

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.... and he shall be the one of peace.

Micah 5:2,5

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Psalms 80:3

When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me."

Hebrews 10:5

And Mary said, "O God, you have shown strength with your arm; you have scattered the proud in their conceit; you have deposed the mighty from their thrones and raised the lowly to high places. You have filled the hungry with good things, while you have sent the rich away empty."

Luke 1: 52-53

Preacher

Ethel Hornbeck

Communion

Rev. Carl Howard

Piano

Georgiann Toole

First Pew

Chris Morehouse

Interlude

Piano: Bob Sykes
Saxophone: Ryan Walker

Prepare the Way

Terry Tucker and friends

Offertory

Men's Quartet

Assistants

Hazel Hitt
Patch Sell
Christa Joyce
Frances Marshall

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 (Hymn 646 2x)

Sing out, my soul. Sing out, my soul.
Sing out and glorify the Lord who sets us free.
Sing out, my soul. Sing out, my soul.
Sing out and glorify the Lord God!

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

Lighting of Advent Candle

† † †

***Hymn 107**

"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

ENCOUNTERING GRACE

Prayer for Wholeness

O God, Creator of all that is, Your Spirit broods over the chaos. You call forth light and life out of every darkness. You create us and call us blessed. But we refuse your blessing, and ignore your invitations to live and love boldly. Forgive us. Free us from all that keeps us from honoring your gifts. Open us to the new possibilities you are creating in us and through us even now. Fill us with new vision for justice and peace. In the way and in the spirit of Jesus we pray. Amen

Silence

Kyrie (2x)

Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy on us

Declaration of Grace & Gratitude

***Response**

Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah. Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah.
Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah. Halle-lu-jah, halle-lu-jah.

Welcome

Blessing the World

Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia

****Hymn 85**

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

First Pew

Parish Life

Hymn 106

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

HEARING THE WORD

Reading

Interlude

"Lo, How a Rose"

Traditional/arr. Shawn Kirchner

Lesson

Luke 1:39-55

Sermon

"A Dangerous Song"

***Hymn 100**

"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shot"

SHARING THE GIFTS OF LIFE

Eucharistic Prayer

Communion

Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord,
broken and shared, life for the world.
Let us be wine, love freely poured
Let us be one in the Lord

SERVING THE WORLD

Presenting Offerings

Offertory

"Shepherds Rise and Go"
Traditional/arr. Mark Pullen

Affirmation

† † †

Response (2x)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!

† † †

Prepare the Way

Christian life is a commitment to love, to give birth to God in one's own life and to become midwives of divinity in this evolving cosmos. **Ilia Delio**

Mary's song is "the most passionate, the wildest, one might even say the most revolutionary Advent hymn ever sung...a hard, strong, inexorable song about the power of God and the powerlessness of humankind."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Scripture scholars contend that the original language of the Beatitudes should not be rendered as "Blessed are" ...greater precision in translation would say, "You're in the right place if...you are single-hearted or work for peace." The Beatitudes is not a spirituality, after all. It's a geography. It tells us where to stand.

Gregory Boyle

Let us kneel in the darkness,
Until we see
God's light emerge.
Let us wait
with hope filled hearts,
As Christ's image grows
within us and shows us life.
Let Christ speak to us
and teach us love,
Until we open our hearts
to be his home.

Christine Sine

* stand if you are able

** children grades 5 and
younger to the first pew

Sermons & Newsletters
shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

Sunday flowers
sign up in office

Kyrie 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 23 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

11:00 a.m. Worship with Communion

Mon 24 • Christmas Eve Services

5:00 p.m. Service especially for children

8:00 p.m. Choirs, homily & candlelight

11:00 p.m. Carol sing, communion & candlelight

Wed 26

10:45 a.m. Service of song & prayer at Canterbury

3:00 p.m. Tour of Historic Churches

ONE SERVICE ONLY at 11:00 a.m. Dec. 30 (Children's Pageant); Jan. 6 (Epiphany and Ordination of Officers).

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: 5:00 p.m. Especially for children; 8:00 p.m. Choirs, homily and candlelight; 11:00 p.m. Carol sing, communion and candlelight.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING will be split between Bluefields, Nicaragua, partner church, and Coalfield Development Corporation, in southern WV, founded by Brandon Dennison, former SPC Youth Director.

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT, Sunday, Dec. 30, at 11 a.m. service. All children are welcome to participate. There are parts for everyone. Sign up Sunday, Dec. 23 or with Chris Morehouse at noahsfamily@frontier-net.net. Rehearsals **Saturday, Dec. 29 10-12 & Sunday, Dec 30 9:45 a.m.** right before the service.

JOY GIFT DINNER. *The entire congregation together in one place at one time.* **Sunday, Jan. 6, 5:00-7:00 p.m.,** Asbury United Methodist Church. Ham, beverages and tableware provided. Bring a food dish to serve 12. Food assignments per last name: A-H dessert, I-P side dish, Q-Z vegetable or salad. Would you like to

Sat 29

10:00 a.m. Pageant rehearsal

Sun 30 • First Sunday of Christmastide

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148;

Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

9:45 a.m. Pageant rehearsal

11:00 a.m. Worship and pageant

help plan, set up or clean up? It's a lot of fun and works best with many helping hands! Contact Cari Simon, via the office.

SPANISH LESSONS and Chat at SPC. Join us Wednesdays, 12:30 to 2:00 pm, starting Jan. 9. Half the session will be in Spanish and half in English. If you want to start right away, you can sign on to Duolingo which offers free Spanish lessons on line. Hope you can join us!

SUNDAY SEMINARS will begin 2019 with continued conversation on gender and sexuality, as we seek to deepen our capacity to welcome and celebrate all people. January 20 and 27. Starting in February we will undertake an exploration of anger, using the Richard Rohr periodical *Oneing* devoted to the topic, which includes a dozen essays from a wide variety of writers and perspectives. Rohr writes, "Anger can actually be an expression of compassion, a willingness to uphold boundaries that are sacred or stand up for someone who is being oppressed." Fellowship Hall, 9:45 a.m. All are welcome. Childcare provided.

The Season of Advent

Fourth Sunday

December 23, 2018

11:00 a.m.

BLESSED ARE YOU WHO BEAR THE LIGHT

Blessed are you
who bear the light
in unbearable times,
who testify
to its endurance
amid the unendurable,
who bear witness
to its persistence
when everything seems
in shadow
and grief.

Blessed are you
in whom
the light lives,
in whom
the brightness blazes—
your heart
a chapel,
an altar where
in the deepest night
can be seen
the fire that
shines forth in you
in unaccountable faith
in stubborn hope
in love that illumines
every broken thing
it finds.

Jan Richardson

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Celebrating 275 Years

Claiming the Past • Engaging the Present • Imagining the Future

We Choose Welcome

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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