

*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.



**Fifteenth Sunday**  
Ordinary Time

**July 12, 2026**  
11:00 a.m.

**By Your Example**

By your example,  
you can make of anyone you meet  
a student of love,  
a practitioner of kindness,  
a follower in the way  
of deep trust in grace.  
By your example  
you may so touch people  
that something in them heals;  
you can so intrigue people  
that they want to follow.

You will not convince anyone.  
But you may allure them.  
They will not drop everything,  
but something in them may be changed.

**Steve Garraas-Holmes**

**Sunday, July 12**

*Isaiah 55:1-10-13 Isaiah 55:10-13 Romans 8:1-11 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*

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

10:00 a.m. Presbyterian General Assembly Summary – Fellowship Hall/Zoom

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

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

**Monday, July 13 • Office Renovation Project**

Church office closed

**Tuesday, July 14 • Office Renovation Project • Happy Birthday Pastor Gusti!**

Pastor Gusti Vacation Day

Church office closed

**Wednesday, July 15 • Office Renovation Project**

Church office closed

**Thursday, July 16 • Office Renovation Project**

Church office closed

**Friday, July 17 • Office Renovation Project**

Church office closed

**Sunday, July 19**

*Isaiah 44:6-8 Psalm 86:11-17 Romans 8:12-25 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

**PASTOR GUSTI WILL BE TAKING VACATION ON TUESDAY, JULY 14**

to celebrate her 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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office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org • www.shepherdstownpresbyterian.org  
Rev. Gusti Imnea Newquist (she/her) • gusti@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org  
Christa Joyce (she/her) Director of Children and Youth Formation • christa@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org  
Sheila Melendez (she/her) Choir Director • sheilamelendez@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

**SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

The river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain.

**Psalms 65:9**

For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace.

**Isaiah 55:12**

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you.

**Romans 8:9**

All the crowds were amazed and were saying, "Can this be the Son of David?"

**Matthew 13:23**

### Guest Reflections

Mary Ellen Lloyd

Eva Moore

Assistant

Carol Wood

### Special Music

Christa Mastangelo Joyce

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

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**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 true God, whom alone we worship and serve.

**Remembering our Baptism**

\*Hymn 582

"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

**Prayer for Wholeness** (see insert)

+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 (2x)

*Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!*

*Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia.*

\*Passing of the Peace

**Blessing the World**

Canada, USA, and the 1000+ federally recognized indigenous nations within these countries, including Lakota, Cherokee, and Navajo

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**

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**Reading**

**Interlude**

**Lessons**

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

**Reflections**

"Planted in Love"

\*Hymn 664

"Morning Has Broken"

**THE BREAD OF LIFE**

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**Prayer for Others**

**Offering Our Gifts**

**Offertory**

"Plowshare Prayer," by Spenser Laylo

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\*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

Faith is the bird that feels the light and sings when the dawn is still dark.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

Do small things with great love.

**Mother Teresa**

The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn.

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.

**Martin Luther**

\*Please rise in body and spirit.

**Lesson Translation**

New Revised

Standard Version,

Updated Edition

**Sermons & Information**

[shepherdstonwpres@syberian.org](mailto:shepherdstonwpres@syberian.org)

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## **“Parents (and Parental Figures) of SPC”**

### **SPC Worship in July**

Back by popular demand,  
Parents of SPC  
and those who work closely  
with our children and youth  
will reflect on how the lectionary text  
relates to their lives

#### **July 5 (with communion): God’s Rest and Peace**

Amanda Groff and Rachel Wilkinson

#### **July 12: Planted in Love**

Mary Ellen Lloyd and Eva Moore

#### **July 19: God’s Wisdom and Peace**

Than Hitt and Keri Mahoney

#### **July 26: God’s Treasured Love**

Keith Loudermill and Judy York

### **Prayer for Wholeness**

God of grace,  
you scatter the seed of your \*kingdom generously,  
yet we confess that our hearts  
are not always ready to receive your word.  
Too often we are distracted by worry,  
crowded with busyness,  
or hardened by fear and resentment.  
We hear your invitation to trust,  
yet we cling to control.

We hear your promise of abundant life,  
yet we resist the transformation your Spirit brings.  
Break up the hardened ground within us.  
Clear away the thorns  
that choke joy and compassion.  
Deepen our roots in your mercy,  
so that our lives may bear  
the fruit of your \*kingdom.

