

May the LORD repay you with children.

1 Samuel 20

Praise the LORD from the earth. **Psalm 148**

Clothe yourselves with compassion.

Colossians 3:12

Jesus increased in wisdom. **Luke 2:52**

Preacher
Rev. Gusti Linnea Newquist

Assistant
Mica Martin

Special Music
Men’s Quartet

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 155 (2x)

*Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.
Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to every heart.
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!*

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 Hope

***Hymn 144**
“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Prayer for Hope (see insert)

+Kyrie (2x)
*Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy on us.*

Declaration of Grace and Gratitude

+*Hallelujah 590 (2x)
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

Blessing the World

Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden

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

THE WORD OF HOPE

† † †

Reading

Interlude

Lesson
Colossians 3:12-17

Reflections
“Harmonizing Hope”

***Hymn 138**
“Who Would Think That What Was Needed”

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 (2x)**
*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!*

***Postlude**

Hope is a discipline, not a platitude.

Adam Russell Taylor

*Please rise in body and spirit.

Call to Hope
Lu Xun

Lesson Translation
New Revised
Standard Version
Updated Edition

Prayer for Others
Kayleen Asbo

Sanctuary flowers
provided by
many generous donations
from the congregation

Sermons & Information
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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 29 • First Sunday of Christmas

1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26 Psalm 148 Colossians 3:12–17 Luke 2:41–52

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

5:00 p.m. Joy Gift Dinner – Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, January 1 • HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Church Office Closed

Thursday, January 2

10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women – Fellowship Hall/Zoom

1:30 p.m. Ordained Leader Training – Sanctuary

6:00 p.m. Bible at the Bar – The Meck, 128 E German St, Shepherdstown

Saturday, January 4

1:30 p.m. Ordained Leader Training – Sanctuary

Sunday, January 5 • Epiphany Sunday

Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalms 147:12-20, Ephesians 1:1-14, John 1:(1-9) 10-18

8:30 a.m. Early Worship with Communion – Sanctuary

10:30 a.m. Called Congregational Meeting – Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. Service of Worship with Communion – Sanctuary and Facebook Live!

1:30 p.m. Ordained Leader Training – Sanctuary

5:00 p.m. Community Meal – Zion Episcopal Church Social Center,
215 E. Washington St., Charles Town, WV 25414

SERVICE MUSIC IN CHRISTMASTIDE: The late 20th Century Introit is from the Taizé Community in France. The Kyrie is a beloved SPC version from Stefan Waliger. The Hallelujah is a traditional liturgical text. The mid 20th Century Introduction and Response to the First Pew reflects the full arc of the Incarnation. The Sending is the refrain from a mid 20th Century French carol.

TODAY'S HYMNS: The mid 19th Century Opening hymn honors the composer's birthplace in England. The late-20th Century Sermon Hymn is set to an early 21st Century tune from the Iona Community in Scotland.

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Christmastide

First Sunday

December 29, 2024

11 a.m.

The Only Thing That Makes Sense

is to hold it all tenderly -
as if it can break, as if it won't be here forever,
as if the moment that is this moment
will give you everything if you let it.

The only thing that makes sense is to celebrate
the exactness of you, to take your own face
in your own hands and declare yourself worthy,
to wrap arms around the orphaned parts
that didn't fit, didn't follow, refused to march in straight little lines.

The only thing that makes sense
is to make art that is your art, art that swings, sways,
tangos its way through every midnight, as if life, this very exact,
disappearing life, depends on it. To scatter
kindness-confetti until walls becoming wings,
hard melts to soft, not-enough
becomes a feast of fabulous plenty -

a wild, belly-laughing celebration
where every tender, breakable thing
is invited, invited to the moment that is this
moment, the moment that will give you everything
if you let it.

Julia Fehrenbacher

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1743

Radical Hospitality • Holistic Spirituality • Engaged Compassion

We Choose Welcome