



# Shandon Presbyterian Church

607 Woodrow Street • Columbia, South Carolina • 29205

Fourth Sunday in Advent  
December 19, 2021 • 10:30 a.m.



Mary's Song by Lauren Wright Pittman



## 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 on the Church Lawn 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

## 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, please contact Rev. Molly Spangler at [mspankler@shandonpresbyterian.org](mailto:mspankler@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. Social distancing remains in place. 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 fully vaccinated. We encourage vaccination for all who are eligible.

# Gathering Around the Word

Prelude

*Tintinnabulators*

JOHN MAYNARD, DIR.

On This Day, Earth Shall Ring

ARR. JOHN MAYNARD

\* Call to Worship

*Rev. Jenny McDevitt*

Love is what brings us together:

**God's love for each of us and for all of us.**

Love is patient, love is kind;

love bears all things and believes all things.

**Love is expansive and inclusive;**

**love seeks us and saves us.**

Love is why the angels sing, the star shines,  
and the shepherds travel.

**Love is why kings tremble, animals bow down,  
and the baby cries.**

Christmas comes because love has always been here.

**Let us worship the God of such miraculous love!**

\* Hymn 105

**People Look East**

BESANCON

Lighting the Advent Candle

*John, Susan, Elizabeth and Mary Fraser Kay*

**A Candle Is Burning**

MUELLER

**A candle is burning, a candle of love,**

**A candle to point us to heaven above**

**A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth**

**For Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.**

Call to Confession

*Rev. John Cook*

Prayer of Confession

**Incarnate God, forgive our clouded memory:**

**In the dark crevices of our hiding,**

**we forget how you said, "Let there be light."**

**In the lonely corners of our living,**

**we forget how prophets foretold,**

**"Unto us a child is born."**

**In the doubt-filled moments of our hoping,**

**we forget how the angel heralded,**

**"Nothing is impossible with God."**

**Remind our hearts of the truth**

**that has been spoken for so long.**

(Silent prayer)

Assurance of God's Grace

Passing of the Peace

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!  
**And also with you!**

Our Life Together

## Proclaiming the Word

The Word with Children  
*Rev. Molly Spangler*

Prayer for Illumination  
*Barbara Brunson*

Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-15

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

This is the Word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

*Rev. Jenny McDevitt*

Truly He Taught Us to Love One Another

## Responding to the Word

\* Hymn

### **Now the Heavens Start to Whisper**

BEACH SPRING

1. **Now the heavens start to whisper,  
as the veil is growing thin.  
Each from slumber wakes to listen  
to the stirring, faint within:  
seed of promise, deeply planted,  
child to spring from Jesse's stem!  
Like the soil beneath the frostline,  
hearts grow soft to welcome him.**
2. **Heavy clouds that block the moonlight  
now begin to drift away.  
Diamond brilliance through the darkness  
shines the hope of coming day.**



**Christ, the morning star of splendor,  
gleams within a world grown dim.  
Heaven's ember fans to fullness;  
hearts grow warm to welcome him.**

3. **Christ, eternal Sun of justice,  
Christ, the rose of wisdom's seed,  
come to bless with fire and fragrance  
hours of yearning, hurt, and need.  
In the lonely, in the stranger,  
in the outcast, hid from view:  
child who comes to grace the manger,  
teach our hearts to welcome you.**

\* Affirmation of Faith

An Advent Affirmation

**We believe that God has come to us:  
that God brought us into being,  
that God gave us breath and purpose,  
that we have been blessed  
to be a blessing to others,  
that we have fallen short of this commandment,  
but that God has nevertheless loved us  
despite our brokenness.**

**We believe that God is coming to us:  
that God is not willing to leave us alone,  
that God is coming to us  
as a particular human being,  
that God is committed to flesh and bone  
just like ours,  
that Mary will soon give birth  
and Joseph will soon clap his hands in joy,  
that Jesus Christ will be born to us,  
making our salvation complete.**

**We believe that God will come to us:  
that God will have the final word  
and that Word will be good,  
that God will give us the presence of the Spirit  
to continue our work,  
that we are called to be disciples  
to all the ends of the earth,  
that the day is coming when crying  
and sorrow and suffering will be no more,  
and all will gather at the table  
to sing an endless "Alleluia!"**

Prayers of the People

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.**

Offering

*You may also give by texting SHANDONPC to 73256  
or visiting our website, shandonpresbyterian.org.*

Anthem

*Chancel Choir*

DR. JABARIE GLASS, DIR.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ARR. DAVID N. JOHNSON

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung.  
It came a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,  
when halfspent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,  
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright, she bore to men a savior  
when halfspent was the night.

This Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.  
True man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us  
and lightens every load.

