

## Let the Star of Morning Rise

Lord God,  
in the deepest night  
there rises the star of morning,  
of birth,  
the herald of a new day you are making,  
a day of great joy dawning  
in yet faint shafts  
of light and love.

I hear whispers of peace in the stillness,  
fresh breezes of promise stirring,  
winter sparrows chirping of life,  
a baby's cry of need  
and hope --  
Christmas!

In the darkness I see the light  
and find in it comfort, confidence,  
cause for celebration,  
for the darkness cannot overcome it;  
and I rejoice to nourish it in myself,  
in other people, in the world  
for the sake of him in whom it was born  
and shines forever, even Jesus the Christ.  
Amen.

Ted Loder

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### SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

100 W. Washington Street  
Shepherdstown, West Virginia  
Established 1743

*Faithfulness Sustains the Generations*  
[www.shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](http://www.shepherdstownpresbyterian.org)

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**Prelude**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

\*Hymn 133 (vs. 1, 3, 4)

“O Come, All Ye Faithful

\*Psalm 98

\*Hymn 134

“Joy to the World”

**Prayer of Confession**

O Beloved, Creator of all that is, Your Spirit broods over the unruly waters. You call forth light and life out of darkness. You create us and call us blessed. Forgive us for refusing your blessing. Forgive us for ignoring your invitations to live and love boldly. Lead us out into the world you are creating. Fill us with your love and mercy.

**Kyrie eleison** (2x)

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

Bro. Stefan Waligur

**Parish Life**

**Prayer for others**

**Hymn 123** (vs. 1, 2, 5)

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

**Reading:** Canticle of the Turning

**Hymn 121** (vs. 1, 2)

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

**Lesson:** Luke 2

**“A Manger Carol”**

arr. Keith Christopher

\*Hymn 119

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

**Reflections of light and grace**

*The Lord is my light, my light and salvation.*

*In God I trust, in God I trust.*

**Interlude**

**Reading:** For the Time Being

**Hymn 145**

“What Child Is This”

**Blessing**

\*Hymn 113

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

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\* Please stand if you are able  
Offering baskets at exits

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