

The LORD said to Moses  
“... I will be standing there  
in front of you on the rock at  
Horeb. Strike the rock, and  
water will come out of it, so  
that the people may drink.”

**Exodus 17:6a**

God split rocks open in the  
wilderness, and ... caused  
waters to flow down like riv-  
ers.

**Psalm 78:15-16**

For it is God who is at work  
in you, enabling you both to  
will and to work for God's  
good pleasure.

**Philippians 2:13**

Did the baptism of John  
come from heaven, or was it  
of human origin?

**Matthew 21:25a**

**Preacher**

Rev. Gusti Linnea Newquist

**Technology Crew**

Eli Dillow  
Bill Howard  
Pete Spreen

**Assistants**

Joel Dillow  
Noble Welgan  
Theo Janus

**Accompanist**

Georgiann Toole

**THE FONT OF IDENTITY**

**+Introit Hymn 48 (3x)**

Rain down; rain down;  
rain down your love on your people.

Rain down; rain down;  
rain down your love, God of life.

**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.

**Call to Prayer**

Lift up your hearts  
*We lift them up to the Lord*

**Prayer**

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**+Hymn 484**

“Out of Deep, Unordered Water”

**Prayer for Wholeness**

Creator of Heaven and Earth  
You who blew over the dark waters of creation

Forgive us, we pray,  
for failing our Sister Water,  
for misusing this gift,  
for polluting instead of protecting,  
for forgetting your gift is for all of creation.

May your justice roll down like rivers of Living Water,  
cleansing our hearts and refreshing our spirits.  
May your gift of abundant life flow forever through us.

**Declaration of Grace & Gratitude**

**Passing the Peace**

**Blessing the World**

The Indian Ocean islands:  
Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Maldives

**First Pew**

**Welcome and Parish Life**

**THE WORD OF HOPE**

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**Reading**

**Interlude**

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

**Lesson**

Exodus 17:1-7

**Sermon**

“Oasis of Hope”

**+Hymn 488**

“I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry”

**THE BREAD OF LIFE**

**Prayer for Others**

**Offering Our Gifts**

**Offertory**

“Down to the River to Pray”

**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.

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**+Sending Hymn 174 (v. 3)**

Sister Wisdom, come, assist us;  
nurture all who seek rebirth.  
Spirit-guide and close companion  
bring to light our sacred worth.  
Free us to become your people,  
holy friends of God and earth.

Life is always like a desert.  
You'll either find an oasis  
or will end up in a mirage  
while finding one.

**Sunimal Kundu**

Religion is just like an oasis  
... while it lasts, seek it, and  
while it is there, drink of it.

**Osho**

Faith is an oasis in the heart  
which will never be reached  
by the caravan of thinking.

**Khalil Gibran**

In the desert, the only god is  
a well.

**Vera Nazarian**

**+Hymns**

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**Opening Prayer**

Beth Norcross

*National Religious Partnership  
for the Environment*

**Prayer for Wholeness**

adapted from “Waters of  
Creation: An ecumenical  
service of worship”

at [www.kairoscanada.org](http://www.kairoscanada.org)

*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 27 • 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday Seminar via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Service of Worship via Facebook Live!

**Monday 28**

- 3:00 p.m. New members class via Zoom
- 5:00 p.m. New member class via Zoom

**Tuesday 29**

- 10:30 a.m. Administrative staff meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Teach the Preacher via Zoom

**Thursday 1**

- 10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women meet via Zoom
- 3:00 p.m. Staffing Model Task Force via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Thursday Night Out!

**Saturday 3**

- 10:00 a.m. Deacon meeting via Zoom

**Sunday 4 • 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
World Communion Sunday**

*Exodus 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20; Psalm 19;  
Philippians 3:4b–14; Matthew 21:33–46*

- 9:30 a.m. Coffee Talk with Pastor Gusti via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Service of Worship & Communion via Facebook Live!
- 3:00 p.m. Blessing the Animals via Zoom
- 5:00 p.m. Community Meal in Charles Town

**PEACEMAKING OFFERING, Sunday, Oct. 4.** Our offering will be split between the Eastern Panhandle Empowerment Center (formerly Shenandoah Women’s Center) and PCUSA national and international peacemaking programs and projects.

**COFFEE TALK WITH PASTOR GUSTI** continues **Sunday, Oct. 4, 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.** A time to check in on how things are going and dream big for our ministry to come.

**BLESSING THE ANIMALS.** Pastor Gusti will host a special Zoom service of blessing for our beloved animal companions on **Sunday, Oct. 4, 3:00 p.m. via Zoom.**

**COMMUNITY MEAL on Oct. 4.** Until further notice, meals will consist of “to-go” boxes for our friends in need. Go to PerfectPotluck.com, coordinator Wright, password 5777 to sign up. This month’s meal will consist of meatball subs with side salads, fruit, snacks and drinks. Donations should be at SPC by 3:15 that Sunday.

**SUNDAY SEMINARS** are exploring the book *So You Want To Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo. **Sundays at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.** Next gathering will be **Sunday, Oct. 11, Chapter 5: Intersectionality.**

**2020 VIRTUAL BOOK BAG DRIVE.** SPC is participating virtually to help provide school supplies for children in need at TA Lowery Elementary through the online Target Gift Registry under the name of their school counselor Bridget Deronda (Bridget’s Other Registry). All items will be shipped directly to TA Lowery. To drop items off yourself at TA Lowery, put items in a bag marked SPC. Leave outside the school front doors in the Drop Off box. (Push the call button on the wall to notify the office that supplies are outside.)

**CHILDREN’S EDUCATION COORDINATOR.** SPC is looking for a paid, part-time position (approximately 5 hours per week) responsible for coordinating Sunday Studio and managing the associated logistics. If interested, please submit a resume by mail or email to the office.

**ALL GATHERINGS IN THE CHURCH BUILDING** have been suspended until November 30. Please contact the church office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org if your committee or team is planning to meet electronically so we can add it to notices and calendar.

Ordinary Time  
Twenty-sixth Sunday

September 27, 2020  
11:00 a.m.

**The Oasis**

Deep in the desert’s fiery heart –  
From bloom and verdure far apart –  
A fountain thrusts its helping hand  
Up through the arid, burning sand;  
And lo! Embroidery of green  
Along its silent course was seen;  
Its waters wandered o’er the plain  
To bless “The Land of Little Rain.”

So in some desert-place of life,  
Where drought prevails, and storms are rife,  
Some healing fountain, hid from sight,  
Some radiant sun of love and light,  
Some potent sovereign of the hour,  
Asserts its strange mysterious power –  
Repeats the miracle of spring,  
And sets the desert blossoming.

**Andrew Downing**

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**SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
*Established 1743*  
*Radical Hospitality • Holistic Spirituality • Engaged Compassion*  
*We Choose Welcome*