\* Response

**In the Bleak Midwinter**

CRANHAM

**What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet, what I can I give him: give my heart.**

\* Prayer of Dedication

\* Hymn 119

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

MENDELSSOHN

\* Benediction

Postlude

Angels from the Realms of Glory

ARR. EDWIN T. CHILDS

## Worship Notes

**LEADING WORSHIP TODAY** are Matt McCall; Rev. Jenny McDevitt; John, Susan, Elizabeth and Mary Fraser Kay; Rev. John Cook; Rev. Molly Spangler; Barbara Brunson; and the Chancel Choir under the direction of Dr. Jabarie Glass.

**THE CALL TO WORSHIP** and the Prayer of Confession were written by Rev. Jenny McDevitt.

**THE SANCTUARY FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God by Garrett and Jordan Humphries in honor of their anniversary and with gratitude for being married at Shandon.

**ABOUT THE COVER ART.** Mary's Song, by Lauren Wright Pittman, was inspired by Luke 1: 46b-55. She writes: "When I read through Mary's song, I was overwhelmed with the gravity of this moment. Her reaction to finding out that she, a young virgin, would birth the Son of the Creator of the universe was to sing a song of overflowing praise affirming God's goodness and sovereignty. It seems as if the entire universe revolved on the axis of this moment. Her song carried me to the Creation narrative where God's very words materialize water and sky and light and animals and people – everything we know to be and will ever know. As I read Mary's song, I imagined that her tones of adoration, melody of acceptance, and rhythm of awe ushered in the heartbeat of Jesus within her womb. Mary's song became the score for a new Creation narrative."

**JOIN US OUTSIDE** for lemonade and lemon cookies after worship. In addition, Deacon Tricia Kuna will receive pastoral concerns and prayer requests outside the Memorial Garden.

## Announcements

### PEACE ON EARTH

Shandon's pastors and staff wish you  
a Merry Christmas and meaningful holiday.

**SERVICE OF THE LONGEST NIGHT.** The carols proclaim it is "the most wonderful time of the year," but for some, the holidays can be heavy and hard, too. We offer a quiet, prayerful service at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 21, to remind us the light still shines, even when we can't see it.

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES.** We offer three opportunities for worship on Christmas. At 4 p.m. Shandon's children present their annual telling of the Christmas story through word and song. Candlelight service at 8 p.m. and candlelight communion service at 11 p.m.

**LESSONS AND CAROLS.** Sing the season with us one more time at the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 26. Wear your cozy pajamas or your Christmas finery (or anything in between). Christmas cookies and hot chocolate will be available afterward!

**ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET.** This annual event provides an easy and meaningful way to honor your family and friends by making donations in their names. Three organizations will benefit this year: The Cooperative Ministry, Free Medical Clinic and Live Oak Counseling Center. For details about how to participate, go to [bit.ly/spcholiday2021](http://bit.ly/spcholiday2021).

**CALLING SHANDON COLLEGE STUDENTS.** Are you yearning for a return to Montreat? Join UKirk SC and Shandon Jan. 2-5 for the Montreat Collegiate Conference. The theme, "What's Next?," will dive into what God reveals in times of transition and change. Cost: \$220, includes food, lodging, keynotes, worship and small groups. For information, contact UKirk intern MC Jordan, [intern@shandonpresbyterian.org](mailto:intern@shandonpresbyterian.org), or John Cook, [jcook@shandonpresbyterian.org](mailto:jcook@shandonpresbyterian.org).





## Advent and Christmas at Shandon Presbyterian

### November 28 – December 24

Sermon Series: A Thrill of Hope

#### November 28

Advent Festival

11:30 a.m.

#### December 5

5:30 p.m.

Advent bonfire and chili dinner

Sign up to bring chili:

[bit.ly/spcbonfire2021](https://bit.ly/spcbonfire2021)

#### December 8

Shandon on Wednesdays

Carol Sing

6 p.m.

#### December 12

Gerald Finzi's "In Terra Pax"  
and seasonal music

#### December 21

Service of the Longest Night  
7:30 p.m.

#### Christmas Eve services

4 p.m. Children's service

8 p.m. Candlelight Service

11 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service

#### December 26

Lessons and Carols

10:30 a.m.

*Worship Archives: [shandonpresbyterian.org](https://shandonpresbyterian.org)*

*Sermon Podcast: [soundcloud.com/shandonpresbyterian](https://soundcloud.com/shandonpresbyterian)*

### The Staff of Shandon Presbyterian Church

Rev. Jenny McDevitt, Senior Pastor and Head of Staff

Rev. John Cook, Associate Pastor for Discipleship

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

MC Jordan, Children and Youth Ministries Assistant

Matthew McCall, Director of Music and Organist

Dr. Alicia Walker, Chancel Choir Director

Ashlee Poole, Youth Choir Director

Sally Tackett, Children's Choir Director

John Maynard, Handbell Director

Carol Ward, Communications Coordinator

Dr. Robert Walker, Church Administrator

Brittany Young, Office Manager

Catherine Teal, Financial Manager

Sandie Stillinger, Bookkeeper

Gerald Taylor, Facilities Manager