

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. **Isaiah 9:2**

Sing to the LORD, all the earth. **Psalms 96:1**

The grace of God has appeared! **Titus 2:11**

The glory of the Lord shone around them. **Luke 2:9**

Preacher

Rev. Gusti Linnea Newquist

Assistants

Eli Dillow
Jillian Dillow
Joel Dillow
Sophia Tuzzio
Frances Marshall
Debbie Romano
Brad Toole

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.

Gathering Music

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Introit

"While by my Sheep"
Echo Carol

Proclamation

Luke 2:1-3

***Processional 133**, v. 1, 3
"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Love Returns!

Luke 2:4-7

***Carol 110**

"Love Has Come"

Joy Returns!

Luke 2:8-11

***Carol 134**, v. 1-2

"Joy to the World"

Peace Returns!

Luke 2:12-24

***Carol 119**, v. 1, 3

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hope Returns!

Luke 2:15-16

***Carol 121**, v. 1, 2

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

God Returns!

Luke 2:17-20

***Carol 137**
"He Came Down"

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Reading

Choral Anthem
"Love came down"
Austin Lovelace

The Christ Candle

Isaiah 9:2, 6

Meditation

"Light Begins"

Carol 129

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

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Prayer

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory
"In the Bleak Midwinter"
Harold Darke

Light Shines in the Darkness!

John 1:1-6, 14

***Carol 122**, v. 1-3
"Silent Night, Holy Night!"

***Blessing**

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***Postlude**

Who gets up early to discover the moment light begins? **Rumi**

Nothing can dim the light which shines from within. **Maya Angelou**

Even in darkness it is possible to create light. **Elie Wiesel**

Within you is the light of a thousand suns. **Robert Adams**

**Please rise in body and spirit.*

Lesson Translation

New Revised
Standard Version

Gospel of John Translation

King James Version

Poinsettias

Were donated to decorate the Sanctuary by many generous family & friends of SPC

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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 24 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

No 8:30 a.m. Early Worship Service

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

No Sunday Seminar or Sunday Studio

• Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

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

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

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion in Sanctuary

Monday, December 25 • Christmas Day, Happy Birthday Jesus!

Church Office Closed

Dawn: *Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20*

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

Saturday, December 30

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

Sunday, December 31 • First Sunday of Christmastide

1 *Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52*

No 8:30 a.m. Early Worship Service

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

Christmas Eve
Lessons & Carols

December 24, 2023

8:00 p.m.

Where the Light Begins

Perhaps it does not begin.
perhaps it is always.
Perhaps it takes a lifetime
to open our eyes
to learn to see what has forever
shimmered in front of us—
The luminous line of the map
in the dark,
the vigil flame in the house
of the heart,
the love so searing
we cannot keep from singing,
from crying out
in testimony and praise.
Perhaps this day
will be the mountain over
which the dawn breaks.
perhaps we will turn our face
toward it,
toward what has been always.
Perhaps our eyes will
finally open in ancient recognition,
willingly dazzled, illumined at last.
Perhaps this is the day
the light begins in us.

Jan Richardson

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1743

Radical Hospitality • Holistic Spirituality • Engaged Compassion

We Choose Welcome

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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