

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, 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

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

Tuesday, July 28

6:00 p.m. Property Committee Meeting – Fellowship Hall/Zoom

Wednesday, July 29

Church Office Hours 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Thursday, July 30

Church Office Hours 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Friday, July 31

Church Office Closed

Weekend Youth Mission Trip to Massanetta Springs through

1 p.m. Sunday, August 2

Sunday, August 2

Genesis 32:22-31 Psalm 17:1-7, 15 Isaiah 55:1-5 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21

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

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

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

5:00 p.m. Community Meal – Zion Episcopal Church Social Center,

215 E. Washington St, Charles Town, WV 25414

Office Note: Lynn Dampman will be out of the office July 28 through August 7. Church office hours during this time will be 10 am – 2 pm with the exception of Fridays, where the office will be closed. Volunteers will serve in Lynn’s absence.

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

Seventeenth Sunday
 Ordinary Time

July 26, 2026
 11:00 a.m.

Doing the Dishes

In the other room
 they discuss religion.
 I will stay here
 and do the dishes.
 There is no talking,
 only a single bird descending
 outside the window.
 But there is delight enough.
 The sunlight on the suds
 makes little rainbows
 that are so clear.
 The water is warm and attentive.
 It meets perfectly
 every moment of my hands,
 moves perfectly with every move.
 You can't see it but
 in the water you can feel
 the weight of the water.
 I want to tell
 but the bird in the air
 already knows.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes

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

The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple. **Psalms 119:130**

I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after. **1 Kings 3:12**

[Nothing] will separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:39

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. **Matthew 13:44**

Guest Reflection
Judy York

Assistant
Frances Marshall

Special Music
Wanda Stewart

Accompanist
Sam Jannotta

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 true God, whom alone we worship and serve.

Remembering our Baptism

***Hymn 749**

"Come! Live in the Light!"

Prayer for Wholeness

Creator God,

we confess that we often overlook small acts of love and mercy.
We want success that is immediate and visible.
We doubt that tiny seeds of kindness, justice,
and compassion matter.

We grow discouraged when change comes slowly.
At times we fail to trust that your Spirit is still at work
within us, among us, and beyond us.
Forgive us when we lose heart.

Forgive us when fear keeps us from planting seeds of hope.
By your Spirit, make us faithful in small things,
trusting that you can grow more than we can imagine.

+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 of the Peace**

Blessing the World

Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands,
Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

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

Lessons

Romans 8:26-39

Psalms 119

Reflections

"God's Treasured Love"

***Hymn 625**

"How Great Thou Art"

THE BREAD OF LIFE

+ + +

Prayers for Others
Offering Our Gifts

Offertory

"I'll Fly Away" by Albert Brumley

+ + +

***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**

All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well. **Julian of Norwich**

We do not find the meaning of life by ourselves alone. We find it with another.

Thomas Merton

Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart.

Rainer Maria Rilke

This kingdom of God life is not a matter of waking up each morning with a list of chores or an agenda.

Eugene Peterson

Lesson Translation
New Revised
Standard Version,
Updated Edition

Sermons & Information
shepherdstowpresbyterian.org

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749 Come! Live in the Light!

We Are Called

1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that

joy and the love of the Lord! We are called
 mer - cy to all those in fear! We are called
 great day when all will be one! God will reign,

to be light for the king - dom, to live in the
 to be hope for the hope - less so ha - tred and
 and we'll walk with each oth - er as sis - ters and

free - dom of the cit - y of God.
 vio - lence will be no more.
 broth - ers u - nit - ed in love.

Refrain

We are called to act with jus - tice; we are called to
 love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -
 oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

The thematic and musical center of this hymn on the vocation of all believers is found in the refrain, which is based on the well-known challenge of Micah 6:8, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

ADORATION

625

O Lord My God

How Great Thou Art

1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er
2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der and hear the
3 And when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion and take me

all the *worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees, when I look down from
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross, my
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then *I shall bow in

hear the *roll-ing thun-der, thy power through-out the
loft-y moun-tain gran-deur and hear the brook and
bur-den glad-ly bear-ing, he bled and died to
hum-ble ad-o-ra-tion, and there pro-claim, "My

**Author's original words are "works," "mighty," and "shall I bow."*

This tuneful retelling of the salvation story began in Swedish and was translated into German and then into Russian before reaching its English form. Despite such linguistic and musical revisions, it continues to be a meaningful source of comfort to many people.

