

*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, May 17 • Seventh Sunday of Eastertide**

*Acts 1:6-14 Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 John 17:1-11*

8:30 a.m. Early Worship Service – Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. Service of Worship – Sanctuary / Zoom

Sunday Studio – Children K-5th Grade – Classroom 2

12:00 p.m. New Member Class – Pastor Mary Jane’s office

80th Birthday Celebration for Cheryl Pullen – Fellowship Hall

## **Tuesday, May 19**

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

7:00 p.m. Worship Planning Team meeting via Zoom

## **Wednesday, May 20**

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

## **Saturday, May 23**

10:00 a.m. Share Program Event until 4 p.m. – Fellowship Hall

## **Sunday, May 24 • Pentecost**

*Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39*

8:30 a.m. Early Worship Service – Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. Service of Worship – Sanctuary / Zoom

Sunday Studio – Children K-5th Grade – Classroom 2

**Eastertide**  
Seventh Sunday

**May 17, 2026**  
11:00 a.m.

### **Resurrection**

Resurrection is not just comfort,  
it’s courage. It’s a signpost.

It points to the victory  
of love and nonviolence  
over evil, death and injustice.

It indicates the good path  
where our good shepherd leads us,  
through the shadowed valley of suffering,  
to bring to the table of grace  
even our enemies.

For, dying, love endures.

Failing, love wins.

So we follow good paths  
with courage to live gently,  
to serve humbly, to forgive freely,  
to risk boldly for the sake of the vulnerable.

Such is the path to life  
that can’t be taken from us, even by death,  
an abundantly fruiting tree,  
rooted in the eternal heart of God.

So nourished in this peculiar green pasture  
of dying and rising,  
and so gently led  
by our dying and rising shepherd,  
with love and courage we go.

**Steve Garnaas-Holmes**

### **SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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### **SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*Established 1743*

*Radical Hospitality • Holistic Spirituality • Engaged Compassion*

*We Choose Welcome*

If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you . . .

**1 Peter 4:14a**

“And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world” . . . **John 17:11a**

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses” . . .

**Acts 1:8a**

Let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy.

**Psalms 68:3**

**Preacher**

Rev. Mary Jane Hitt

**Assistants**

Evelyn Groff  
Sarah Wagner

**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**

† † †

**Easter Proclamation**

*Christ Is Risen!  
Christ Is Risen, Indeed!*

**Introit (3x)**

*Christ is risen, alleluia. Love is risen, alleluia.*

**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.

**Remembering our Baptism**

**\*Hymn 36**

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

**Prayer for Wholeness (see insert)**

**Response 577 (2x)**

*Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.*

**Declaration of Grace and Gratitude**

**\*Response 243 (3x)**

*Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!  
Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!*

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**Blessing the World**

Angola, Mozambique

**Response 250, v. 1**

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

**First Pew**

**Response 250, v. 3**

*In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

**Welcome and Parish Life**

**THE WORD OF HOPE**

† † †

**Reading**

**Interlude**

**Lesson**

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

**Sermon**

“Easier Said than Done”

**\*Hymn 463**

“How Firm a Foundation”

**THE BREAD OF LIFE**

† † †

**Prayer for Others**

**Offering Our Gifts**

**Offertory**

“Create a Pure Heart in Me,” *Susan Matsui*

† † †

**\*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 246, v. 1, 5**

*Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.*

*Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love and praise.*

Worry is a misuse of imagination. **Dan Zadra**

Faith is the strength by which a shattered world shall emerge into the light. **Helen Keller**

Noncooperation with evil is as much a duty as cooperation with good. **Mahatma Gandhi**

Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less. **C. S. Lewis**

**Sanctuary flowers**

**In honor of**

Lynn Dampman’s  
5th Anniversary at SPC

**Lesson Translation**

New Revised  
Standard Version,  
Updated Edition

**Sermons & Information**  
shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

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## Prayer for Wholeness

Holy One, you invite us to cast our anxieties on you,  
yet we confess how tightly we hold them.  
We cling to our worries, our need for control,  
our fear of what we cannot predict.

You call us to humility,  
but we confess the ways we rely on our own strength  
and forget that you are the One who sustains us.

Where we have been impatient, forgive us.  
Where we have been anxious, calm us.  
Where we have been scattered,  
gather us again in your grace.

Restore us, strengthen us,  
and establish us in your steadfast love,  
that we may walk in hope and live as people of blessing.

Amen.

# For the Fruit of All Creation 36

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.  
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.  
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.  
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are  
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -  
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -

sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
 spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.  
 found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Originally called "Harvest Hymn," this text is much more comprehensive than that title implies. It also deals with stewardship, thanksgiving, and God's endless gifts that continue to astound us. It is set to a familiar Welsh tune whose name means "throughout the night."

## 463 How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,  
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,  
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,  
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!  
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;  
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;  
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,  
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,  
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign  
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.  
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.  
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.  
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

It seems odd now to think of singing this text to ADESTE FIDELES, but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against shape note music. The vigor of the present tune seems especially right for the final line's reference to Hebrews 13:5.