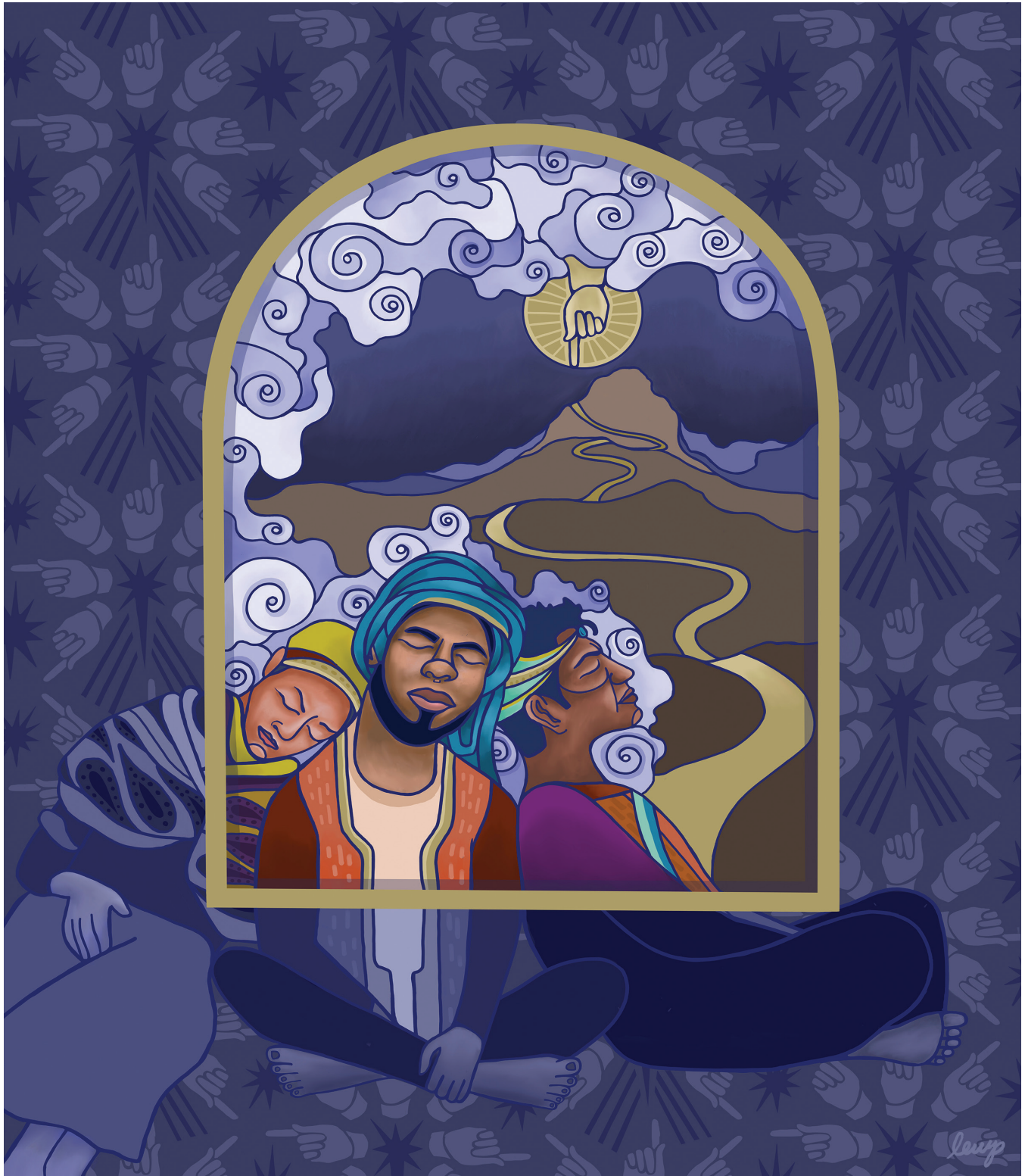




Shandon Presbyterian Church

607 Woodrow Street • Columbia, South Carolina • 29205

January 2, 2022 • Epiphany • 10:30 am



Merry Christmas from Shandon Presbyterian Church!

Whether you are a first-time visitor or a long-time member . . .

Whether you are familiar with our traditions or find it all a bit strange . . .

Whether you grew up Presbyterian or Baptist or Jewish or agnostic . . .

Whether you are in search of comfort or wanting to be challenged . . .

Whatever reason brought you to worship today, you are welcome here. We take seriously Jesus' instructions to love God, love one another, and love our neighbors. We don't all look alike, act alike, or think alike. We don't all read the Bible the same way. We bring different questions and carry different burdens. But every week, we worship together as one unified community. In addition to in-person worship, every service is also live-streamed. Worship videos are available at any time in our online archives (shandonpresbyterian.org). We joyfully worship a God whose Spirit is big enough to gather us together no matter where we may be.

We believe that hospitality is important and friendship is holy. That's why we enjoy fellowship and refreshments outside on the Church Lawn after Sunday morning services. (Yes, even in these colder days!) You'll find us to be a warm, approachable group of people trying our best to live like Jesus teaches. If you're looking for a perfect church, we aren't it. We're real people, and we do the best we can, but we don't always get it right. We understand how much we all need grace in our lives. And we believe that God's love, which never gives up and never lets go, is for everyone. Including you.

There is a place for you here. Welcome home.

Rev. Jenny McDevitt
Senior Pastor

Welcoming Children

Children are always welcome in worship! Families are welcome to sit anywhere in the Sanctuary, though little ones are often more engaged when they are able to see everything going on. We understand that children come fully equipped with wiggles, giggles, questions, and noises. Your child's presence among us is a gift. We include a time especially for children as part of each worship service. Child care is available in Room 107 for kindergarten-aged children and younger, if that is your preference. For more information about children's and family ministries, contact Rev. Molly Spangler at mbspangler@shandonpresbyterian.org.

Interested in Joining?

If you'd like to be here in a more official capacity, we'd love for you to join SPC as a member. Everyone who is part of our community is treated the same. Joining isn't about special treatment, but rather about a commitment you make to following Jesus alongside others trying to do the same. New member gatherings take place several times a year. If you are interested in learning more, contact Rev. Jenny McDevitt at jmcdevitt@shandonpresbyterian.org.

Current Covid-19 Protocols

At Shandon Presbyterian Church, your health and safety is extremely important to us. So, too, is the health and safety of our community. **Presently, masks are required during all worship services.** Eating and drinking takes place outdoors, where masks are optional. The most up-to-date studies have demonstrated that when masks are worn properly, singing is safe. While all of our seating is in use, social distancing between households is encouraged. Our worship services are still somewhat altered to accommodate this.

We love our neighbors and we believe these practices are the best way to put that love into action. Our paid staff are all fully vaccinated. We encourage vaccination for all who are eligible.

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude

Matthew McCall

Prélude sur l'Introit de l'Épiphanie

MAURICE DURUFLE

Welcome

Rev. Jenny McDevitt

* Call to Worship

The Magi followed the star to see where it would lead them.

In following it, they found Jesus.

Jesus called the disciples to follow him.

In following him, they found life.

As people of faith, we, too, are invited to follow.

**In following Jesus, we join with generations past, present, and future,
journeying, seeking, discovering, rejoicing, and praising.**

* Hymn 151

We Three Kings of Orient Are (verses 1, 2, 5)

KINGS OF ORIENT

Call to Confession

Rev. John Cook

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,

We are here seeking a better way.

We have followed our own instincts,

made our own plans,

considered our own needs and wants,

and followed our own hearts.

That has gotten us this far,

but if we are honest, there is still something missing.

Shine a light onto our path once again

and give us the strength and courage to follow where you lead.

(Silent prayer)

Assurance of God's Grace

Response

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;

now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!

He has opened heaven's door, and we are blessed forevermore.

Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Passing of the Peace

Proclaiming the Word

The Word with Children
Rev. Molly Spangler

Prayer for Illumination
Alyssa Gillam

First Lesson

Matthew 2:1-4, 7-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. Then he sent the wise men to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson

Mark 8:31-36

Then Jesus began to teach that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon
Rev. Jenny McDevitt

Things Jesus Never Said: Follow Your Heart

Responding to the Word

* Hymn 152

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

PUER ROBIS NASCITUR

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion

Offering

Text SHANDONPC to 73256 or visit shandonpresbyterian.org

Anthem

In Thee Is Gladness

PAUL MANZ

* Response

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

**So bring him insense, gold, and myrrh; come one, and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn 150

As with Gladness Men of Old

DIX

* Benediction

Worship Notes

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY are Matthew McCall, Rev. Jenny McDevitt, Rev. John Cook, Rev. Molly Spanger, and Alyssa Gillam.

TODAY'S LITURGY — The Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession were written by Rev. Jenny McDevitt.

THE COVER ART was created by Lauren Wright Pittman of A Sanctified Art. About the painting, she writes: *"The Wise Men follow the direction of the shimmering, dotted lights of the night sky, and receive instruction in the subconscious world of sleep. They are ready and willing to discern God's will in the outward, tangible signs of Creation, as well as the inner contours of their own minds. God is in it all, and they are paying attention. Is this what it means to be wise? In this image, the Wise Men are sleeping, and the viewer has a window into their vibrant dream. Surrounding the dream is the deep blue patterning of stars and hands pointing in every direction except for the direction of God's leading. These hands represent King Herod's desperate search and desire to take out this threatening, newborn King of the Jews. The Wise Men have a choice. They could succumb to the pressure of the King, which is thick in the air and pressing in all around them, or they could choose to listen to the mysterious guiding of their sleeping vision. They decide to change up the narrative and resist the domineering, violent powers of this world, trusting their dream, and taking the long, likely dangerous, journey home by another way."*

THE ROSEBUD ON THE COMMUNION TABLE TODAY celebrates the birth of Frances Ann "Francie" Yarbrough, daughter of Frances and Tyler Yarbrough. Johnny and Laura Timmons are proud grandparents. Francie was born December 21, 2021 in Charlotte. Welcome to the world, Francie!

AFTER WORSHIP TODAY join us outside under the tent for cookies, coffee, and other refreshments. Additionally, a deacon will be present at the Memorial Garden to receive prayer concerns.

Announcements

A RECEPTION HONORING REV. MOLLY SPANGLER — After worship on January 9, join us on the church lawn for a reception honoring Molly and her family as they depart for Rock Hill, South Carolina. Molly's 3.5 years of ministry at Shandon have been a blessing to all of us. Come and send her off with our prayers and best wishes. In lieu of a love offering, baskets will be provided to collect cards and other expressions of gratitude you may wish to share. If you cannot join us, you may drop off cards or mail them to the church.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING CALLED — As part of Molly's departure, Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, January 9, 2022, immediately following the 10:30 am worship service, for the purpose of acting upon the request of Rev. Molly Spangler to dissolve her pastoral call with Shandon Presbyterian Church. (This is standard Presbyterian process and language.)

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES — The new year will hold a variety of new adult education offerings. Class offerings include:

- Prophets and Popstars: Art, Justice, and the Prophetic Imagination
- Major Theologians (Part 1) and Today's Theologians (Part 2)

- Last Acts of Love, addressing end-of-life planning from theological, medical, and legal perspectives
- a conversation around *No Cure For Being Human (And Other Truths I Need to Know)* by Kate Bowler

Contact Jenny McDevitt (jmcdevitt@shandonpresbyterian.org) with ideas or for more information.

PROPHETS AND POPSTARS: Art, Justice, and the Prophetic Imagination — Biblical prophets functioned as poets and performers, artists and activities. Ezekiel acts out scenes of the siege of Jerusalem, Jonah sings a psalm from the belly of the fish, and Habakkuk asks that we play on stringed instruments. Together, we will examine how biblical prophecy is a creative force and read the prophets as the artists they are and consider how to incorporate creative and prophetic practices in our own lives. Taught by Jackson Ringley, a UofSC student headed to Princeton Seminary in the fall. Jan. 23, Jan. 30, Feb. 6, and Feb. 13 at 9:15 am. The class will take place in person, room TBD.

2022 CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT — We hope to see you at the upcoming Dr. John M. Preston Shandon Presbyterian Retreat March 11-13 in Montreat, North Carolina. We are still working out the details, but we're asking you to register by Jan. 10 if you plan to attend. Registration is available online, via a form in the Spire, or by using the insert in today's worship bulletin.

