

Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. **Isaiah 7:11**

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. **Psalms 80:19**

The gospel of God was promised beforehand through the prophets in the holy scriptures. **Romans 1:1b-2** (paraphrased)

When Joseph awoke from sleep he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him. **Matthew 1:24a**

Pastor

Rev. Gusti Linnea Newquist

Reflection

Chris Morehouse

Assistants

Trixie Gibbs
William Gibbs
Rie Wilson

Organ

Alan Ogden

Choir Director

Georgiann Toole

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

Love has come: a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

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

Prayer

† † †

***Hymn 110** (v. 2-3)
"Love Has Come"

ENCOUNTERING GRACE

Prayer for Wholeness

On this Sunday after Christmas, as another year draws to a close, we gather before God and one another, confessing the ways in which we have been caught up in the frenzied spirit of the holidays instead of in your spirit of peace. We have focused so much on our own lives and desires that we have neglected the voices of your children who cry out for justice. We have turned away from the hurting people and broken places in our world in need of healing. O Holy Child of Bethlehem, Word Become Flesh, hear us as we humbly pray: Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. Amen.

Hymn 121 (v. 3-4)
"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Declaration of Grace and Gratitude

Hymn 121 (v. 1-2)
"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Blessing the World

Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden

Welcome and Parish Life

***Hymn 123** (v 1-3)
"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

HEARING THE WORD

Reading

Interlude

"

Lesson

Matthew 2:13-18

Reflection

"We Pray for Children"

***Hymn 123** (v. 4-5)
"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

SERVING THE WORLD

Presenting Offerings

Offertory

"Coventry Carol"

† † †

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.

***Hymn 137** (v. 1) 2x
He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.

Charge and Benediction

† † †

Postlude

There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children. **Nelson Mandela**

Every child you encounter is a divine appointment. **Wes Stafford**

A baby is God's opinion that the world should go on. **Carl Sandberg**

A child points out to you the direction and then you find your way. **Luhya proverb** (Kenya)

* 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

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 29 • First Sunday of Christmastide

11:00 a.m. Worship

4:30 p.m. Hymn Sing. Choir Room

Thu 2

10:00 a.m. Women's Circle. Fellowship Hall

Fri 3

8:00 p.m. Fiddle concert. Sponsored by Shepherdstown Music & Dance

Sun 5 • Second Sunday Christmastide

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9), 10-18

11:00 a.m. Worship & Pageant

12:15 p.m. Finance committee. Classroom No. 1

5:00 p.m. Community dinner. Zion Episcopal Church, Charles Town

5:00 p.m. Joy Gift dinner. Asbury United Methodist Church

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S (PW) CIRCLE First Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. January 2 discussion is Ch. 5 "Jesus is the Norm of the Bible" in our study book, Marcus Borg's *Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most*. This meeting is our annual soup and bread luncheon. All women of the church are welcome.

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT, Sunday, Jan. 5, 11:00 a.m. All children are welcome to participate. There are parts for everyone. Rehearsals: **Saturday, Jan. 4, 10-12 noon & Sunday, Jan. 5, 9:30 a.m.** before the service. Sign up in the classroom or email Chris Morehouse at christophermorehou@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY DINNER, Sunday, Jan. 5, 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.

JOY GIFT DINNER, Sunday, Jan. 5, 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-R: salad/vegetable or side dish; S-Z: dessert.

INSTALLATION SERVICE for Pastor Gusti Newquist. **Jan. 12, 3:00 p.m.** "Installation" is the formal act of Shenandoah Presbytery to establish a pastoral relationship. The installation service completes the call process and formally establishes the ministry of the new teaching elder. All members of the congregation, interested community members, as well as Gusti's family and friends are invited to attend this very special occasion in the life of the church. A reception will follow the installation service. Childcare available.

WINTER RETREAT DAY *Cultivating Hope*. **Jan. 31, 9:30-3:30,** Shepherd's Spring Retreat Center, led by Trish Stefanik. Contact the office to register.

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Christmastide

First Sunday

December 29, 2019

11:00 a.m.

Do not be daunted
by the enormity
of the world's grief.
Do justly, now.
Love mercy, now.
Walk humbly, now.
You are not obligated
to complete the work,
but neither are you free
to abandon it.

Interpretive Translation of Talmudic Texts

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Celebrating 276 Years

Claiming the Past • Engaging the Present • Imagining the Future

We Choose Welcome