TEXT: Stuart K. Hine, 1953; Spanish trans. Arturo W. Hotton Rives, alt.; Korean trans. anon.

HOW GREAT THOU ART

MUSIC: Swedish folk melody; adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1949

11.10.11.10 with refrain

Text and Music © 1949 and 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust (U.S.A. print rights admin. Hope Publishing Company.

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ADORATION

Refrain

u - ni - verse dis - played:
 feel the gen - tle breeze: Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to
 take a - way my sin:
 God, how great thou art!"

thee: How great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my

Sav - ior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!

KOREAN

- 1 주 하나님 지으신 모든 세계
 내 마음 속에 그리어 볼 때
 하늘의 별 울려 퍼지는 너성
 주님의 권능 우주에 찾네
- 후렴 주님의 높고 위대하심을
 내영혼이 찬양하네
 주님의 높고 위대하심을
 내영혼이 찬양하네
- 2 숲속이나 험한산 골짜에서
 지저귀는 저 새소리들과
 고요하게 흐르는 시냇물은
 주님의 숨씨 노래하도다 후렴
- 3 주 하나님 독생자 아낌없이
 우리를 위해 보내주셨네
 십자가에 피흘려 죽으신 주
 내 모든 죄를 대속하셨네 후렴
- 4 내주 예수 세상에 다시 올 때
 저 천국으로 날 인도하리
 나 겸손히 엎드려 경배하며
 영원히 주를 찬양하리라 후렴

SPANISH

- 1 Señor, mi Dios, al contemplar los cielos,
 el firmamento y las estrellas mil,
 al oír tu voz en los potentes truenos
 y ver brillar al sol en su cenit,
- Estribillo Mi corazón se llena de emoción.
 ¡Cuán grande es Él! ¡Cuán grande es Él!
 Mi corazón se llena de emoción.
 ¡Cuán grande es Él! ¡Cuán grande es Él!
- 2 Al recorrer los montes y los valles
 y ver las bellas flores al pasar,
 al escuchar el canto de las aves
 y el murmurar del claro manantial, Estribillo
- 3 Cuando recuerdo de tu amor divino
 que desde el cielo al Salvador envió,
 al buen Jesús, que por salvarme vino
 y en una cruz por mí sufrió y murió, Estribillo
- 4 al dulce hogar, al cielo de esplendor;
 te adoraré, cantando la grandeza
 de tu poder y tu infinito amor. Estribillo

