual Community.* We welcome all who long for meaning, hope, and belonging. Our faith & practice are rooted in the way of Jesus and enriched by wisdom from all sources. We are committed to being and becoming people of radical compassion, working for justice and wholeness in ourselves and the world.



### Sun 16 • Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Worship with Communion  
12:15 p.m. Refugee support committee. CR 1

### Wed 19

3:00 p.m. Social Justice. Classroom No. 1  
7:00 p.m. Listening group. Balcony

### Thu 20

10:00 a.m. Listening group. Classroom No. 1  
7:30 p.m. Choir practice. Choir Room

### Sat 21

1:00 p.m. Yarns & Threads. Fellowship Hall

### Sun 23 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Micah 5:2–5a; Psalm 80:1–7; Hebrews 10:5–10;*  
*Luke 1:39–45 (46–55)*

11:00 a.m. Worship with Communion

**2019 CHURCH DIRECTORY Last Sunday** to make sure you are listed and it's correct. Copies in Narthex and Fellowship Hall.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS TEEN** collects and distributes gifts to needy teenagers in our area. The goal is to provide three items in a gift bag for each of the 3,000 teens identified as in need. Store gift cards or unwrapped teen-appropriate gifts are greatly appreciated. A collection box will be in the Fellowship Hall through Dec. 16.

**ONE SERVICE ONLY** at 11:00 a.m. Dec. 23; Dec. 30 (Children's Pageant); Jan. 6 (Epiphany and Ordination of Officers).

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:** 5:00 p.m. Especially for children; 8:00 p.m. Choirs, homily and candlelight; 11:00 p.m. Carol sing, communion and candlelight.

**CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING** will be split between Bluefields, Nicaragua, partner church, and Coalfield Development Corporation, in southern WV, founded by Brandon Dennison, former SPC Youth Director.

**CHILDREN'S PAGEANT, Sunday, Dec. 30, at 11 a.m. service.** All children are welcome to participate. There are parts for everyone. Sign up Sundays Dec. 16 & 23 or with Chris Morehouse at noahsfamily@frontiernet.net. Rehearsals Saturday, Dec. 29 10-12 & Sunday, Dec 30 9:45 a.m. right before the service.

**JOY GIFT DINNER.** *The entire congregation together in one place at one time.* **Sunday, Jan. 6, 5:00–7:00 p.m.,** Asbury United Methodist Church. Ham, beverages and tableware provided. Bring a food dish to serve 12. Food assignments per last name: A–H dessert, I–P side dish, Q–Z vegetable or salad. Would you like to help plan, set up or clean up? It's a lot of fun and works best with many helping hands! Contact Cari Simon, via the office.

**SPANISH LESSONS** and Chat at SPC. Join us Wednesdays, 12:30 to 2:00 pm, starting Jan. 9. Half the session will be in Spanish and half in English. If you want to start right away, you can sign on to Duolingo which offers free Spanish lessons on line. Hope you can join us!

### SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Interim Pastor: Bill Sitterley • BSitterley@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org  
Director of Spiritual Formation: Ethel Hornbeck • ethel@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

### The Season of Advent

Third Sunday

December 16, 2018

11:00 a.m.

## Make a Way

Make a way, O God, for peace.

Make a way for the work of peace in our hearts  
and for the reception of peace in this angry world.

Bring about your day of justice, long overdue.

Make a way, merciful God, for healing.

Turn our steps away from violent division  
and toward one another in love & with learning.

Let solidarity build like a rising dawn.

Make a way, dear Jesus, for love.

Clear a path for love to discredit evil  
and for tenderness to out-wrestle power.  
Focus the eyes of our hearts on your day of joy.

Make a way for patience, most restless Spirit.

Free our spirits of anxiety and distraction  
and plant within us the patience to work & conspire  
for your day of deliverance, and for your glory.

Amen.

**Rachel Hackenberg**

### SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Celebrating 275 Years*

*Claiming the Past • Engaging the Present • Imagining the Future*

*We Choose Welcome*