

God shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Isaiah 2:4

Pray for the peace of the world!
May all nations prosper as one!
May peace reign among all peoples, and integrity dwell within every heart!

Psalm 122:6-7 (Merrill)

You must be prepared, for the Promised One is coming at the time you least expect.

Matthew 24:44

Preacher

Rev. Carl Howard

Worship Leader

Ethel Hornbeck

First Pew

Lonce Bailey

Assistants

William Gonano

Evelyn Bailey

Brad Toole

Organ

Alan Ogden

Choir Director

Georgiann Toole

To Our Guests

Glad you're 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 OUR HEARTS

Introit (2x)

Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.

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

Lighting of Advent Candle

† † †

***Hymn 82**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

ENCOUNTERING GRACE

Prayer for Wholeness

Spirit of Christ, in your advent you come to form us into a people of hope, peace, joy, and love. But so often we fail to make space for you. We have been deformed by a world of cynicism, despair and alienation. Stories of scarcity and systems of violence shape us. Free us from all that separates us from you. Awaken in us a sense of wonder and mystery and appreciation for the miracle that is your creation and the magic of our deep connection with all that is. Lead us again in your way of choosing love every minute of every day. Amen

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy on us.

Declaration of Grace & Gratitude

***Response**

Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Welcome

Blessing the World

Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria

****Hymn 37**

“Let All Things Now Living”

First Pew

Parish Life

Memorial Prayer

***Hymn 92**

“While We Are Waiting, Come”

HEARING THE WORD

Reading

Interlude

“Takk” (Gratitude)
Edvard Grieg

Lesson

Matthew 24:36-44

Sermon

“Hope”

***Hymn 104**

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

SHARING THE GIFTS OF LIFE

Eucharistic Prayer

Communion

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

SERVING THE WORLD

Presenting Offerings

Offertory

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
Arr. Bret Rhoades

† † †

***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.

***Response**

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn

Charge and Benediction

† † †

Postlude

“In God, My Faithful God”
Dietrich Buxtehude

It is now, at Advent, that I am given the chance to suspend all expectation... and instead to revel in the mystery.

Jerusalem Jackson Greer

How are you traveling these days? As we cross into Advent, what kind of journey would you like to take through the coming weeks? Even as you attend to the necessary preparations, might there be anything you need to let go of in order to travel more lightly through this season, and with greater openness to how God might show up for you on the way?

Jan Richardson

Someone I loved once gave me a box full of darkness. It took me years to understand that this, too, was a gift.

Mary Oliver

The signs are all around us—the breaking down that precedes the breaking through. Constant reports of violence and devastation, the increasing mayhem of distrust and fear. And at the same time, see how compassion sprouts like leaves?... don't squander your energies on what does not heal and bless. Pour yourself out for what matters most, for the promise of summer that even now, as it grows darker day by day, is near. **Kayla McClure**

* stand if you are able

** children grades 5 and younger to the first pew

Flowers placed by

Anne Teresa
in honor of
her mother's 99th birthday

Lord have Mercy

by Bro. Stefan Waligur

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.



Sun 1 • First Sunday of Advent

8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Worship with Communion

9:45 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Alternative Christmas gifts fair. Fellowship Hall

4:30 p.m. Hymn Sing. Choir Room

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

Wed 4

7:00 p.m. Taizé service, of prayer in song, silence and candlelight. Sanctuary

7:30 p.m. Choir practice. Choir Room

Thu 5

10:00 a.m. Women's Circle. Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Eastern Panhandle Youth Alliance. Fellowship Hall

Fri 6

7:00 p.m. Civil War Christmas. Sanctuary

Sun 8 • Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1–10; Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19; Romans 15:4–13; Matthew 3:1–12

8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Worship with Communion

9:45 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Alternative Christmas gifts fair. Fellowship Hall

9:45 a.m. Sunday Seminar. Fellowship Hall (Chapter16/ Afterword)

REV. GUSTI NEWQUIST is on vacation **Nov. 25–Dec. 4**. During her absence, contact Kathy Reid in the office. Phone messages will be checked daily and forwarded to the appropriate person.

COMMUNION TODAY: All are welcome to participate. Bread is gluten free; the “wine” is alcohol free.

2020 CHURCH DIRECTORY is ready for proofing (copies in Narthex and Fellowship Hall.) Make sure your listing is included and correct. If so, check box.

DIRECTORY PHOTOS. Get your photo updated or taken for first time after services **Dec. 1 & 8**. The photographer will be at the choir loft after the 8:30 service and in Fellowship Hall after the 11:00 service.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS Sunday, Dec.1 & 8. The following four projects will be featured: Jefferson County Homeless Coalition, West Virginia Community

Hub, Congo, Follow up to the Visit of Dr. Makolo, and Sponsor of an Asylum-Seeker.

COLD WEATHER SHELTER Saturday night, Dec. 14 through Friday night, Dec. 20. Guests will arrive around 7 p.m. Two female overnight supervisors still needed for Saturday & Thursday night. Contact the office if you can help.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: 5:00 p.m. Especially for children; 8:00 p.m. Choirs, homily and candlelight; 11:00 p.m. Carol sing, communion and candlelight.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING will be split between Bluefields, Nicaragua, partner church, and Coalfield Development Corporation, in southern WV, founded by Brandon Dennison, former SPC Youth Director.

ONE SERVICE ONLY at 11:00 a.m. **Dec. 29 and Jan. 5** (childrens pageant).

Advent
First Sunday

December 1, 2019
11:00 a.m.

ADVENT BLESSING

darkness still grows
(but the light is gathering)

bread has been broken
(but justice is slipping through)

economists are today's oracles
(but the word is now ready to speak)

blood has been spilled
(but the moment is turning)

the journey is lonely
(but the angels stir)

the handmaid labours
(but the child waits)

go into advent
with expectation
the headlines are being rewritten

Roddy Hamilton

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Celebrating 276 Years

Claiming the Past • Engaging the Present • Imagining the Future

We Choose Welcome