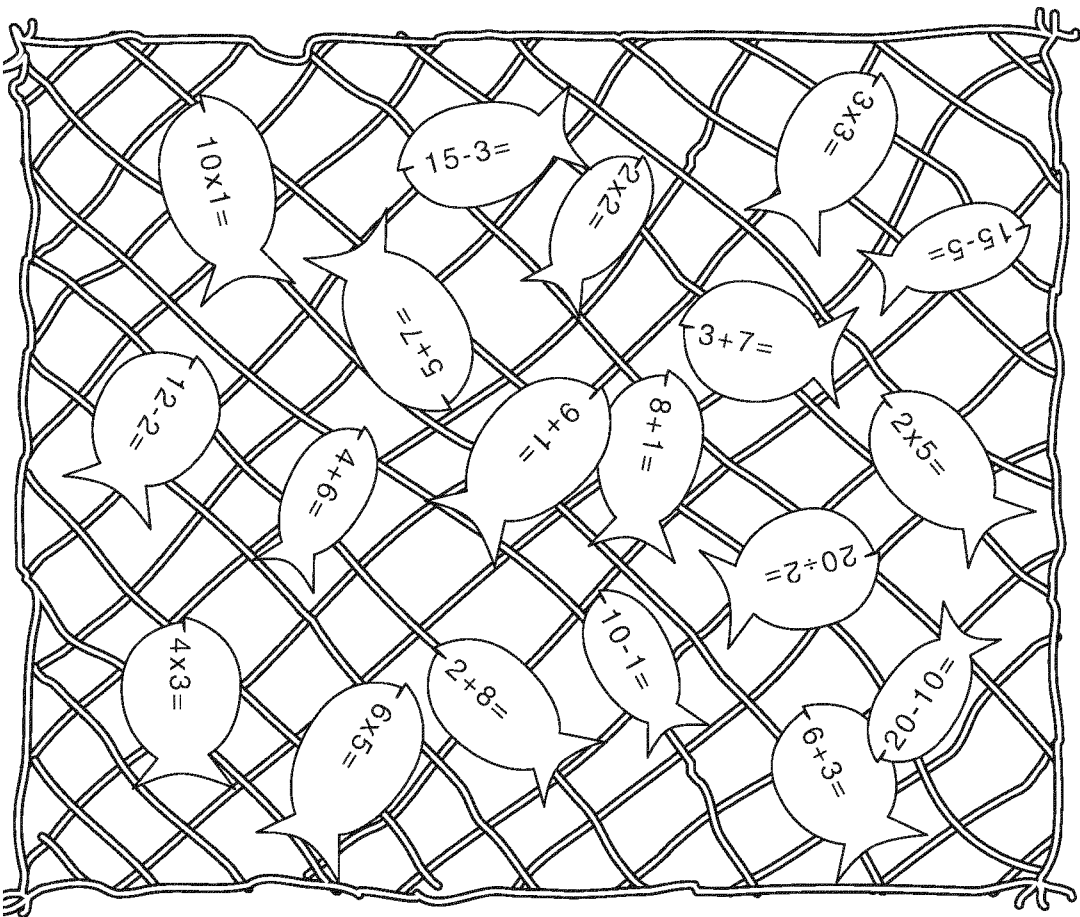


The kingdom of heaven is like a net let down into the lake. It caught all kinds of fish. The fishermen pulled it up on the shore. They collected the good fish in baskets and threw the bad fish away.

Find the fish whose answers match this one.



Color them.



Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 7+

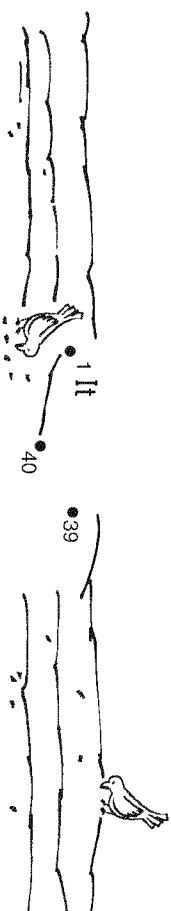
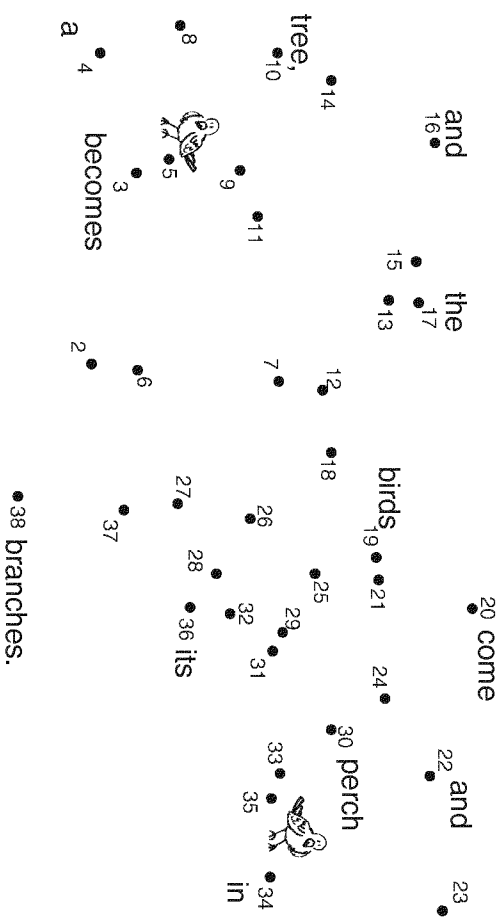
July 26, 2026 • Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

What the Kingdom of Heaven Is Like

Jesus used parables to teach about the kingdom of heaven: The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed. It is the smallest of seeds, but what happens to it?

