


*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.



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
- 4:30 p.m. SMA Advent Prayer Service at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church
- 5:00 p.m. Joy Gift Pot Luck Dinner – Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 24

Isaiah 9:2–7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11–14 Luke 2:1–14 [15–20]

- 8:00 p.m. Candlelight Service with Family-friendly elements – Sanctuary and Zoom
- 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service – Sanctuary

Thursday, December 25 • Happy Birthday Jesus!

- Church Office Closed
- Christmas Dawn Isaiah 62:6–12 Psalm 97 Titus 3:4–7 Luke 2:[1–7] 8–20
- Christmas Day Isaiah 52:7–10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1:1–4 [5–12] John 1:1–14

Friday, December 26

- Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 27

- 1:00 p.m. Yarns & Threads Gathering – Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 28 • First Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 63:7–9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2:10–18 Matthew 2:13–23

- 11:00 a.m. Service of Worship with Communion – Sanctuary and Zoom

**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 and Sermon Hymn was written to provide a new Advent text for an existing French carol tune. Prepare the Way is an SPC favorite, based on the soundtrack of *Godspell*.

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Sheila Melendez (she/her) Choir Director • sheilamelendez@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

Life Is Round, excerpt

... Love is a circle  
of burning light.  
When there is darkness,  
when there is shadow,  
though the light burns low,  
it remains undiminished.

Who enters  
the dwelling place of Love  
will know  
rain on the sounding river,  
a circle of life  
in the circle of burning fire.

Annette Penniman

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Look, the young woman  
is with child and shall  
bear a son and shall name  
him Immanuel.

**Isaiah 7:14**  
Restore us, O LORD God  
of hosts. **Psalms 80:19**

To all God’s beloved in  
Rome, who are called to  
be saints. **Romans 1:7**

When Joseph awoke from  
sleep he did as the angel  
of the Lord commanded  
him. **Matthew 1:24**

**Preacher**  
Rev. Gusti Linnea Newquist

**Assistants**  
McDonald /Madeira Family  
Mica Martin

**Special Music**  
Terry Tucker  
Ardyth Gilbertson  
Handbell Choir

**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**

† † †

**+Choral Processional** (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 105, v. 1-3**  
“People, Look East”

**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. 1** (2x)  
*He came down that we may have love;*  
*he came down that we may have love;*  
*he came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore!*

**Blessing the World**  
Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia

**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**  
Matthew 1:18-25

**Interlude**  
“The Cherry Tree Carol”

**Reading**

**Sermon**  
“Sabbath With Us: Love Made Flesh”

**\*Hymn 105, v. 4-5**  
“People, Look East”

**THE BREAD OF LIFE**

† † †

**Eucharistic Prayer**

**Offering Our Gifts**

**Offertory**  
“In Thee O Lord Have I Trusted”

† † †

**Prepare the Way!**

Advent is the season of  
the secret ... of divine love  
growing in silence.

**Caryll Houselander**

\*Please rise in body and spirit.

**Lesson Translation**  
New Revised  
Standard Version

Poinsettias  
Were donated to decorate  
the Sanctuary by many  
generous family &  
friends of SPC

**Sermons & Information**  
shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

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## 105

## People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more  
 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the  
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more  
 5 An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are  
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to  
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are  
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y  
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

Peo - ple, look

a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.  
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.  
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.  
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.  
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

