

From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

Isaiah 64:4

Restore us, O Holy One; let your face shine upon us, teach us to love!

Psalm 80:3, (Merrill)

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus.

I Corinthians 1:4

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Mark 13:31

Preacher

Ethel Hornbeck

Technology Crew

Eli Dillow
Bill Howard
Mike Murdock
Pete Spreen

Assistants

Mileur Bailey
William Gonano
Morgan Sell
Leslie Williams
Lonce Bailey
Brandon Dennison

Accompanist

Bonnie Moore

Song Leaders

Stacy McFarland
Bill Rule

Interlude

Mileur Bailey

Offertory

Kipyn Martin

THE FONT OF IDENTITY

+Introit Hymn 92 (2x)

While we are waiting, come;
while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting, come.

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

Advent Prayer

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+Hymn 137 (v. 1-2)

“He Came Down”

Prayer for Wholeness

Yes, it is the end times.
As it always has been—
the end of this time
and the beginning of another.
A time of urgency, of immediacy,
of moral emergency.
Don’t imagine things will go on,
or revert to some way they’ve been.
This is the day to make things new,
beginning with yourself—and yet
not to make, but to be made.
Begin the end here: let yourself end.
Let your sun darken, your stars fall.
Give yourself up to the One
who will say in the darkness,
“Let there be light.”
Until the word is spoken,
let there be darkness.

Blessing the World

Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria

First Pew - Grace and Peace

Welcome and Parish Life

Minute for Mission

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THE WORD OF HOPE

Reading

Interlude

“Andante”

Ferdinando Carulli

Lesson

Mark 13:24-37

Sermon

“Staying Awake”

+Hymn 250

“In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Eucharistic Prayer

+Response Hymn 137 (v. 3-4)

“He Came Down”

Offering Our Gifts

Litany of Transition

Offertory

“God Is Love”

Kipyn Martin

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.

Charge and Benediction

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+Sending Hymn

Winter solstice refrain (2x)

The light is coming.

The light is coming back.

Darkness may reign for a moment,
but the light is coming back.

Love creates, and it keeps on creating, and everything it creates also creates. And there is nothing but creation, for even what we call destruction is creation; all breakings apart precede new comings together that have never before existed.

Gerald May

Catastrophe is the essence of the spiritual path, a series of breakdowns allowing us to discover the threads that weave all of life into a whole cloth.

Roshi Joan Halifax

Bless the poets, the workers for justice, the dancers of ceremony, the singers of heartache, the visionaries, all makers and carriers of fresh meaning— We will all make it through, despite politics and wars, despite failures and misunderstandings. There is only love.

Joy Harjo

Enlightenment is an accident; meditation makes us accident prone.

Tara Brach

Flowers placed by
the Price family fund

Prayer for Wholeness
Steve Garnaas-Holmes
“Winter Solstice”

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+Hymns

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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 29 • First Sunday of Advent

11:00 a.m. Service of Worship & Communion via Facebook Live!
1:00 p.m. Youth leaf raking event

Tuesday 1

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

Wednesday 2

7:00 p.m. Advent Reflections via Zoom

Thursday 3

10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women via Zoom
3:00 p.m. Staffing Model Task Force via Zoom

ENVELOPES. If you would like your 2021 offering envelopes mailed to you, please let Kathy in the office know.

PLEDGE FORMS. If you have not returned your pledge form, please do so as soon as possible so we have a general idea of our 2021 working budget. If you did not receive one, contact kathy@shepherdstown-presbyterian.org or return on line at [SPC 2021 Pledge Form](https://www.shepherdstownpresbyterian.org/2021/Pledge-Form).

COMMUNITY MEAL on Dec. 6 will consist of “to-go” boxes for our friends in need. Go to [perfectpotluck.com](https://www.perfectpotluck.com), coordinator Wright, password 5777 to sign up. This month’s specialty will be seafood chowder with side salads, fruit, snacks and drinks. Donations should be at SPC by 3:15 that Sunday.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS. Each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. during Advent, we will hold a 30 minute Zoom gathering to reflect together on the Advent themes of Hope (Dec. 2), Peace (Dec. 9), Joy (Dec. 16) and Love (Dec. 30 – delayed one week). Join Yvonne Fisher, Larry Neumark, Anne Teresa and Leslie Wil-

Saturday 5

10:00 a.m. Deacon meeting via Zoom

Sunday 6 • Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1–11; Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13; 2 Peter 3:8–15a; Mark 1:1–8

9:30 a.m. Coffee Talk with Pastor Gusti via Zoom

11:00 a.m. Service of Worship & Communion via Facebook Live!

5:00 p.m. Community Dinner
Zion Episcopal Church

liams for readings, silence, and sharing.

STRENGTHENED TO THE END. Our worship in the seasons of Advent through Epiphany invites us to experience the strengthening of the Spirit in ways we might not expect. Pay attention to places of “Sudden Hope” emerging in your life. If you are willing to share those experiences with others, you will be invited to record a message to be included in worship on Dec. 27. **MINUTES FOR MISSION** highlight the various ministries supported by SPC through your pledged giving. For more information on these ministries, please visit the “Ministries” tab of the SPC website. If you feel inspired to make an additional contribution to these ministries, you may do so online or by check (note the name of the ministry in the memo section).

ALL GATHERINGS IN THE CHURCH BUILDING have been suspended until further notice. 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.

Advent
First Sunday

November 29, 2020
11:00 a.m.

Blessing When the World is Ending

Look, the world
is always ending
somewhere.

Somewhere
the sun has come
crashing down.

Somewhere
it has gone
completely dark.

Somewhere
it has ended
with the gun,
the knife,
the fist.

Somewhere
it has ended
with the slammed door,
the shattered hope.

Somewhere
it has ended
with the utter quiet
that follows the news
from the phone,
the television,
the hospital room.

Somewhere
it has ended
with a tenderness
that will break
your heart.

But, listen,
this blessing means

to be anything
but morose.

It has not come
to cause despair.

It is simply here
because there is nothing
a blessing
is better suited for
than an ending,
nothing that cries out more
for a blessing
than when a world
is falling apart.

This blessing
will not fix you,
will not mend you,
will not give you
false comfort;
it will not talk to you
about one door opening
when another one closes.

It will simply
sit itself beside you
among the shards
and gently turn your face
toward the direction
from which the light
will come,
gathering itself
about you
as the world begins
again.

Jan Richardson

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1743

Radical Hospitality • Holistic Spirituality • Engaged Compassion

We Choose Welcome

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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