

The earth brings forth its shoots. **Isaiah 61:11**

Praise the LORD from the earth. **Psalms 148:7**

God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts. **Galatians 4:6**

The child grew and became strong. **Luke 2:40**

**Preacher**  
Rev. Gusti Linnea Newquist

**Assistant**  
Rob Mahaffey

**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 155 (2x)**

*Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.  
Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to every heart.  
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!  
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!*

### 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 Light of Christ

**+Hymn 144**  
"In the Bleak Midwinter"

### Silence

**Prayer for the Light**  
Here at this door of beginning,  
The blessing cannot be said without you.  
Lay your palm against the door frame,  
Place your feet where others paused.  
Say the thing that you most need, and the door  
will be open wide.

**+Response 138**  
"Who Would Think That What Was Needed"

### Declaration of Grace and Gratitude

**\*+Response 132**  
"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

### The Peace

## Welcome and Parish Life

### THE WORD OF HOPE

† † †

### Reading

### Interlude

**Lesson**  
Isaiah 61:11, *adapted*

*The earth will bring forth its shoots  
and a garden will cause what is sown in it  
to spring up.*

**Communal Reflection**  
"Springing Up"

**\*+Hymn 142**  
"Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"

### THE BREAD OF LIFE

† † †

### Prayer for Others

### 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 136**  
"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

### \*Postlude

The promise of spring's arrival is enough to get anyone through the bitter winter. **Jen Selinsky**

No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow. **Anonymous**

No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn. **Unknown**

If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant.

**Anne Bradstreet**

*\*Please rise in body and spirit.*

**Prayer for the Light**  
Jan Richardson

**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.



## **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!

No Sunday Seminar or Sunday Studio

## **Monday, January 1 • Happy New Year!**

Church Office Closed

## **Tuesday, January 2**

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

## **Thursday, January 4**

10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women - Fellowship Hall/Hybrid

6:00 p.m. Bible at the Bar - The Mecklenburg Inn, 128 E German St, Shepherdstown

## **Saturday, January 6 • Epiphany of the Lord**

*Isaiah 60:1–6, Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1–12; Psalm 72:1–7, 10-14*

10:00 a.m. Ordained Leader Training - Fellowship Hall/Hybrid

## **Sunday, January 7 • Baptism of the Lord Sunday**

*Genesis 1:1–5; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4–11; Psalm 29*

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

No Sunday Seminar

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

Sunday Studio - Children K-5th Grade - Classroom 1

4:00 p.m. Youth Group Gathering - Special Guest Instructor - Fellowship Hall

**Christmastide**

First Sunday

**December 31, 2023**

11:00 a.m.

### **After the Winter**

Some day, when trees have shed their leaves  
And against the morning's white  
The shivering birds beneath the eaves  
Have sheltered for the night,  
We'll turn our faces southward, love,  
Toward the summer isle  
Where bamboos spire the shafted grove  
And wide-mouthed orchids smile.

And we will seek the quiet hill  
Where towers the cotton tree,  
And leaps the laughing crystal rill,  
And works the droning bee.  
And we will build a cottage there  
Beside an open glade,  
With black-ribbed blue-bells blowing near,  
And ferns that never fade.

**Claude McKay**

**SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*Established 1743*

*Radical Hospitality • Holistic Spirituality • Engaged Compassion*

*We Choose Welcome*

**SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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