

God said, "Let there be light." **Genesis 1:3**

The voice of the LORD is over the waters. **Psalm 29:3**

The Holy Spirit came upon them. **Acts 19:6**

"I have baptized you with water." **Mark 1:8**

Preacher
Rev. Gusti Linnea Newquist

Assistants
Joseph Scott
Jen Jones

Choir Director
Steve Grives

Accompanist
Sam Jannotta

Tech Support
Mark Nutwell

To Our Guests
We are glad you are 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.

THE FONT OF IDENTITY

† † †

+Introit (2x)

*The light is coming, the light is coming back.
Darkness may reign for a moment,
but the light is coming back.*

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.

Prayer for the Waters

*+Hymn 32

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

Prayer for Light

Under the trees light
has dropped from the top of the sky,
light
like a green
latticework of branches,
shining
on every leaf,
drifting down like clean
white sand.
A cicada sends
its sawing song
high into the empty air.
The world is
a glass overflowing
with water.

+Response 467, v. 1-2

*Give us light; give us light; give us light, O Lord.
Give us life, give us life; give us life, O Lord*

Declaration of Grace and Gratitude

*Response 666, v. 1-2

"O Splendor of God's glory bright"

Blessing the World

Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden

+Response 842 (2x)

*The Lord is my light, my light and salvation:
in God I trust; in God I trust.*

First Pew

+Response 842 (2x)

*The Lord is my light, my light and salvation:
in God I trust; in God I trust.*

Welcome and Parish Life

THE WORD OF HOPE

† † †

Reading

Interlude

"Carol of the Bells"

Lesson

Genesis 1:1-3

Sermon

"Let There Be!"

*Response 484

"Out of Deep, Unordered Water"

THE BREAD OF LIFE

† † †

Baptismal Blessing

Baptismal Serenade

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory

"Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day"

† † †

*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*

*+Sending 853, v. 1, 4

*We are marching in the light of God;
we are marching in the light of God. (repeat)*

*We are marching, we are marching,
we are marching in the light of God. (repeat)*

We are singing in the light of God ...

*Postlude

Such is the way of creation: first comes darkness, then light.

Talmud Shabbat 77b

Creation is everything you do. Make something.
Ntozake Shange

The entire universe is inside you. **Rumi**

Make of yourself a light.
Buddha

**Please rise in body and spirit.*

Prayer for the Waters

Anjandev Roy

Lesson Translation

Rev. Gusti Linnea Newquist

Flowers

Made possible by many generous donations by the congregation

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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.



Baptism of the Lord

January 7, 2024

11:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 7 • Baptism of the Lord

Isa 42:1-9; Ps 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matt 3:13-17

- 8:30 a.m. Early Service Worship Communion - Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday Seminar – Fellowship Hall/Hybrid
- 11:00 a.m. Service of Worship - Sanctuary and Facebook Live!
Sunday Studio - Children K-5th Grade - Classroom 1
- 3:45 p.m. Community Meal food dropoff - kitchen
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Group Gathering with Special Guest - Fellowship Hall
Monthly Hymn Sing - Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Community Meal - Zion Episcopal Church Social Center,
215 E. Washington St., Charles Town, WV 25414

Monday, January 8

- 1:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal - Upstairs hallway outside of choir room
- 7:00 p.m. Teach the Preacher via Zoom

Tuesday, December 9

- 1:30 p.m. SPC History Project Meeting
- 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

Wednesday, January 10

- 10:30 p.m. Exploring Spiritual Practices (ESP) via Zoom

Thursday, January 11

- 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting - Fellowship Hall/Hybrid

Sunday, January 14

Isa 49:1-7; Ps 40:1-11; 1 Cor 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

- 8:30 a.m. Early Service Worship with Communion - Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday Seminar – Fellowship Hall/Hybrid
- 11:00 a.m. Service of Worship with Communion - Sanctuary and Facebook Live!
Sunday Studio - Children K-5th Grade - Classroom 1

Light Years

The man of science and the poet chatted,
Smoking and strolling through the summer night.
“What is that tiny star so redly burning?”
The poet asked. A distant burst of mirth
Drowned out the answer, but on their returning
I heard: “Nine hundred light-years from the earth.”

“Nine hundred light-years!” said the poet softly.
“While yonder ray was traveling earthward then,
Crusades were fought and finished, kingdoms crumbled,
Science was opening up new worlds to men.
Or think: when first that light began to travel,
Eric the Red was skirting Labrador,
A Moorish king was weeping lost Granada,
Mahmud the Great had forced the Afghan door.”
“And what of England?” smiled the man of science,
Pausing to light his pipe. The poet said,
“Why, there were Sussex roses to fill the night with heartbreak,
And a young queen walked in starlight with proud and golden head.

Margaret Adelaide Wilson

MUSIC IN WORSHIP: The Introit is by Ann Zimmerman. The 18th Century German Opening hymn was originally written for children. The Response to the Prayer for Light is a typical *bhajan* from northern India. The Response to the Declaration pairs a 4th Century Latin text with a 15th Century dance-like tune. The Introduction and Response to the First Pew is from the Taizé community. The mid 20th Century Sermon hymn connects the waters of the font with creation, liberation, and sustenance. The late 20th Century Baptismal Blessing Serenade is by Libby Roderick. The late 20th Century Sending is a Zulu/Xhosa freedom song.

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1743
Radical Hospitality • Holistic Spirituality • Engaged Compassion
We Choose Welcome