

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." **Joshua 5:9**

Blessed is each one whose wrongdoings have been forgiven, whose shame has been forgotten. Blessed is each one in whom Love Divine finds a home, and whose spirit radiates truth. **Psalm 32** (Merrill)

The Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them a parable. **Luke 15:2-3**

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. **2 Corinthians 5:17-18**

**Preacher**  
Rev. Bill Sitterley  
**Organist**  
Alan Ogden  
**Choir Director**  
Georgiann Toole  
**Assistants**  
Edie Wilkinson  
Michael Joyce  
Christa Joyce

**To Our Guests**  
Glad you're 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.

## GATHERING OUR HEARTS

**Introit (2x)**  
Surely it is God who saves us.  
We will trust in Love and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is our stronghold and our sure defense,  
and God will be our savior.

**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.

**Call to Prayer**  
Lift up your hearts  
*We lift them up to the Lord*

**Prayer**  
+++  
**\*Hymn 23**  
"God, You Spin the Whirling Planets"

## ENCOUNTERING GRACE

**Prayer for Wholeness**  
O Gracious One, have mercy on me, help me to trust your steadfast love. Forgive me for all the ways I have inflicted harm on others, myself and your creation. Lead me in paths of justice and guide my steps on the way of peace. Free me from all that binds me in fear that I might radiate your love. Restore in me the joy of abundant life and fill me with your Spirit, this day and always. Amen

**Silence**  
**Kyrie eleison**  
Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy  
Lord, have mercy on us

**Declaration of Grace & Gratitude**  
**\*Doxology**  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

**Welcome**  
**Blessing the World**  
Eritrea, Ethiopia

**\*\*Hymn 753**  
"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

**First Pew**  
**Parish Life**  
**Hymn 834**  
"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

## HEARING THE WORD

**Reading**  
**Interlude**  
**Lesson**  
Luke 15:11-32

**Sermon**  
"The Prodigal God"

**\*Hymn 649** (vs. 2, 3)  
"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

## SHARING THE GIFTS OF LIFE

**Eucharistic Prayer**  
**Communion**  
The Lord is my light, my light and salvation.  
In God I trust, in God I trust.

## SERVING THE WORLD

**Presenting Offerings**  
**Offertory**  
"Love is But My Answer"  
Carlton T. Russell

**Affirmation**  
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**\*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.

**\*\*Response**  
Surely it is God...  
+++

**Charge and Benediction**  
**Postlude**

prod-i-gal /prädegel - adjective  
1. recklessly extravagant  
2. having spent everything

Every time God forgives us, God is saying that God's own rules do not matter as much as the relationship that God wants to create with us. **Richard Rohr**

It was incomprehensible... Here I was denying all my natural lust in order to deserve God's gift and there was Mozart indulging in all directions – even though engaged to be married – and no rebuke at all! **Antonio Salieri** (1750 – 1821)  
Italian classical composer

The will can do all, except one thing: undo that which it has done. The power of undoing is of another order: of the order of grace, if you will. It is a miracle. **Vladimir Jankélévitch**

\* stand if you are able

\*\* children grades 5 and younger to the first pew

**Flowers placed by**  
the Price family fund

**Sermons & Newsletters**  
shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

**Sunday flowers**  
sign up in office

**Lord have Mercy**  
by Bro. Stefan Waligur

*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.



**Sun 31 • Fourth Sunday in Lent**

8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Worship & Communion  
9:30 a.m. Youth group. CR 3  
9:45 a.m. Confirmation class. CR 1  
9:45 a.m. Sunday Seminar. FH

**Tue 2**

11:00 a.m. Music committee. CR 1

**Wed 3**

12:30 p.m. Spanish lessons. FH  
7:00 p.m. Evening prayer in song, silence  
and candlelight. Sanctuary  
7:30 p.m. Choir practice. Choir Room

**Thu 4**

10:00 a.m. Women's Circle. FH

**Fri 5**

4:00 p.m. Connections @ Blue Moon

**Sun 7 • Fifth Sunday in Lent**

*Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14;  
John 12:1-8*

8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Worship & Communion

5:30 p.m. Community Dinner. Zion Episcopal

**COMMUNION TODAY:** All are welcome to participate. The bread is gluten free; the "wine" is alcohol free.

**COMMUNITY DINNER.** Sunday, April 7, 5:00 p.m., Zion Episcopal Church, Charles Town. Go to PerfectPotluck.com; coordinator Wright, password 5777. Drop off hot food 3:45–4:15 p.m. that Sunday. Leave other food in the SPC refrigerator anytime (marked Community Dinner). Please use disposable containers.

**INQUIRING INTO CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?** Join us on April 14 at 9:45 a.m. to find out what this means and implies, and what is unique about Shepherdstown Presbyterian. We'll meet upstairs in Classroom #1. Please let Rev. Sitterley know of your interest if you have not done so already.

**EASTER OFFERING OGHs** (One Great Hour of Sharing) Turn in fish boxes by April 28. Donations will be shared: 50% to humanitarian ministries of the PCUSA (hunger relief, disaster assistance, self-development of people projects), 25% to Jefferson County Community Ministries (JCCM), and 25% to Good Shepherd (GSIVC). Make checks to SPC; memo: OGHs.

**HOLY WEEK**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY** April 18, 7:30 p.m. Prayer in song and silence. Communion around the table.

**PRAYER VIGIL** to follow at 9:00 p.m. until noon Good Friday. Sign up in Narthex & Fellowship Hall.

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE, April 21.** Gather at 6:15 a.m. Informal service at Rumsey Monument Park. Please bring a chair and gather on the grass area below the monument. Also, bring a reading, poem, or song to share. A light breakfast will follow at the nearby home of Becky Phipps.

**EASTER SERVICES:** 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Worship & Communion.

**SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

100 W. Washington Street • PO Box 268, Shepherdstown, West Virginia 25443  
office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org • www.shepherdstownpresbyterian.org  
Interim Pastor: Bill Sitterley • BSitterley@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org  
Director of Spiritual Formation: Ethel Hornbeck • ethel@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

**Season of Lent**

Fourth Sunday

**March 31, 2019**

11:00 a.m.

**A Prodigal People's Prayer**

O Prodigal God, wastefully loving,  
recklessly extravagant with grace,  
excessively generous with forgiveness,  
liberal with tender mercy and compassion,  
lavish with hope and delight:  
you shower us with love  
that we are not prepared to receive.  
You know the hurt beneath our fleeing,  
the fear enclosed in our anger  
and our clutching of what is deserved.  
You embrace us freely and passionately,  
free from our past, knowing and healing our pain,  
in the present moment, celebrating.

\* \* \*

In your love may we love lavishly,  
without exception or measurement.  
Yes, it will break our hearts;  
we shall be taken advantage of, and worse—  
we shall be crucified, and only your love will remain.  
And then for us, who have died and are alive again  
you will give a great feast.  
By your grace may this life be a reunion,  
a celebration, a resurrection,  
that in prodigal love we may know your joy,  
your giving, dancing, feasting, running, embracing joy.

**part of a longer poem by Steve Garnaas-Holmes**

**SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*Celebrating 275 Years*  
*Claiming the Past • Engaging the Present • Imagining the Future*  
*We Choose Welcome*