

To provide ... the oil of gladness. **Isaiah 61:3**

Come home with shouts of joy. **Psalms 126:6**

Rejoice always. **1 Thessalonians 5:16**

“Make straight the way of the Lord.” **John 1:23**

Preacher

Rev. Gusti Linnea Newquist

Assistants

Sadie Santacrocce

Gino Santacrocce

Yvonne Fisher

Choir Director

Steve Grives

Accompanist

Sam Jannotta

Interlude

Handbell Choir

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 91 (2x)

*Come, come, Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.
Come, come, Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.*

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 89, refrain

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

Silence

Prayer for Joy

When the curtain parts, we suddenly feel
The cool air of heaven billowing about us,
And only for an instant
We know that we have made a difference.

+Response 90 (2x)

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!*

Declaration of Grace and Gratitude

+Response 92, v. 1-2

*While we are waiting, come. While we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.
With power and glory, come ...
Come, Savior, quickly come ...*

Blessing the World

Cyprus, Greece, Turkey

+Response 95 (2x)

*Prepare the way of the Lord.
Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God.*

First Pew

+Response 95, (2x)

*Prepare the way of the Lord.
Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God.*

Welcome and Parish Life

THE WORD OF HOPE

† † †

Reading

Interlude

“Carol of the Bells”

Lesson

1 Thessalonians 5:16

Rejoice always.

Meditation

“Waiting in Joy”

Silence

+Hymn 230

“Joyful Is the Dark”

THE BREAD OF LIFE

† † †

Eucharistic Prayer

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory

“Advent Carol”
by Alfred Fedak

† † †

Silence

***Prepare the Way**

All Creation Waits

The dark is not an end.
It's a door.
It's the way
a new beginning comes.
Gayle Boss

**Please rise in body and spirit.*

Candle of Joy

Jan Richardson, *adapted*

Prayer for Joy

Steven Charleston

Lesson Translation

New Revised
Standard Version

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.



Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

11:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 17 • Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24; John 1:6–8, 19–28

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

5:00 p.m. Youth Group Christmas Gathering - Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 18

6:30 p.m. Eastern Panhandle Youth Alliance - Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Teach the Preacher via Zoom

Tuesday, December 19

7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

Wednesday, December 20

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting - Fellowship Hall

11:30 a.m. Staff Christmas Luncheon - Fellowship Hall

4:30 p.m. Mission Committee Meeting - Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 24 • Fourth Sunday of Advent • Christmas Eve

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

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

No Sunday Studio

Isaiah 9:2–7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11–14; Luke 2:1–14 [15–20]

5:00 p.m. Family Service - Sanctuary and Facebook Live!

8:00 p.m. Service of Lessons & Carols - Sanctuary and Facebook Live!

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service in Sanctuary

Monday, December 25 • Happy Birthday Jesus!

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1–4 [5–12]; John 1:1–14

For Joy, excerpt

It will astonish you, how wide
your heart will open in welcome
for the joy that finds you
so ready
and still so unprepared.

Jan Richardson

MUSIC IN WORSHIP: The Introit is a late 20th Century Advent Refrain. The Candle Response adapts an ancient Advent liturgy for modern use. The Response to the Prayer for Hope, the Response to the Blessing of the Nations and the Response to the First Pew are from the Taizé Community. The Response to the Declaration is a late 20th Century Advent Hymn. The late 20th Century Sermon Hymn brings the promise of resurrection into Advent. The late 20th Century Communion Hymn is from Cameroon.

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1743

Radical Hospitality • Holistic Spirituality • Engaged Compassion

We Choose Welcome
