

Here is my servant ... in whom my soul delights.  
**Isaiah 42:1**

May the LORD give strength to his people!  
**Psalm 29:11**

"I truly understand that God shows no partiality.  
**Acts 10:34**

"This is my Son, the Beloved."  
**Matthew 3:17**

**Preacher**  
Rev. Gusti Linnea Newquist

**Assistant**  
Diane Kradel

**Special Music**  
Than and Mary Anne Hitt  
Keith Loudermill

**Accompanist**  
Sam Jannotta

**Percussion**  
Terry Tucker

**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 (7x)

*Water, River, Spirit, Grace, sweep over me, sweep over me!  
Recarve the depths your fingers traced in sculpting me,  
in sculpting me.*

### 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 484

"Out of Deep Unordered Water"

#### Prayer for Sabbath (see insert)

#### +Kyrie 575 (2x)

*Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us;  
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

### Declaration of Grace and Gratitude

#### +\*Alleluia 587 (2x)

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

### Blessing the Nations

Ireland, United Kingdom (Scotland, England,  
Wales, Northern Ireland)

### Response 486, v. 1

*Child of blessing, child of promise,  
baptized with the Spirit's sign,  
with this water God has sealed you  
unto love and grace divine.*

### First Pew

### Response 486, v. 2

*Child of love, our love's expression,  
love's creation, loved indeed!  
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits;  
into joy and laughter lead.*

## Welcome and Parish Life

### THE WORD OF HOPE

† † †

### Reading

### Interlude

"Take Me to the Water," Nina Simone

### Lesson

Genesis 1:1-2; Luke 3:21-22

### Communal Proclamation

"Sabbath as Practice: Belovedness"

### \*Hymn 488

"I Was There to Hear Your Burning Cry"

### \*THE BREAD OF LIFE

† † †

### Baptismal Blessing

### Serenade

*How could anyone ever tell you  
you were anything less than beautiful?*

*How could anyone ever tell you you were less than whole?*

*How could anyone fail to notice that your loving is a miracle?*

*How deeply you're connected to my soul?*

### Offering Our Gifts

### Offertory

"This Is Why I Love You/You Are So Beautiful," MAJOR/Cocker

† † †

### \*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

Becoming the Beloved means letting the truth of our Belovedness become enfleshed in everything we think, say, or do.

**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.*



### **Sunday, January 11 • Baptism of the Lord**

*Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17*

8:30 a.m. Early Service of Worship with Baptismal Blessing – Sanctuary  
11:00 a.m. Service of Worship with Baptismal Blessing – Sanctuary / Zoom  
12:30 p.m. Youth Group Gathering – Downstairs  
Sabbatical Planning Team Timeline Project Kick-off – Sanctuary

### **Tuesday, January 13**

7:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil for the Nation – Sanctuary

### **Wednesday, January 14**

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

### **Sunday, January 18**

*Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11 1 Corinthian 1:1-9 John 1:29-42*

8:30 a.m. Early Service of Worship – Sanctuary  
9:30 a.m. A Theological Frame for Our Time with Pastor Gusti – Fellowship Hall / Zoom  
11:00 a.m. Service of Worship – Sanctuary / Zoom  
12:30 p.m. Youth Group Gathering – Downstairs

**SERVICE MUSIC TODAY:** The Introit uses baptismal imagery to pray for renewal and transformation. The Kyrie, Alleluia, and Sending are traditional liturgical texts. The 21st Century Introduction and Response to First Pew begins each stanza with a facet of our baptismal identity. The Baptismal Serenade by Libby Roderick is a beloved SPC tradition.

**TODAY'S HYMNS:** The Opening hymn connects the water in the font with the waters of creation, redemption, and sustenance. The Sermon Hymn speaks with the voice of Divine Love to assure us of God's presence throughout the changing stages of life.

### **A THEOLOGICAL FRAME FOR OUR TIME PRESENTATION BY PASTOR GUSTI, Sunday**

**January 18, 9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall and Zoom.** In response to the Chicago Clergy Letter and the Shepherdstown Friends (Quakers) statement on the Harms Caused by the Actions of Our Current Government, the Session has invited Pastor Gusti to offer a theological frame for how SPC might express our commitments in this season. The Quaker statement is available at <https://shepherdstownfriends.org/where-we-stand/#harmscurrentadministration>. The Chicago letter is available at <https://www.counterpunch.org/2025/10/24/jesus-is-being-tear-gassed-at-broadview-an-open-letter/>.

### **Baptism of the Lord**

**January 11, 2026**

11:00 a.m.

### **Sea Prayer**

Lord, let me, in giving love, remember the seashore—  
the ocean's openness. May I keep in touch with your divine passion  
beyond my sight's limits on the water's surface—a passion  
that ridges both the sea and the seashell.

Let me risk giving of myself—an exposure  
like the crosscut section of the chambered nautilus.  
Yet help me to understand how to use the power you have given me.  
Remind me that I must know quiet moments,  
cradling your gifts so that I can pour them forth like the tide.

May I not be as the water lily that closes in on itself  
at evening in its still pool. But may I become,  
with time, strong and nourishing  
like the brilliant breakers of the sea.

**Mary Ann Coleman**

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