

At that time I will bring you home.

Zephaniah 3:20

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. **Isaiah 12:3**

Rejoice in the Lord always. **Philippians 4:4**

The people were filled with expectation. **Luke 3:15**

Preacher

Rev. Gusti Linnea Newquist

Assistants

The Bailey Family
Keri Mahoney

Choir Director

Sheila Melendez

Choral Anthem

SPC Choir &
Handbell Choir

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 89, v. 1

*For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits;
truly my hope is in you.*

*O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory,
your radiance shines in all who look to you;
come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow.*

*For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits;
truly my hope is in you.*

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.

The Candle of Joy

***Hymn 87**

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

Prayer for Hope (see insert)

+Kyrie 576 (2x)

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

Declaration of Grace and Gratitude

+*Alleluia 586, (2x)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Blessing the World

Cyprus, Greece, Turkey

Response 158, v. 1-2

*Born in the night, Mary's Child, a long way from your home;
coming in need, Mary's Child, born in a borrowed room.*

*Clear shining light, Mary's child, your face lights up our way;
Light of the world, Mary's Child, dawn on our darkened day.*

First Pew

Response 158, v. 3-4

*Truth of our life, Mary's Child, you tell us God is good;
yes, it is true, Mary's Child, shown on your cross of wood;
Hope of the world, Mary's Child, you're coming soon to reign;
King of the earth, Mary's Child, walk in our streets again.*

Welcome and Parish Life

THE WORD OF HOPE

† † †

Reading

Choral Anthem

“Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree,”
Elizabeth Poston/Carl Schalk

Lesson

Isaiah 12:2-4

Sermon

“Water From the Well”

Hymn 833

“O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”

THE BREAD OF LIFE

† † †

Eucharistic Prayer

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory

† † †

***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 765**

*May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.*

*May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.*

*Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.*

***Postlude**

Water can be a metaphor for hope, as even in the driest of deserts, a single drop can bring life. **Anonymous**

*Please rise in body and spirit.

The Candle of Joy
Aristotle

Lesson Translation
New Revised Standard
Version Updated Edition

Sanctuary flowers
provided by
many generous donations
from 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.



Sunday, December 15 • Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14–20 Isaiah 12:2–6 Philippians 4:4–7 Luke 3:7–18

8:30 a.m. Early Service of Worship with Communion – Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. Service of Worship with Communion – Sanctuary and Facebook Live!

Sunday Studio – Children K-5th Grade – Classroom 2

Christmas Cheer Coffee Hour after worship - Everyone Invited!

12:15 p.m. Youth Group Gathering – Downstairs

Monday, December 16

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 18

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal – Choir room

Thursday, December 19

6:00 p.m. Communications Team Meeting – Fellowship Hall/Hybrid

Friday, December 20

10:00 a.m. Handbell Rehearsal – upstairs hallway outside choir room

6:30 p.m. Las Posadas – St. Agnes Church, Shepherdstown

Sunday, December 22 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

Psalms 80:1–7 Hebrews 10:5–10 Luke 1:39–45 (46–55)

8:30 a.m. Early Service of Worship with Communion – Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. Service of Worship with Communion – Sanctuary and Facebook Live!

Sunday Studio – Children K-5th Grade – Classroom 2

SERVICE MUSIC IN ADVENT: The late 20th Century Introit adapts four of the “Great O” antiphons of Advent. The late 20th Century Kyrie is a traditional liturgical text. The late 20th Century Alleluia is from the Taizé Community. The mid 20th Century Introduction and Response to the First Pew reflects the full arc of the Incarnation. The late 20th Century Communion hymn from the Philippines connects farmyard experience and Jesus’ lament over Jerusalem (Mt 23:37/Lk 13:34). The late 20th Century Sending Hymn is set to an Argentine folk melody.

TODAY’S HYMNS: The mid-19th Century Opening hymn pairs a late 17th German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1-5 with a tune from the mid-16th Century Genevan Psalter, probably derived from an earlier French folk song. The late-19th Century Sermon Hymn was composed by a Scotsman who named the tune for the 11th Century patroness of Scotland.

TODAY’S CHORAL ANTHEM, “Jesus Christ the Apple Tree”: Why apple tree? This sweet fruit refers to Christ who gives us abundance, faith, happiness, rest, and of course life. Christ gives us many reasons to live.

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Advent
Third Sunday

December 15, 2024

11 a.m.

The Communal Realm

Maybe you don’t know strength
until you’ve rested beneath
the branches of a magnolia tree,
feeling the weight of her regal, waxed leaves.

Maybe you don’t know community
until you’ve watched ants
rebuild what was broken
by a world much bigger than theirs.

Maybe you don’t know fortitude
until you’ve noticed geese
fly to the furthest border of warmth
to protect their children.

Maybe you don’t know compassion
until you place your hands in the dirt
and feel the pulse of the earth,
her heart and soul welcoming you.

Maybe you don’t know time
until you run your fingers over a river rock,
their skin softened by generations of magic.

Maybe you don’t know yourself
until the mirror of the water
reminds you of your goodness
and brings you home again.

Kaitlin B. Curtice

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1743

Radical Hospitality • Holistic Spirituality • Engaged Compassion

We Choose Welcome