*\*Expansive language option:  
may substitute \*kin-dom for kingdom*

# Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Capo 3: (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)  
 B<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup> F Gm F

1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,  
 2 World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)  
 F B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> Gm7 C7

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,  
 World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

(A7) (D) (F#) (Bm)  
 C7 F A Dm

and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.  
 World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm)(A7) (D)  
 Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F

As it was in the be - gin-ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

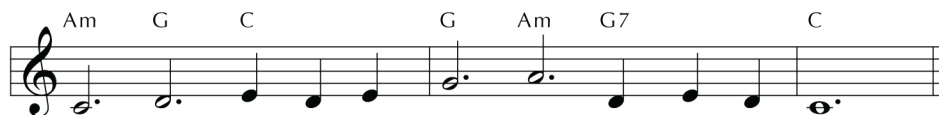
# Morning Has Broken 664



1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black-bird has  
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en, like the first  
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the



spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the  
 dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet-ness of the wet  
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion; praise ev - ery



morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!  
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.  
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

This 20th-century text was created to provide words for this traditional tune named for a small village on the Isle of Mull, off the west coast of Scotland. Through repeated use of "new" and "first," each morning is treated as a re-creation of the promise of the original day.





Jesus told this parable to the people:  
 "A farmer went out to sow his seed ..."  
 What happened?



Write a word to fit each definition.  
 Transfer the letters to the lines below.

a place where vegetables grow	1	2	3	4	5	6	opposite of full	19	20	21	22	23
a digging tool	7	8	9	10	11	12	to stop	24	25	26	27	1
a container to carry water	13	14	15	16	17	18	not many	28	29	30		

7 9 20 17 28 5 12 12 2 12 9 6 1 22 8 5 21 2 18 8

13 26 3 4 7 15 2 20 19 2 12 9 6 1 2 6 4 2 18 5

26 18 7 9 20 17 28 5 12 12 9 6 3 9 15 16 23

21 12 2 15 5 7 26 22 1 3 5 30 24 14 26 15 16 12 23

13 14 18 8 2 4 6 9 3 9 9 22 7 7 9 20 5

28 5 12 12 2 20 9 6 1 18 8 9 3 6 7 27 8 2 18

15 8 9 16 5 4 18 8 11 21 12 2 6 27 7

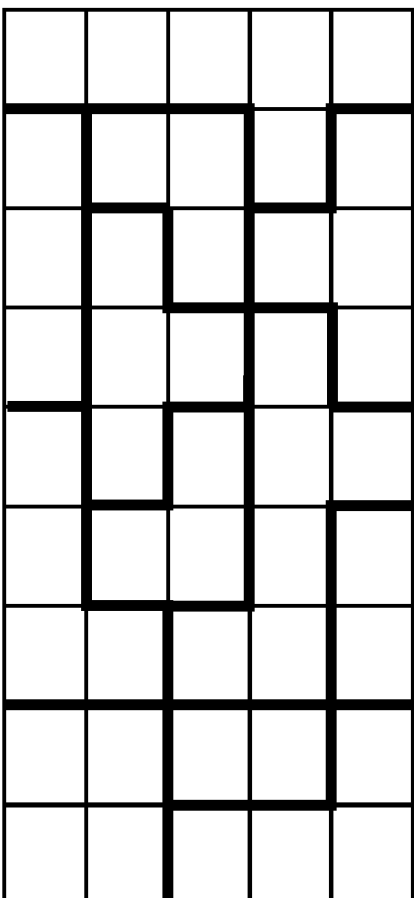
7 9 20 5 28 5 12 12 9 6 1 9 9 4

7 9 26 12 2 6 4 21 3 9 4 14 15 5 4 20 25 15 8

20 9 3 5 18 8 2 6 30 2 7 21 12 2 6 18 5 4

Jesus explained what the story meant.  
 What happened to the seeds that fell in the thorns?

Fit the pieces into the puzzle to find out what Jesus said.



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 but the he  
 "The refers

seed falling to  
 he w life  
 wealth  
 fruitful."  
 cho t

making it un  
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 ke the word,

thorns  
 ord, and  
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deceitfulness wor  
 people who hear t his