



# Shandon Presbyterian Church

607 Woodrow Street • Columbia, South Carolina • 29205

December 24, 2021 • Christmas Eve • 11 pm



## Merry Christmas from Shandon Presbyterian Church!

We are grateful to be together this Christmas Eve and we are delighted that you are with us.

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 tonight, 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](http://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

### 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.

From all of us at  
Shandon Presbyterian Church,

*Merry Christmas!*

May you always remember the depth of God's love which is born to us this night.



## Gathering Around the Word

Prelude

*Matthew McCall*

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ARR. DAN FORREST

The Arrival of the Light

*Rev. Jenny McDevitt*

*Alexander Duell*

Luke 2:1-7

\* Carol

*Yasmin Bradshaw*

**Once in Royal David's City** (verse 1: soloist; verses 2-4: congregation)

IRBY

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.

**He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew;  
he was little, weak and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew;  
and he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;  
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

Lighting the Advent Candles

*Allison Croxton*

*Jennifer Duell*

\* Carol

**O Come, All Ye Faithful**

ADESTE FIDELIS

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, born the King of Angels:  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above.  
Glory to God, glory in the highest:  
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born that happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n,  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

A Prayer for Christmas Eve  
*Rev. John Cook*

**Incarnate God,**  
the birth of your son, Jesus Christ, changed the world forever.  
**Help us live as though we have been changed forever, too.**  
**Gift us with the songs of the angels,**  
the steadfast faith of Mary and Joseph,  
the joy of the shepherds,  
the wisdom of the magi,  
the curiosity of the animals,  
and the hope of the baby, born in a manger.  
**Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.**  
**Let blessing come with every gift and kindness with every greeting.**  
**Shine a light into every darkness,**  
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts,  
for we, too, are your children.  
**Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace,**  
you have come to us this night.  
**Stay with us always, we pray.**  
(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!**

## Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination  
*Allison Croxton*

First Lesson

Isaiah 9:1-7

There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish.  
The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in deep darkness —  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midan.  
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father,

Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace.

## Second Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid.

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

See, the Lord comes with might, and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms  
and carry them close to his heart.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

*Rev. Jenny McDevitt*

The Soul Felt Its Worth

## Responding to the Word

\* Hymn 120

### **Where Shepherds Lately Knelt**

MANGER SONG

**Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,  
I come in half belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred,  
but there is room and welcome there for me,  
but there is room and welcome there for me.**

**In that unlikely place I find him as they said:  
sweet newborn babe, how frail, and in a manger bed,  
a still, small voice to cry one day for me;  
a still, small voice to cry one day for me.**

**How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,  
his prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:**

**a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,  
a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.**

**Can I, will I forget out how was born, and burned  
its way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned,  
to die, to live, and not alone for me,  
to die, to live, and not alone for me.**

## The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

. . . forever singing to the glory of your name:

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn king.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.**

. . . we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**What child is this, who, laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe the son of Mary!**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come one and all to own him;  
the king of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe the son of Mary!**

. . . the one to whom we give our hearts —

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](http://shandonpresbyterian.org)

Anthem

*Yasmin Bradshaw*

O Holy Night

ADOLPHE ADAM

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining  
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining  
Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth  
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn

Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;  
O night divine, O night, O night divine.

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming  
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming  
Here come the wise men from the Orient land  
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;  
In all our trials born to be our friend

He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger  
Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!  
Behold your King, before him lowly bend!

Truly he taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and his gospel is peace  
Chains shall he break for the slave is our brother;  
And in his name all oppression shall cease  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we  
Let all within us praise his holy name

Christ is the Lord! O praise his name forever  
His power and glory evermore proclaim  
His power and glory evermore proclaim

\* Response

**Angels, from the Realms of Glory**

REGENT SQUARE

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ the newborn king!**

\* Prayer of Dedication

\* Sharing the Light

\* Carol

### **Silent Night**

STILLE NACHT

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
'round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:  
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!"**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King:  
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.**

\* A Prayer by Candlelight

\* Carol

### **Joy to the World**

ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

\* Benediction

\* Postlude

Prelude in Classic Style

GORDON YOUNG