


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
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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

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

+Hymns
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ADORATION

611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee; earth and heaven re-flect thy rays;
 3 Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan.

Hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore thee, o-pen-ing to the sun a - bove.
 stars and an-gels sing a-round thee, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.
 Love di-vine is reign-ing o'er us, join-ing all in heav-en's plan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way.
 Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Ev - er sing-ing, march we on-ward, vic-tors in the midst of strife.

Giv - er of im - mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re-joice in thee.
 Joy - ful mu-sic leads us sun-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

This well-known melody was created to provide a choral setting for J. C. F. von Schiller's poem, "An die Freude" (To Joy), as the final movement of the composer's *Ninth Symphony*. The author, a prominent Presbyterian pastor and author, wrote the words with this tune in mind.

TEXT: Henry van Dyke, 1907, alt.

MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1842, alt.

HYMN TO JOY
 8.7.8.7.D

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Canticle of the Turning

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, key of D major (one sharp), and 3/2 time. It consists of five staves of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. Chord symbols (Em, C, D, G) are placed above the staff at the beginning of each line of music. The lyrics are a paraphrase of the Magnificat, starting with '1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the' and ending with 'weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be'.

1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -

God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -

won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.

You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the

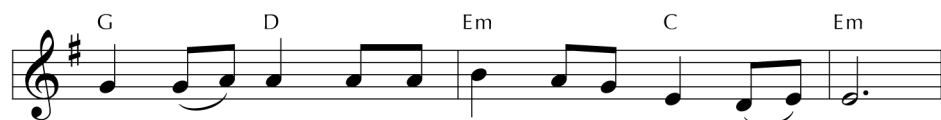
weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

TEXT: Rory Cooney, 1990
MUSIC: Irish melody; arr. Rory Cooney, 1990
Text and Music Arr. © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN
Irregular

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

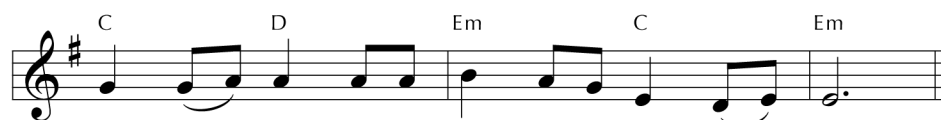
Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Great Sabbath is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Giver of Sabbath.

Let us give thanks for Sabbath-With-Us:

Sabbath is With Us: Joy That Restores.

At this table, the lowly are lifted,

the hungry are filled,

and the world tastes the joy of your realm:

Sabbath has come. Sabbath is with us.

Sabbath will be all in all.

Holy One, Giver of Life, Source of Rest,

we praise you.

Your realm of justice and delight come near;

Your Sabbath will be done in all lands.

Give us today our Bread for the Journey,
enough for all to feast and then rest.

Free us from our striving and our hoarding,
as we seek to free those wounded and wearied
by an unforgiving system.

Save us from the tyranny of endless toil,
and deliver us from tyrannical power.

For yours is the rhythm,
and the mercy, and the joy,
now and forever. Amen.

Sung Response

All shall be well.

All things shall be well.

Sabbath As Incarnation and Fulfillment

Advent - Epiphany 2025-2026 Worship at SPC

Sabbath in Scripture is God's gift
of freedom, justice, and healing —
a holy interruption of endless striving
and its harmful consequences

In Advent, we discover the heartbeat of Sabbath
in the coming of Christ.

November 30 Sabbath With Us: Hope for the Weary

December 7 Sabbath With Us: The Path of Peace

December 14 Sabbath With Us: Joy that Restores

December 21 Sabbath With Us: Love Made Flesh

December 24 Birthing Sabbath With Us

8pm Lessons and Carols

11pm Candlelight Communion

December 28 Protecting Sabbath With Us

January 4 Sabbath Shines Forth

Prayer for Sabbath

Holy One, in the dryness of despair,
you whisper joy into the dust,
and the wilderness bursts into bloom.
Sabbath is With Us: joy that restores.

You lift the lowly and fill the hungry,
turning the world right-side up
with laughter, song, and justice.
Sabbath is With Us: joy that restores.

You invite us to rest not in apathy, but in delight—
to trust that even now
your mercy makes all things new.
Sabbath is With Us: joy that restores.

Sung Response 92 (2x)

*While we are waiting, come;
while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting. Come.*

Isaiah 35:1-10, selected verses

Be glad for the wilderness
and the desolate places,
for they will rejoice!
Be glad for the dry wasteland;
it will blossom with roses!

Waters will burst forth in the wilderness
and streams in the dry wasteland!
Burning sand will become a pool!
Springs of water will well up in thirsty ground!

Look closely:
A well worn path weaves through the wilderness.
We call it a Holy Way.

Anyone who walks this Way,
no matter their flailing —
or downright foolishness —
does not go astray.

Instead, God brings us home,
singing with others in everlasting joy.
Singing together, we rediscover joy and gladness.
Sorrow and sighing flees away.

Newquist Interpretive Version

THE ANNUAL SPC JOY GIFT DINNER

**Sunday, December 21, 5 p.m.
in the Fellowship Hall**

Join us for fellowship, food, carol singing, and.....
joy in abundance!

We will be collecting an offering for the PCUSA Joy Gift
(This national church special offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.)

SPC will provide the main dish, dinner rolls, and drinks.
Please bring the following to complete our meal

If your last name begins with:

- A-J, bring a side dish
- K-P a vegetable or fruit dish
- Q-Z a dessert.

We hope to see you there! SPC Hospitality.

