

God has anointed me ... to bind up the brokenhearted.

Isaiah 61:1

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Psalms 126:5

May the God of peace sanctify you entirely.

1 Thessalonians 5:23a

John himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

John 1:8

THE FONT OF IDENTITY

+Introit Hymn 92 (v. 2-3)

With power and glory, come;
with power and glory, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting, come.

Come, Savior, quickly come;
come, Savior, quickly come;
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting, come.

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.

Call to Prayer

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to the Lord

Advent Prayer

† † †

+Hymn 89 (v. 1-2)

“For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits”

Prayer for Wholeness

Holy God,

Open our eyes to the presence of your Spirit
upon us, within us, among us.

For our apathy in the presence of oppression, forgive us.

For contributing to brokenheartedness, forgive us.

For our participation in systems that enslave, forgive us.

When we are deaf to your good news,
have mercy and open our ears.

When our mouths remain too tightly closed,
loosen our lips with songs of praise.

Declaration of Grace & Gratitude

Passing the Peace

Blessing the World

Cyprus, Greece, Turkey

First Pew

Welcome and Parish Life

Minute for Mission

† † †

THE WORD OF HOPE

Reading

Interlude

Lesson

Isaiah 61:1-3c

Sermon

“Garlands for Ashes”

+Hymn 89 (v. 3-4)

“For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits”

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Eucharistic Prayer

+Response Hymn 89 (v.5-6)

“For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits”

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory

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.

Charge and Benediction

† † †

+Sending Hymn

Winter solstice refrain (2x)

The light is coming.

The light is coming back.

Darkness may reign for a moment,
but the light is coming back.

The point is not that this world is too sad to love or too glad not to love; the point is that when you do love a thing, its gladness is a reason for loving it, and its sadness a reason for loving it more.

G. K. Chesterton

Sorrow prepares you for joy. It violently sweeps everything out of your house, so that new joy can find space to enter.

Rumi

Let us dance in the sun, wearing wild flowers in our hair and let us huddle together as darkness takes over.

Susan Polis Schutz

The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.

Frederick Buechner

Flowers placed by
the Price family fund

“Winter Solstice”

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+Hymns

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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.



Sunday 13 • Third Sunday of Advent

11:00 a.m. Service of Worship & Communion via Facebook Live!

1:00 p.m. Presbytery Ordination Service via Zoom

Tuesday 15

7:00 p.m. Teach the Preacher via Zoom

Wednesday 16

7:00 p.m. Advent Reflections via Zoom

Thursday 17

10:00 a.m. Listening group via Zoom

5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class, 10-12 grade, via Zoom

Friday 18 • Hanukkah concludes at sundown

Saturday 19

8:30 a.m. Men's virtual breakfast via Zoom

Sunday 20 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

11:00 a.m. Service of Worship & Communion via Facebook Live!

ENVELOPES. If you would like your 2021 offering envelopes mailed to you, please let the office know. They will be mailed out this week.

PLEDGE FORMS. If you have not returned your pledge form, please do so as soon as possible so we have a general idea of our 2021 working budget.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS. Each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. during Advent, we will hold a 30 minute Zoom gathering to reflect together on the Advent themes of Joy (Dec. 16) and Love (Dec.23). Join Yvonne Fisher, Larry Neumark, Anne Teresa and Leslie Williams for readings, silence, and sharing.

STRENGTHENED TO THE END. Our worship in the seasons of Advent through Epiphany invites us to experience the strengthening of the Spirit in ways we might not expect. Pay attention to places of "Sudden Hope" emerging in your life. If you are willing to share those experiences with others, you will be invited to record a message to be included in worship on Dec. 27.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING. Please join in our Christmas offering to support two important project partners: the Coalfield Development Corporation in southern WV, founded by our own Brandon Dennison with its many powerful people and business development initiatives; and the VERBO church and school in Bluefields, Nicaragua helping respond to the many needs among its Community. Indicate Christmas offering in the memo line of your check or in the comments section of your online contribution.

MINUTES FOR MISSION highlight the various ministries supported by SPC through your pledged giving. If you feel inspired to make an additional contribution to these ministries, you may do so online or by check (note the name of the ministry in the memo / comments section).

ALL GATHERINGS IN THE CHURCH BUILDING have been suspended until further notice. Please contact the church if your committee or team is planning to meet electronically so we can add it to notices and calendar.

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

100 W. Washington Street • PO Box 268, Shepherdstown, West Virginia 25443 • 304-876-6466

office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org • www.shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

Rev. Gusti Linnea Newquist • gusti@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

Director of Campus Ministry and Youth Programs: Morgan Sell • youth@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

Children's Education Coordinator: Christa Joyce • jalayoga.christa@gmail

Advent
Third Sunday

December 13, 2020
11:00 a.m.

On Joy and Sorrow

from *The Prophet*

Then a woman said, Speak to us of Joy and Sorrow.

And he answered:

Your joy is your sorrow unmasked.

And the selfsame well from which your laughter rises

was oftentimes filled with your tears.

And how else can it be?

The deeper that sorrow carves into your being, the

more joy you can contain.

Is not the cup that holds your wine the very cup that

was burned in the potter's oven?

And is not the lute that soothes your spirit, the very

wood that was hollowed with knives?

When you are joyous, look deep into your heart and

you shall find it is only that which has given you sorrow

that is giving you joy.

When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and

you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that

which has been your delight.

Khalil Gibran

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1743

Radical Hospitality • Holistic Spirituality • Engaged Compassion

We Choose Welcome