

I will call a righteous branch to spring up.

Jeremiah 33:15

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. **Psalm 25:1**

How can we thank God enough for you?

1 Thessalonians 3:9

“Stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” **Luke 21:28**

Guest Speaker

Christa Mastrangelo Joyce

Assistants

William Gonano & Family
Youth Group Members
Mica Martin

Choir Director

Sheila Melendez

Interlude

Choir

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 89, v. 1

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

*O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory,
your radiance shines in all who look to you;
come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow.*

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

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 Candle of Hope

***Hymn 250**

“In the Bulb There is a Flower”

Prayer for Hope (see insert)

+Kyrie 576 (2x)

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

Declaration of Grace and Gratitude

+*Alleluia 586, (2x)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Blessing the World

Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria

Response 158, v. 1-2

*Born in the night, Mary’s Child, a long way from your home;
coming in need, Mary’s Child, born in a borrowed room.
Clear shining light, Mary’s child, your face lights up our way;
Light of the world, Mary’s Child, dawn on our darkened day.*

First Pew

Response 158, v. 3-4

*Truth of our life, Mary’s Child, you tell us God is good;
yes, it is true, Mary’s Child, shown on your cross of wood;
Hope of the world, Mary’s Child, you’re coming soon to reign;
King of the earth, Mary’s Child, walk in our streets again.*

Welcome and Parish Life

Moment for Social Justice

THE WORD OF HOPE

† † †

Reading

Interlude

“A la nanita nana”

Lesson

Jeremiah 33:15-16

Sermon

“A Ferocious Commitment to Hope”

Hymn 314

“Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness”

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 765**

*May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.*

*Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that’s new, faithful when we hear Christ’s call.*

***Postlude**

I go down to the shore
in the morning and de-
pending on the hour the
waves are rolling in or
moving out, and I say,
oh, I am miserable,
what shall—
what should I do?
And the sea says
in its lovely voice:
*Excuse me, I have work
to do.* **Mary Oliver**

Hope is the refusal to
accept the reading of
reality which is the
majority opinion.
Walter Brueggemann

*Please rise in body and spirit.

The Candle of Hope
Aristotle

Lesson Translation
New Revised
Standard Version

Agape Meal Liturgy
Iona Community

Sanctuary flowers
provided by
many generous donations
from the congregation

Sermons & Information
shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

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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 1 • First Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1–4 Luke 1:68–79 Philippians 1:3–11 Luke 3:1–6

- 8:30 a.m. Early Service of Worship with Agape Meal – Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Service of Worship with Agape Meal – Sanctuary and Facebook Live!
Sunday Studio – Children K-5th Grade – Classroom 2
- 5:00 p.m. Community Meal – Zion Episcopal Church Social Center,
215 E. Washington St., Charles Town, WV 25414
- 5:30 p.m. Winchester Musica Viva's Rehearsal until 9 p.m.

Wednesday, December 4 • Welcome Back Pastor Gusti

- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal – Choir room

Thursday, December 5

- 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

Friday, December 6

- 11:00 a.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal – upstairs outside choir room

Saturday, December 7

- 5:00 p.m. Deacon's Christmas Party at the home of Jen Jones

Sunday, December 8 • Second Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1–4 Luke 1:68–79 Philippians 1:3–11 Luke 3:1–6

- 8:30 a.m. Early Service of Worship – Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Congregational Meeting – Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Service of Worship – Sanctuary and Facebook Live!
Sunday Studio – Children K-5th Grade – Classroom 2
- 12:15 p.m. Youth Group Gathering – Downstairs
- 3:00 p.m. Community Christmas Caroling – Front area of McMurrin hall

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

11 a.m.

A New National Anthem, *excerpt*

Don't get me wrong, I do
like the flag, how it undulates in the wind
like water, elemental, and best when it's humbled,
brought to its knees, clung to by someone who
has lost everything, when it's not a weapon,
when it flickers, when it folds up so perfectly
you can keep it until it's needed, until you can
love it again, until the song in your mouth feels
like sustenance, a song where the notes are sung
by even the ageless woods, the shortgrass plains,
the Red River Gorge, the fistful of land left
unpoisoned, the song that's our birthright,
that's sung in silence when it's too hard to go on,
that sounds like someone's rough fingers weaving
into another's, that sounds like a match being lit
in an endless cave, the song that says my bones
are your bones, and your bones are my bones,
and isn't that enough?

Ada Limon

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1743

*Radical Hospitality • Holistic Spirituality • Engaged Compassion
We Choose Welcome*

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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