POINSETTIAS

I would like to provide a poinsettia to help decorate the sanctuary during the Advent. (\$12 Each)

___ How Many?

___ I will pick up my poinsettia after December 24.

___ Please give my poinsettia to someone.

Given by:

In Memory of (optional):

In Honor of (optional):

Include cash/ check (\$12 each) to SPC with this form and place in offering plate or mail by **December 14** to: SPC, P. O. Box 268, Shepherdstown WV 25443



What else did John say?

Find the missing numbers to complete the sudoku puzzle. Each row, column and box should include numbers 1-9 with no duplicates. Use the numbers and code to fill in the blanks.

▷ = e ▲ = o ● = h ■ = t ✕ = a + = i ◆ = r ✿ = l ▼ = w



"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come

$\frac{n}{2} \frac{6}{8} \frac{3}{2} \frac{1}{1} s$

$m \frac{2}{7} \frac{6}{6} p \frac{2}{8} \frac{6}{7} fu \frac{9}{4} \frac{3}{5} n \frac{1}{8} \frac{3}{2} \frac{6}{s}$

$s \frac{nd}{5} \frac{s}{5} \frac{9}{1} \frac{m}{5} n \frac{2}{4} f \frac{1}{4} \frac{4}{2} c \frac{5}{7} \frac{7}{y}$

$\frac{3}{6} \frac{8}{1} \frac{9}{9} b \frac{p}{5} \frac{z}{4} \frac{1}{6} y \frac{u}{2} \frac{8}{1} \frac{4}{3} \frac{4}{3} \frac{6}{6}$

$\frac{3}{2} \frac{9}{y} Sp \frac{1}{7} \frac{1}{4} \frac{nd}{5} \frac{8}{1} \frac{4}{3} f \frac{1}{7} \frac{6}{y}$

9	3	■	◆		1	6	2	8
6	8	1	9	2		✕	4	7
		5	8	6	4	9	1	3
8	9	7	1	3	6			
5	6	▲	4	9		7	3	1
4	1	3	2	7	5	8	9	6
●		▼	6	1	9	2	7	5
2	5	6				1	8	9
+		9*	5	8	2	3	,	



Children's Worship Bulletin™

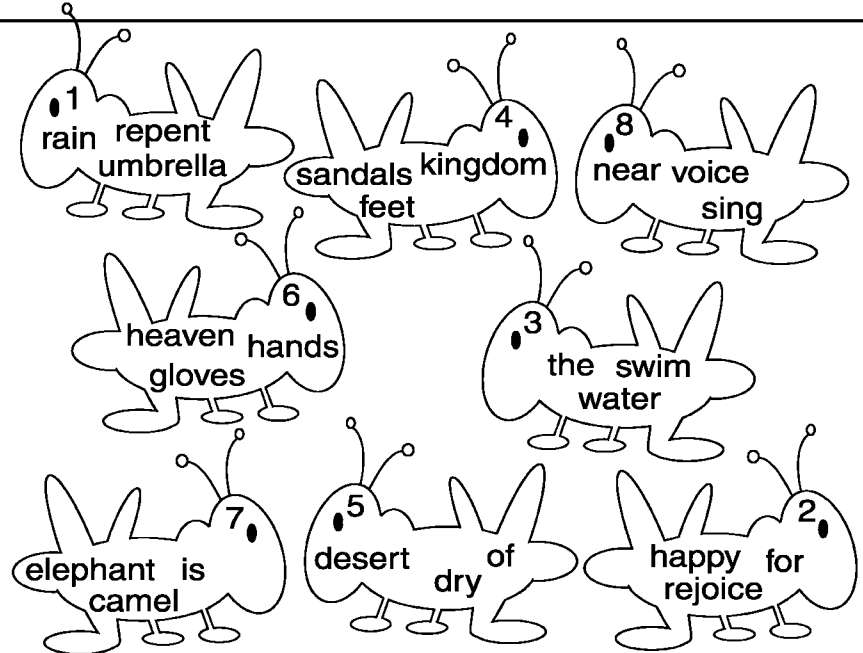
Ages 7+

December 7, 2025 • Matthew 3:1-12

Preparing the Way for Jesus

Here are some words that John the Baptist preached.





Choose the word that doesn't fit in each set. Write it on the line.




"_____, _____, _____, _____"
1 2 3 4
_____, _____, _____, _____"
5 6 7 8

To repent means to change your heart and mind to a better way.


What did John say next?

Find John the Baptist's message in the maze.
You may only move in straight lines:    
No diagonal moves.

"Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for Him."

Begin 

A	G	A	R	E	D	B	I	G	H	M
R	E	P	M	T	N	R	A	H	C	J
P	K	B	E	H	R	T	J	T	P	Z
W	L	A	W	S	N	S	Z	R	A	K
L	F	Y	W	V	K	E	S	H	T	N
R	O	M	R	M	A	W	F	B	D	C
T	H	Z	R	D	V	H	O	R	L	K
K	E	L	O	T	C	H	D	H	I	M

 End



Use this code to find facts about John the Baptist.
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26



John the Baptist

OCCUPATION:

16 18 5 1 3 8 9 14 7
9 14 20 8 5

4 5 19 5 18 20 15 6 10 21 4 5 1
and 2 1 16 20 9 26 9 14 7 9 14
20 8 5 10 15 18 4 1 14 18 9 22 5 18

PERSONAL INFO:

23 5 1 18 19 3 1 13 5 12 19
8 1 9 18 3 12 15 20 8 9 14 7
1 14 4 1 12 5 1 20 8 5 18
2 5 12 20 5 1 20 19
12 15 3 21 19 20 19 1 14 4
23 9 12 4 8 15 14 5 25