

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me. **Malachi 3:1**

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High. **Luke 1:76**

I thank my God every time I remember you. **Philippians 1:1**

The word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness **Luke 3:2b**

**Preacher**

Rev. Gusti Linnea Newquist

**Assistants**

Sadie Santacroce  
Gino Santacroce  
Lois Butcher

**Song Leaders**

Chris Cubby  
Julie Gibson  
Sharon Henderson  
Suellen Myers  
Vicki Smith  
Carol Wood

**Accompanist**

Georgiann Toole

**Interlude**

Mileur Bailey

**Advent Planning Team**

Stewart Acuff  
Lois Butcher  
Libby Howard  
Christa Joyce  
Mary Ellen Lloyd  
Debbie Romano  
Morgan Wisniewski Sell  
Adam Ware

**THE FONT OF IDENTITY**

† † †

**Introit**

*Within our darkest night, you kindle the fire that never dies away.*

**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 to the Lord.*

**Prayer**

**Response**

*Within our darkest night, you kindle the fire that never dies away.*

**Prayer for Wholeness**

Blessed are you, Holy One,  
who comes to set your people free.  
You place your healing power at the center of our lives.  
Teach us this day, your Wilderness Hope.  
Shine your Sunrise within us and through us,  
showing us The Way,  
one foot at a time,  
down the path of peace.

**Kyrie**

**Declaration of Grace & Gratitude**

**\*Alleluia**

**Blessing the World**

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar,  
United Arab Emirates, Oman, Yemen, Iran, Iraq

**First Pew From a Distance**

**+Response 487**

*“These Treasured Children”  
These treasured children present now  
are bound to us by sacred vow:  
with love, we make a heartfelt claim  
to welcome them in Jesus’ name.*

**Welcome and Parish Life**

**THE WORD OF HOPE**

† † †

**Reading**

**Interlude**

**Lesson**

Luke 3:1-2

**Sermon**

*“Wilderness Hope”*

**\*+Response 163**

*“Wild and Lone the Prophet’s Voice”*

**THE BREAD OF LIFE**

† † †

**Memorial Moment**

**Eucharistic Prayer**

**Offering Our Gifts**

**Offertory**

**\*Acclamation**

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**

*Within our darkest night, you kindle the fire that never dies away.*

Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness. **Desmond Tutu**

Hope is the little voice you hear whisper “maybe” when it seems the entire world is shouting “no.”

Hope is the ability to hear the melody of the future.

Once you choose hope, anything is possible.

**Christopher Reeve**

*\*Please rise in body and spirit.*

**Affirmation**

*I am part of the community of life that includes all people.*

**Opening Prayer and Prayer for Wholeness**  
Eugene Peterson, adapted

**Lesson Translation**  
New Revised  
Standard Version

**Interlude**  
“Waltzes” by  
Ferdinando Carulli

**Flowers**  
many generous donations  
from the Congregation

*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 5 • Second Sunday of Advent**

*Baruch 5:1-9; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6*

8:30 a.m. Early Service of Worship - Sanctuary

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

Sunday Studio - Children ages 3-5th Grade (Classroom and Recorded)

4:00 p.m. Community Christmas Caroling - All invited!

Meet on the steps and lawn of McMurrin Hall, corner of German and King Streets downtown.

5:00 p.m. Community Meal at Zion Episcopal Church in Charles Town, WV

**Monday, December 6**

6:30 p.m. EPYA Meeting - Fellowship Hall

**Tuesday, December 7**

5:00 p.m. Mission Committee Meeting - Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Teach the Preacher via Zoom

**Wednesday, December 8**

10:30 a.m. ESP - Exploring Spiritual Practices - Fellowship Hall

**Thursday, December 9**

7:00 p.m. Session Meeting via Zoom

**Friday, December 10**

12:00 p.m. Gathering Space for Prayer - Balcony & via Zoom

**Saturday, December 11**

9:00 a.m. Deacon Shepherds Meeting in Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, December 12 • Third Sunday of Advent**

*Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-1*

8:30 a.m. Early Service of Worship - Sanctuary

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

Sunday Studio - Children ages 3-5th Grade (Classroom and Recorded)

**BIRTHING HOPE: Advent Labor through an Ongoing Pandemic. Through December 24, 2021.**

The story of Christmas, in hindsight, is a promise of hope through a time of despair. But what if we did not know the end of the story? What if, like a pandemic, the time before Christmas is full of fits and starts, opening up and closing back down, humming and clinging to hope we will one day sing again? Join our Advent Labor of Love this

year, as we Birth Hope through an Ongoing Pandemic.

**ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET.** Help pay for building materials for a Habitat for Humanity house for the Abrahante family on Sage Place in Shepherdstown! Give an alternative holiday gift in the name of someone you love. Pick up a flyer in the Fellowship Hall for more information.

**SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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Christa Joyce: Children and Youth Education Coordinator • jalayoga.christa@gmail.com

**The Season of Advent**

Second Sunday

**December 5, 2021**

11:00 a.m.

My poems are poems,  
even if some people call them sermons.  
Well, poems and sermons do share one thing:  
when you read them you got to be careful.  
Keep at it. Get into detail.  
Don't just claim they're easy.  
If you were to live your life like that,  
a lot of funny things might happen.

**Shih Te**

**J.P. Seaton, translation**

**SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*Established 1743*

*Radical Hospitality • Holistic Spirituality • Engaged Compassion*

*We Choose Welcome*