

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. **Acts 1:8**

Clap your hands all you peoples. **Psalm 47:1**

I do not cease to give thanks for you. **Ephesians 1:16**

He blessed them. **Luke 24:50**

**Guest Preacher**  
Debbie Romano

**Assistant**  
Cari Simon

**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 21

"Many and Great, O God, Are Thy Works"

### 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 a Singing Faith

#### \*+Hymn 292

"As the Wind Song"

### Prayer for Peace

May the deep blessings of earth be with us.

May the fathomless soundings of seas  
surge in our soul.

May boundless stretches of the universe  
echo in our depths  
to open us to wonder  
to strengthen us for love  
to humble us with gratitude

that we may lose ourselves in one another  
that we may lose ourselves in gladness  
That we give ourselves to peace.

### +Response 639, refrain (3x)

*O sing a new song to the Lord;  
sing to the Lord; sing all the earth.*

### Declaration of Grace and Gratitude

#### \*+Response 646 (2x)

*Sing out, my soul. Sing out, my soul.  
Sing out and glorify the Lord who sets us free.  
Sing out, my soul. Sing out, my soul.  
Sing out and glorify the Lord God!*

### Blessing the World

Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland

### Response 637, v. 1

*O sing to the Lord; O sing God a new song. (repeat 2x)  
O sing to our God; O sing to our God.*

### First Pew

### Response 637, v. 3

*So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets. (repeat 2x)  
O sing to our God; O sing to our God.*

### Welcome and Parish Life

## THE WORD OF HOPE

† † †

### Reading

### Interlude

### Lesson

Luke 24, selected verses

### Sermon

"Blessing the Distance"

#### \*Hymn 22

"God of the Sparrow"

## THE BREAD OF LIFE

† † †

### Prayer for Others

### 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

*The peace of the earth be with you, the peace of the heavens, too.  
The peace of the oceans be with you, the peace of the rivers, too.  
Deep peace, flowing over you. God's peace growing in you.*

#### \*Postlude

And so the mother in me asks, "what if?"

**Valerie Kaur**

One climbs, one sees.  
When one can no longer see,  
one can at least still know.

**Rene Daumal**

How can you follow the course of your life if you do not let it flow?

**Lao-Tzu**

The flower doesn't dream of the bee. It blossoms and the bee comes.

**Mark Nepo**

*\*Please rise in body and spirit.*

### Prayer for Peace

John Philip Newell

### Declaration

Jan Richardson

### Lesson Translation

New Revised  
Standard Version

### Sanctuary Flowers

Provided by John Burns  
In Loving Honor of  
Helen's 95th Birthday.

**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.



**Eastertide**  
Ascension Sunday

**May 12, 2024**  
11:00 a.m.

**Sunday, May 12 • Ascension Sunday**

*Acts 1:1–11 Psalm 47 or Psalm 93 Ephesians 1:15–23 Luke 24:44–53*

- 8:30 a.m. Early Service of Worship – Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday Seminar – Fellowship Hall/Hybrid
- 11:00 a.m. Service of Worship – Sanctuary and Facebook Live!

**Thursday, May 16**

- 10:00 a.m. Handbell rehearsal – upstairs area outside of choir room
- 7:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting – Fellowship Hall/Hybrid

**Saturday, May 18**

- 10:00 a.m. Visitation for Bill Wesley – Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Celebration of Life Service for Bill Wesley – Sanctuary and Facebook Live!  
Interment to follow at Cedar Hill Cemetary,  
287 Old Furnace Road, Harpers Ferry, WV  
If you're not attending the Burial, you may go directly to the reception
- 1:00 p.m. Reception at Rockhaven B&B, 900 Fillmore Street, Harpers Ferry, WV  
until 4:00 p.m.

**Sunday, May 19 • Pentecost**

*Acts 2:1–21, Psalm 104:24–34, 35b Romans 8:22–27*

- 8:30 a.m. Early Service of Worship – Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday Seminar – Fellowship Hall/Hybrid
- 11:00 a.m. Service of Worship – Sanctuary and Facebook Live!  
Sunday Studio – Children K-5th Grade – Classroom 1
- 12:00 p.m. Personnel Committee Meeting – Classroom 1
- 12:30 p.m. Youth Group Gathering – Downstairs

**MUSIC IN WORSHIP:** The mid 19th Century Introit was written in the Dakota language to fit the Dakota tune. A composer from Singapore sent this early 21st tune, named for a Maori phrase meaning "Holy Spirit," to the author (in New Zealand) to see what text it might inspire from her. The late 20th Century Response to the Prayer for Resurrection is from a contemporary setting of Psalm 96. The late 20th Century Response to the Declaration is from the Taizé Community. The Introduction and Response to the First Pew is a Brazilian folk song. The late 20th Century Sermon Hymn was written by an American author of Slovak descent. The Sending Hymn is a Guatemalan chant.

**SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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When the wind blows,  
we imagine she is erasing every injustice,  
sweeping misdoings from the east to the west,  
making room for something new,  
a more whole world.  
Instead, what we don't realize  
is that she is rustling the tree branches  
to sing us a song.  
Instead, she is sowing seeds  
across the landscapes,  
seeds that tomorrow will become  
the beauty that restores us.  
Instead, she is whispering  
for us to hold on, to keep going,  
to water those seeds,  
because one day,  
they will show us the way home.

**Kaitlin B. Curtice**

**SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*Established 1743*  
*Radical Hospitality • Holistic Spirituality • Engaged Compassion*  
*We Choose Welcome*