

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

Psalm 139:1

Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place – and I did not know it!”

Genesis 28:16

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

Romans 8:14

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field.”

Matthew 13:24

Assistant
Mica Martin

Guest Reflections
Than Hitt
Keri Mahoney

Guest Choir Director
Leslie Williams

Speical Music
Adult Choir

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 288 (2x)
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on 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.

Remembering our Baptism

***Hymn 29**
“O God, You Search Me”

Prayer for Wholeness
Holy God,
we confess that we long for easy answers and quick judgments.
We separate people into categories of worthy and unworthy,
friend and enemy, neighbor and stranger.
We are impatient with the slow work of grace.
We focus on the failures of others while ignoring the weeds within
our own hearts. Forgive us for the harm we have caused
through harsh words, indifference, and self-righteousness.
Teach us to trust your mercy more than our judgment.
Give us patience to live faithfully in a complicated world,
and courage to keep choosing love
while your reign grows among us.

+Response 286, v. 1, 2
Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me life anew,
That I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,
Until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.

Declaration of Grace and Gratitude

***+Response 583**
Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia.

***Passing the Peace**

Blessing the World
Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia

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

Lesson
Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43
Wisdom of Solomon 12:16-19

Reflections
“God’s Wisdom and Peace”

***Hymn 834**
“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

THE BREAD OF LIFE

† † †

Prayers for Others

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory
“Twenty-Third Psalm” *by Bobby McFerrin*

† † †

***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 753**, v. 1, 2
Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
and where there’s doubt, true faith in you.
Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there’s despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light,
and where there’s sadness ever joy.

***Postlude**

Christ has no body now but yours. **Teresa of Ávila**

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can.

John Wesley

God has entrusted us with the ministry of making visible the love with which God loves us.

Henri Nouwen

Joy is the serious business of heaven. **C. S. Lewis**

Lesson Translation
New Revised
Standard Version,
Updated Edition

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.



Sixteenth Sunday
Ordinary Time

July 19, 2026
11:00 a.m.

Sunday, July 19

Genesis 28:10-19a Psalm 139:1-11, 45b Romans 8:26-39 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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

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

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

Monday, July 20 – Pastor Gusti Vacation Day

Happy Birthday Christopher!

Tuesday, July 21

Church Office Closed

5:30 p.m. Immigration & Refugee Support Committee via Zoom

7:00 p.m. Worship Team Meeting – Sanctuary

Saturday, July 25

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

Sunday, July 26

Genesis 29:15-28 Psalm 105:1-11, 45b 1 Kings 3:5-12 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

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

PASTOR GUSTI WILL BE TAKING VACATION ON MONDAY, JULY 20

to celebrate Christopher’s birthday. She will not check email but will be available by cell for pastoral emergencies: 681-283-5314.

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1743

Radical Hospitality • Holistic Spirituality • Engaged Compassion

We Choose Welcome

One Body

Of course we don’t believe that.
We think we’re separate.
We thank God
we don’t live in that war zone
as if we don’t,
as if those who live there are not us,
not our flesh and blood.
(And so their suffering is less real than ours.)
It comes naturally to assume
that the stranger is not part of us,
that the grief of a distant tribe is not ours,
that the lake on the tundra
has nothing to do with the flow of our blood.
It is our life’s work
to overcome the delusion,
to live in the Spirit in which we are one,
rather than by the flesh
by which we seem to be separate.
If claiming the suffering of the whole world
seems too wearisome,
too much grief for one person to take on,
that is because we still believe
we’re one person, one small individual.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes