



# Shandon Presbyterian Church

607 Woodrow Street • Columbia, South Carolina • 29205

World Communion Sunday • October 1, 2023 • 10:30 am



**The world begins at a table.  
No matter what, we must eat to live.**

**The gifts of earth are brought and prepared  
and set on the table.  
So it has been since creation, and it will go on.  
We chase chickens or dogs away from it.  
Babies teethe at the corners.  
They scrape their knees under it.**

**It is here that children are given instructions  
on what it means to be human.  
At this table we tell stories,  
recall enemies and the ghosts of friends.  
Our dreams drink coffee with us  
as they put their arms around our children.  
They laugh with us at our poor falling-down selves  
as we put ourselves back together  
once again at the table.**

**This table has been a house in the rain,  
an umbrella in the sun.  
Wars have begun and ended at this table.  
It is a place to hide in the shadow of terror.  
A place to celebrate the terrible victory.**

**We have given birth on this table,  
and have prepared our parents for burial here.  
At this table we sing with joy, with sorrow.  
We pray of suffering and remorse.  
We give thanks.**

**Perhaps the world will end at the table,  
while we are laughing and crying,  
eating of the last sweet bite.**

*Perhaps the World Ends Here*

Joy Harjo

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This is God's house. There is a place for you here. Welcome home.

## Welcome to Shandon Presbyterian Church

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

Whether you are familiar with our traditions or still 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 Sunday, we worship together as one unified community.

Our worship style is traditional and true to our Reformed heritage. At the same time, we seek to bring our faith into conversation with the world around us and the events of our lives. We sing with joy and we pray with honesty. Hospitality is important and friendship is holy. That's why we gather for fellowship, cookies, and lemonade outside after worship. Please join us. We think 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 very 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

## Building Hospitality

Our building is a wonderful resource. It can also feel like a labyrinth when you are learning your way around. A few key locations that may be helpful to you:

**Accessible restrooms** — located behind the Sanctuary; use the southwest door (to the left of the Chancel)

**All gender restrooms** — located beneath the Sanctuary; use the stairs from the Narthex (main entrance)

**Elevator** — located just beyond the southwest door (to the left of the Chancel)

**Nursery & extended care** — located on the first floor of the Education Building; use the southwest door and the elevator, following directional signs

**Hearing-assist devices** — located at the southwest door, or ask an usher to provide you with one

**AED devices** — located behind the Sanctuary; use the southwest door (to the left of the Chancel)

Ushers are always willing to assist you in finding your way or answering other questions.

## Welcoming Children

Just as Jesus welcomes the little children to come, so we welcome children of all ages in our worship services. We are better when all members of our family are here! In order to make the worship service as welcoming for our littlest ones as possible, we provide engaging worship bags and a Word with Children every time we gather. After the Word with Children, kindergarten-aged children and younger may leave for extended care in Room 104 or stay for the remainder of worship. The first time your child attends extended care, please accompany them to sign them in (then feel free to return to the Sanctuary). It is always a joy to have your children with us in worship. If you have any questions about how to enhance your child's worship experience, or if you're looking to get involved with our children's and family ministries, please contact Heather Woolard-Lawson at [hwoolard@shandonpresbyterian.org](mailto:hwoolard@shandonpresbyterian.org). Our child protection policy can be viewed at [bit.ly/spcchildprotection](https://bit.ly/spcchildprotection).

## 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](mailto:jmcdevitt@shandonpresbyterian.org).

## Gathering Around the Word

### Prelude

Matthew McCall

I Come with Joy

ROBERT J. POWELL AND DAVID M. CHERWIEN

*Asterisks (\*) indicate portions of worship during which you are invited to stand in body or in spirit.*

### Welcome

Rev. Jenny McDevitt

This is the day the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

*Please sign the friendship folder located along the inside aisle of each pew and pass it to those seated near you.*

### \* Call to Worship

Marie Maynard, Grace  
Rivers, Janet Teuber,  
Deaconess Judith  
Nyuma Lungu

The table will be wide.

*La table sera large.*

欢迎来到天父的平安

*La mesa será amplia.*

*Tafule ika namuluha.*

The table will be wide.

**And the welcome will be wide.**

**And the arms will open wide to gather us in.**

**And our hearts will open wide to receive.**

We will come as children who trust there is enough.

**And we will come unhindered and free.**

**And our aching will be met with bread.**

**And our sorrow will be met with the cup.**

We will open our hands to the feast without shame.

**And we will turn toward each other without fear.**

**And we will give up our appetite for despair.**

**And we will taste and know of delight.**

We will become bread for a hungry world.

**And we will become drink for those who thirst.**

**And the blessed will become the blessing.**

**And everywhere will be the feast.**

*La table sera large.*

欢迎来到天父的平安

*La mesa será amplia.*

*Tafule ika namuluha.*

## Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table

ABBOT'S LEIGH



1. Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries that they bring.  
2. Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low - ers ap - pear,  
3. Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand dif - ferent ways,  
4. Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to be sur - prised



Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing; some have songs they want to sing.  
saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled with their guilt, their doubt and fear.  
but they share one thing in com - mon: they all end in thanks and praise  
by the host whose hands are wound - ed, who will o - pen wide your eyes



Oth - ers ask why they're in - vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done.  
Pe - ter tells of his de - ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight;  
for the host who has in - vit - ed north and south and east and west  
when he bless - es bread and breaks it, truth and man - na from a - bove,



Christ in - sists they all are wel - come. There is room for ev - ery - one.  
Paul re - lates his fruit - less ef - forts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.  
to con - verge a - round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.  
and then pass - es wine that wak - ens in your heart the taste of love.

Call to Confession

*April Martin*

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God,**

**Your table is wide and the feast is everywhere.**

**Forgive us when we grumble over pulling up another chair  
and forgive us when we give in to the myth of scarcity.**

**Remind us as often as we need to hear it  
that generosity multiplies our resources,  
kindness buoys our spirits,  
and our joy reflects your love.**

**Merciful God,**

**Your table is filled with wheat of the field and fruit of the vine.**

**Forgive us when we are too casual in our approach,  
as if it were just any other meal.**

**Remind us as often as we need to hear it  
that you infuse the ordinary with extraordinary  
in order to satisfy our every need.**

**Forgiving God,**

**Keep receiving us at your table**

**no matter how often we fail to understand it. (Silent prayer)**

Assurance of God's Grace

\* Response of Praise

### **Glory Be to the Father**

GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

\* Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

**And also with you!**

## **Proclaiming the Word**

The Word with Children

*Heather Woolard-Lawson*

*This time in worship is designed for children up through fifth grade.*

*Afterwards, kindergarten-aged and younger may attend extended care in Room 104. If this is your child's first Sunday in extended care, please send one parent or guardian to briefly check in with their teacher. First grade and older remain in the Sanctuary.*

Prayer for Illumination

*Mark Timbes*

Scripture Lesson

John 6:22-35

The next day the crowd that had stayed on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there. They also saw that Jesus had not gotten into the boat with his disciples but that his disciples had gone away alone. But some boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us, then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

## Scripture Lesson

Lamentations 3:19-24

The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall! My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

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

**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

Rev. Jenny McDevitt

C: communion, creation, covenant

## Responding to the Word

### \* Hymn 528

**Come, Let Us Eat**

A VA DE

*This hymn is call and response. The Youth Choir will sing a phrase, then the congregation will repeat the same phrase.*

## The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. John Cook

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

*As an extension of Jesus' own hospitality, the communion bread is gluten-free and the cups all contain grape juice. You are invited to come forward, tear off a piece of bread, and dip your bread in the cup. If needed, our servers will assist you in tearing the bread. If it is easier for you to remain in your place for communion, servers will bring the elements to you.*

Prayer after Communion

## Offering

You may also give by texting SHANDONPC to 73256, on Venmo (@ShandonPres), or by visiting shandonpresbyterian.org.

## Anthem

*Chancel Choir*

DR. JABARIE GLASS, DIR.

Hark, Creation's Alleluia

HOWARD HELVEY

Hark, creation's alleluia rises forth from every shore;  
vibrates sweet as angel voices, loud as many waters roar:  
Blessing, glory, power, salvation to our God upon the throne,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, infinite, supreme alone.

Gathering strength from every nation, every kindred, tribe, and tongue.  
Hark, that everlasting anthem, hark, that glorious tide of song  
floods the valleys with its music, echoes from the lasting hills,  
onward, upward, till the temple of the living God it fills.

Hark, it mingles with the raptures of the armies of the sky,  
who have passed through tribulation into perfect rest on high;  
clothed in robes of spotless beauty, palms of triumph in their hand  
harping on their harps hosannas as before God's face they stand.

Glory unto to him who loved us, him who washed us with his blood,  
kings and priests henceforth forever praise our Father and our God.  
Alleluia! Saints and angels, raise your loudest, loftiest strains!  
Alleluia! Love has triumphed. God, the Lord Almighty reigns.

## \* Response

**Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

PRAISE GOD

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

## \* Prayer of Dedication

## \* Hymn 515

**I Come with Joy**

DOVE OF PEACE

## \* Benediction

## Postlude

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

ARR. J. WAYNE KERR

## Worship Notes

**LEADING WORSHIP TODAY** are Matthew McCall, Rev. Jenny McDevitt, Marie Maynard, Grace Rivers, Janet Teuber, Deaconess Judith Nyuma Lungu, Leyland Gooldy (acolyte), April Martin, Heather Woolard-Lawson, Mark Timbes, the Youth Choir, directed by Ashlee Poole, Rev. John Cook, and the Chancel Choir, directed by Dr. Jabarie Glass.

**TODAY'S LITURGY** —The Call to Worship is an adaptation of the poem "And the Table Will be Wide," by Jan Richardson. The Prayer of Confession was written by Rev. Jenny McDevitt. The Hebrew recited during communion is taken from Psalm 119, the acrostic psalm that uses the entire alphabet, thus representing not just all known words to describe God, but all potential words, including those we do not (yet) know.

**AFTER WORSHIP** — Join us for fellowship and refreshments along the front sidewalk. A deacon will be present in the Sower's Chapel for prayer.

### **The Staff of Shandon Presbyterian Church**

Rev. Jenny McDevitt, Senior Pastor & Head of Staff  
Rev. John Cook, Associate Pastor for Discipleship  
April Martin, Pastoral Associate for Youth and Young Adults  
Matthew McCall, Director of Music and Media  
Dr. Jabarie Glass, Director of the Chancel Choir  
Heather Woolard-Lawson, Director of Children's Ministry  
Rev. Lucy Youngblood, Parish Associate  
Bethany Parker, UKirk Intern  
Dr. Robert Walker, Church Administrator  
Catherine Teal, Financial Manager  
Brittany Young, Office Manager  
Sandie Stillinger, Bookkeeper  
Carolyn Bennett, Childcare Coordinator  
Gerald Taylor, Facilities Manager  
Georgia Shaw, Receptionist  
Rev. Susannah Cook, Receptionist