COLUMBIA PEACE POLE DEDICATION CEREMONY — The public is invited to attend the dedication of Columbia's peace pole at 10 a.m. Tuesday, January 11, at 900 Senate St. (in the median between the State House and the Columbia Convention Center). Shandon Presbyterian was among the contributors to the project, a collaboration of The Columbia Peace Pole Initiative One Columbia for Arts and Culture.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: JANUARY 15 — We welcome your news for the February issue of The Spire. Please submit items of interest to the congregation to cward@shandonpresbyterian.org.

FILM EXPLORES GUN VIOLENCE — The Peacemaking Committee at Shandon Presbyterian Church has partnered with The Nickelodeon Theatre to host a public screening of "Trigger: The Ripple Effect Of Gun Violence" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 25. We invite all in our community to attend the film and panel discussion facilitated by Rev. Jenny McDevitt. Admission is free, but reservations are required. You can reserve tickets at bit.ly/triggtx, or call the church office at 803-771-4408. More information: bit.ly/trigginfo.

SOW PROGRAMMING — Shandon on Wednesdays is continuing our monthly intergenerational gathering for fellowship and educational opportunities for all ages. SOW happens once a month and we begin the evening with dinner which is followed by children's choirs and bible studies for children, youth, and adults. We also have childcare available for children under the age of four. Our SOW spring dates are January 12, February 9, March 2, April 6, and May 11.

ACOLYTES IN WORSHIP — Children and youth are invited to serve as acolytes in worship. Each Sunday we begin worship with candles that are lit to represent the presence of the Holy Spirit on the communion table. Even if you have never been an acolyte before, we will help you with everything you need to know. A sign up link is available on our website. Contact Jenny McDevitt (jmcdevitt@shandonpresbyterian.org) for more information

HONOR LOVED ONES WITH SANCTUARY FLOWERS — Shandon Presbyterian's tradition of giving memorials and honorariums in the form of sanctuary flowers are an important part of worship. To schedule a Sunday to donate flowers in 2022, contact Brittany Young at byoung@shandonpresbyterian.org. The cost is \$120. Flower donations will be acknowledged in the Sunday bulletin.

Upcoming Worship

Things Jesus Never Said

We spend a lot of time reflecting on many of the things Jesus says throughout the gospels: I am the good shepherd. Love your neighbor. In my Father's house there are many rooms. Do not be afraid. Love your enemies. Consider the lilies. Forgive those who wrong you. And on and on. In the weeks ahead, we'll clarify and reflect on some of the things Jesus never actually said, but often get attributed to him.

Rev. Jenny McDevitt preaching

January 2 — Follow Your Heart

January 16 — God Helps Those Who Help Themselves

January 23 — Money Is the Root of All Evil

January 30 — God Doesn't Give Us More Than We Can Handle

Additional Upcoming Worship

January 9 - Rev. Molly Spangler preaching on her last Sunday at Shandon

February 6 - Rev. John Cook preaching

Worship Archives

Miss a service? Want to hear a prayer a second time or read a sermon text? Our worship archives include weekly bulletins, links to livestream recordings, and PDFs of sermon manuscripts (as available). Visit shandonpresbyterian.org, then select Worship and Music. Sermons are also available as a podcast on SoundCloud and Apple Podcasts.

The Staff of Shandon Presbyterian Church

Rev. Jenny McDevitt, Senior Pastor & Head of Staff

Rev. John Cook, Associate Pastor for Discipleship

Rev. Molly Spangler, Associate Pastor for Children, Youth, & Families

MC Jordan, Children's Ministry Assistant & UKirk Intern

Matthew McCall, Director of Music and Organist

Dr. Jabarie Glass, Interim Chancel Choir Director

Ashlee Poole, Youth Choir Director

John Maynard, Handbell Director

Carol Ward, Communications Coordinator

Dr. Robert Walker, Church Administrator

Catherine Teal, Financial Manager

Brittany Young, Office Manager

Sandie Stillinger, Bookkeeper

Gerald Taylor, Facilities Manager