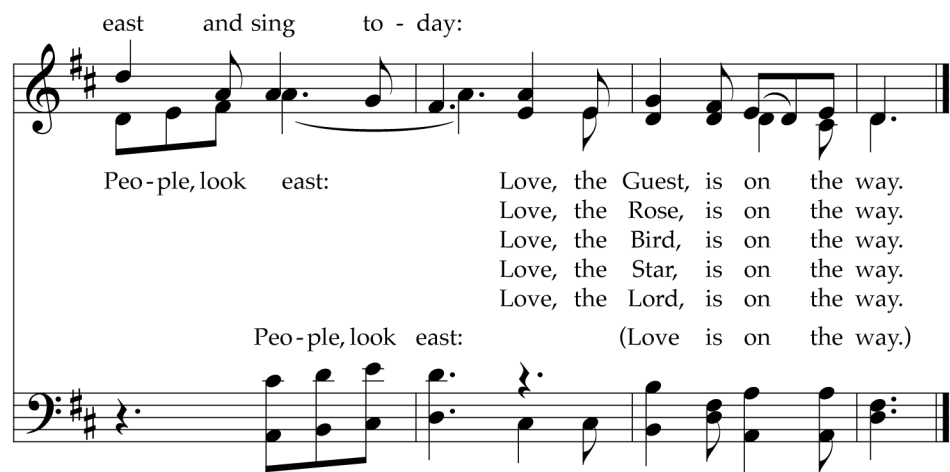
This text was written to provide a new Advent text for an existing carol tune, here named for the city in eastern France where it originated. The author has imaginatively expressed the cosmic implications of Christ's coming by addressing each stanza to a part of creation.

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

east and sing to - day:

Peo-ple, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
Love, the Bird, is on the way.  
Love, the Star, is on the way.  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Peo-ple, look east: (Love is on the way.)



# 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  
(11am service only)

**January 4** Sabbath Shines Forth  
(11am service only)

# Prayer for Sabbath

Holy One, in the stillness of night,  
you speak love into fearful hearts,  
and ordinary people awaken to your extraordinary call.

*Sabbath is With Us: Love made flesh*

You bless the courage to stay,  
to cradle what is fragile,  
to name as “beloved” what the world calls unworthy.

*Sabbath is With Us: Love made flesh.*

In Joseph's quiet yes,  
and in every act of faithful care,  
you teach us that love is Sabbath—  
the rest that restores the world.

*Sabbath is With Us: Love made flesh.*

# Sung Response 92 (2x)

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

## 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: Love Made Flesh.*

At this table, we taste the love that makes us kin,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*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.*



What did Joseph do when he woke up from his dream?

Find your way through the maze.  
Read the words along the correct path.

BEGIN
from to them exclaiming

"He
came God

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END

# Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 7+

December 21, 2025 • Matthew 1:18-25

## An Angel Visits Joseph

Joseph was pledged to marry Mary, but when he found out she was pregnant, he decided to divorce her quietly. Then an angel appeared to him.

Find out what the angel said. Begin at the .  
Read every other letter, starting with D. Write the letters on the lines.



"D O N O \_\_\_\_\_"  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

What else did the angel say?

Use this code to find out.

	□	○	△	*	▽
★	J	V	G	E	L
▽	S	B	A	C	W
▲	I	T	F	Y	D
●	N	P	U	E	R
■	A	H	O	M	L



“

□▽○■\*★    ▽▽□▲▽★▽■    ▲★□▲○★\*●

○▽□▲▽●○▲○■    ○▲▲■    ▲▽    □▽▲■□●

□■□●▽▲    \*▲▲■▲●    ▲▽▽●\*★    ○▲▲■

▲★□▲○★\*●    ○■□▲\*■    ○▲○■\*★    □●▲▽\*■\*★

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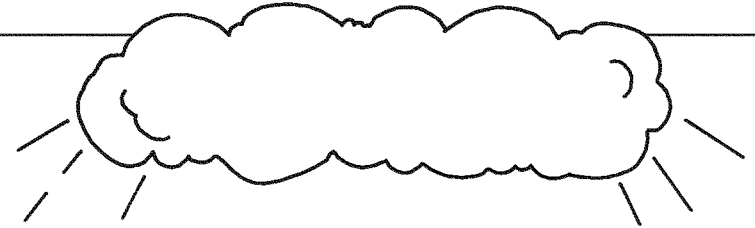
○●\*●▲■○●▽■\*★    ▲▲▽●▲■\*■

”

○▲○■\*●□▲▽●    □▽□▲□●□▽

This took place to fulfill what the Lord had said. What other name did God say the baby would be called?

Add and subtract letters to find the answer.



- grl +



- ouse +



- tch +



- dot

+



- purs +



- umbrella =

\*

This word means “God with us.”

\*In some Bible versions, this name is spelled starting with an “E”.