

The desert shall rejoice
and blossom. **Isaiah 35:1**

“My spirit rejoices in God
my Savior.” **Luke 1:47**

Strengthen your hearts,
for the coming of the Lord
is near. **James 5:8**

“Blessed is anyone who
takes no offense at me.”
 Matthew 11:6

Preacher
Rev. Gusti Linnea Newquist

Assistants
The Rebollo Snook Family
Brad Toole

Special Music
Wanda Stewart
Handbell Choir

Handbell Choir Director
Sheila Melendez

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 91 (7x)
*Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.
Come, come, Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.*

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 Sabbath

***+Hymn 611**
“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Prayer for Sabbath (see insert)

+Response 92 (2x)
*While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting. Come.*

Declaration of Grace and Gratitude

***+Response 137, v. 4** (2x)
*He came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy; hallelujah forevermore!*

Blessing the World
Cyprus, Greece, Turkey

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

† † †

Lesson
Luke 1:47-55

Interlude
“Magnificat”

Reading

Sermon
“Sabbath With Us: Joy That Restores”

***Hymn 100**
“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

THE BREAD OF LIFE

† † †

Eucharistic Prayer

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory
“Still, Still, Still”

† † †

***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 539, v. 1** (2x)
*We will go out with joy in the Spirit; we will go out with God.
We will go out with joy in the Spirit; we will go out with God.
Alleluia! We will go out with joy! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

***Postlude**

Joy does not simply
happen to us. We have to
choose joy and keep
choosing it every day.
 Henri Nouwen


*Please rise in body and spirit.

Lesson Translation
New Revised
Standard Version

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.



Third Sunday of Advent, December 14

Isaiah 35:1–10 Psalm 146:5-10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2–11

- 8:30 a.m. Early Service of Worship with Communion – Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday Seminar – Fellowship Hall/Hybrid
- 11:00 a.m. Service of Worship with Communion – Sanctuary and Zoom
- Sunday Studio – Children K-5th Grade – Classroom 2

Monday, December 15

Church Office Hours 10 - 2

Tuesday, December 16

Church Office Hours 10 - 2

5:00 p.m. Immigration & Refugee Support Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, December 17

Church Office Hours 10 - 2

7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

Thursday, December 18

Church Office Hours 10 - 2

Friday, December 19

Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 20

7:30 a.m. Men’s Breakfast Fellowship – Fellowship Hall

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21

Isaiah 7:10–16 Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19 Romans 1:1–7 Matthew 1:18–25

- 8:30 a.m. Early Service of Worship with Communion – Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Service of Worship with Communion – Sanctuary and Zoom
- 5:00 p.m. Joy Gift Pot Luck Dinner Fellowship – Fellowship Hall

SERVICE MUSIC IN ADVENT: The Introit refrain centers on the name of Jesus meaning “God with us.” The Response to the Prayer for Sabbath is a simple, meditative Advent hymn. The Response to the Declaration is a traditional Cameroonian call and response. The Introduction and Response to the First Pew tells the full arc of Incarnation (birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension, return) with a blues-like tune. The Communion Chant is by Stefan Waligur, setting the words of Julian of Norwich to music.

TODAY’S HYMNODY: The Opening Hymn was written by a prominent Presbyterian Pastor and set to the final movement of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony. The Sermon Hymn is a ballad-like paraphrase of the Magnificat set to an Irish melody. The Sending Hymn was created by a Canadian father and daughter as the recessional music for her wedding.

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

100 W. Washington Street • PO Box 268, Shepherdstown, West Virginia 25443 • 304-876-6466
office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org • www.shepherdstownpresbyterian.org
Rev. Gusti Linnea Newquist (she/her) • gusti@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org
Christa Joyce (she/her) Director of Children and Youth Formation • christa@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org
Sheila Melendez (she/her) Choir Director • sheilamelendez@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

Season of Advent
Third Sunday

December 14, 2025
11:00 a.m.

The Universe Sings, *excerpt*

Spring days
and winter nights
have beautiful
flowers shining
they make themselves
visible
by whispering
in the color
of blue pollen ...

... Reenie said that
a mouse was painted
in the color of the sun
and that he danced for joy
on seeing flowers
blossom into stars
dancing across the universe
and singing,
singing, singing.

Frank LaPena, *Nomtipom Wintu*

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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