



# Shandon Presbyterian Church

607 Woodrow Street • Columbia, South Carolina • 29205

December 24, 2021 • Christmas Eve • 8 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.



## Gathering Around the Word

Pre-Service Music  
*Mike Hughes*

What Child Is This with The Coventry Carol  
ARR. JOEL RAINEY

*John Maynard*

Still, Still, Still  
ARR. JOHN MAYNARD

*Matthew McCall*

Il est né, le divin enfant  
ARR. MARCEL DUPRÉ

*Jennifer Mitchell*

O Holy Night  
ADOLPHE ADAM

The Arrival of the Light  
*Rev. Jenny McDevitt*  
*Daniel Grubb*

Luke 2:1-7

\* Carol

**Once in Royal David's City** (verse 1: choir; 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 of the Advent Candles  
*Jenna and Christina Cox*

\* 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. Molly Spangler*

**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  
*Jenna Cox*

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.**

Pastoral Prayer

Carol

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

ST. LOUIS

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above they deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**O holy child of Bethelhem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O Come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.**

Offering

*Text SHANDONPC to 73256 or visit shandonpresbyterian.org*

Anthem

*Shandon Chancel Choir*

DR. ALICIA WALKER, DIR.

See Amid the Winter's Snow

ARR. DAN FORREST

Alleluia. Alleluia.

See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,  
see, the tender lamb appears, promised from eternal years.  
Hail, thou blessed morn, hail, redemption's happy dawn.  
Sing, through all Jerusalem, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Lo, within a manger lies he who built the lofty skies,  
he, who, throned in light subline, sits amid the cherubim.  
Hail, thou ever blessed morn, hail, redemption's happy dawn.  
Sing, through all Jerusalem, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was thine,  
thus, to come from highest bliss, down to such a world as this.  
Hail, thou ever blessed morn, hail, redemption's happy dawn.  
Sing, through all Jerusalem, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

\* 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

### Lessons and Carols

Join us Sunday, December 26, at 10:30 am to celebrate the season one more time with scripture, songs, and poetry. Come to this relaxed service in your favorite Christmas PJs, your Sunday finest, or anything in between and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies afterwards.

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.

## THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID

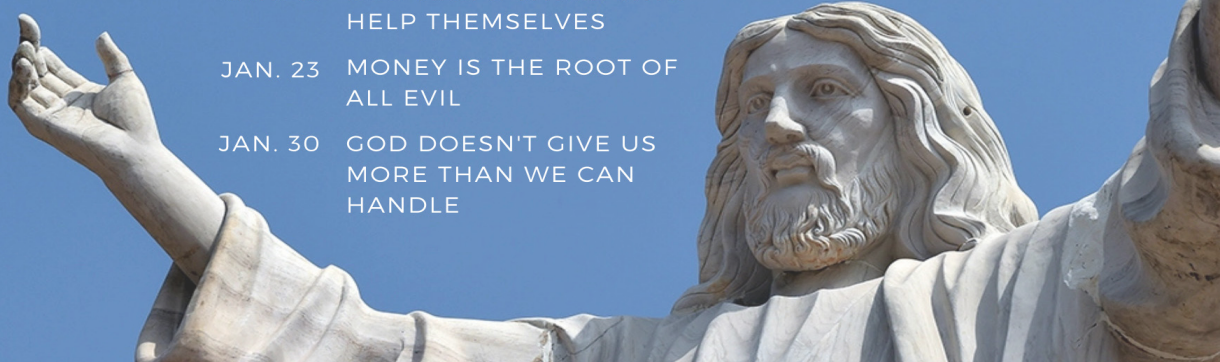
January Worship at Shandon Presbyterian Church | 10:30 and online

JAN. 2 FOLLOW YOUR HEART

JAN. 16 GOD HELPS THOSE WHO  
HELP THEMSELVES

JAN. 23 MONEY IS THE ROOT OF  
ALL EVIL

JAN. 30 GOD DOESN'T GIVE US  
MORE THAN WE CAN  
HANDLE



### The Staff of Shandon Presbyterian Church

Rev. Jenny McDevitt, Senior Pastor • Rev. John Cook, Associate Pastor for Discipleship • Rev. Molly Spangler, Associate Pastor for Children, Youth, and Families • MC Jordan, Children's Ministry Assistant & UKirk Intern • 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 • Catherine Teal, Financial Manager • Brittany Young, Office Manager • Sandie Stillinger, Bookkeeper  
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