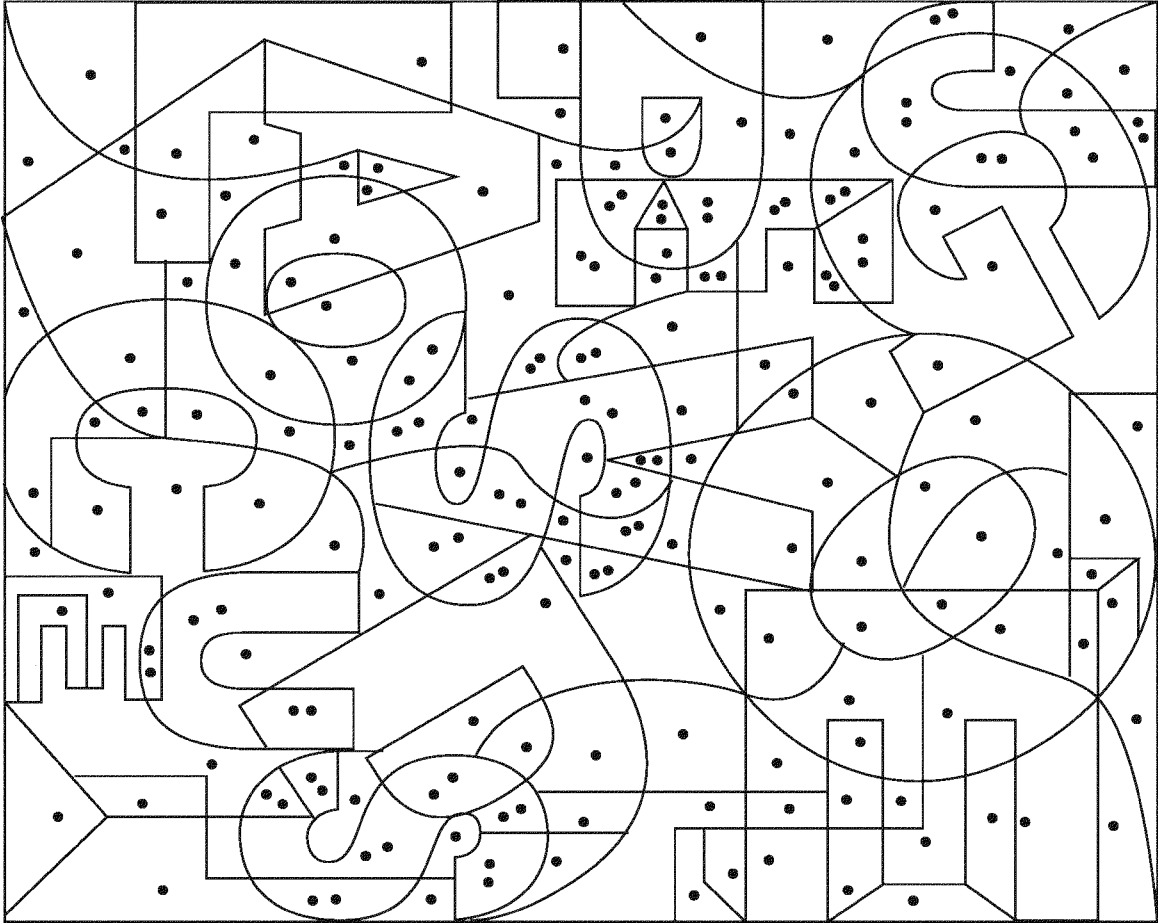
Begin at the seed in the ground.

Connect the dots and read the words along the way.



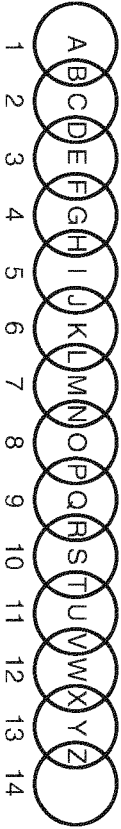
The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. A man found it and hid it again. He joyfully sold all he had and bought the field.

Find a hidden treasure here.
Color the spaces with a ••.



Use the code to fill in the blanks in this parable.

Use the code to find some words of Jesus.



The kingdom of heaven is like a

7 3 9,10 2 4,5 1 7,8 10,11

looking for 3,4 5 7,8 3

8,9 3 1 9,10 6,7 10 . When he found one of

4 9,10 3 1 10,11 11,12 1 6,7 11 3 , he went

away and 10 8 6,7 2,3

3 11,12 3 9,10 13 10,11 4,5 5 7,8 4 he had

and 1,2 8 11 4 4,5 10,11 it.

