



Shandon Presbyterian Church

607 Woodrow Street • Columbia, South Carolina • 29205

Christmas Eve • December 24, 2022 • 8 and 11 pm



Luke's House, imagined (on display in the Sower's Chapel)

Merry Christmas from Shandon Presbyterian Church

We are grateful to be together this Christmas Eve and we are delighted that you are with us. Tonight is a special night — there are angels among us! And shepherds and wise men, too. This service makes plain something we hold to be true all year: it takes all of us to tell the story of God’s love born to be with us. Which means whoever you are, whatever your background, wherever your faith has taken you (or not), there is a place for you here. That’s true for all ages. Children are always welcome, especially in worship. We know little ones come with a variety of sounds and wiggles, and that suits us just fine.

At Shandon Presbyterian Church, 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. 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. 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.

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

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

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.

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude

Matthew McCall

Once in Royal David's City

ARR. T. FREDERICK H. CANDLYN AND ROBERT FARLEE

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ARR. JOHN LEAVITT

The First Noel

ARR. DAN FOREEST

Il est né, le divin enfant

ARR. MARCEL DUPREE

Call to Worship

Rev. Jenny McDevitt

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness,
on them, light has shined.

**For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

This will be a sign for you:
you will find a child wrapped in cloth
and lying in a manger.

**And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host,
praising God and saying,
Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth, peace among all those he favors!**

Let us join our voices with the angels and sing.

* Carol 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELIS

Lighting of the Advent Candle

*David, Lisa,
and Brennan Ross
(8 pm)*

*Ellen McDuffie
and John McDuffie
(11 pm)*

Light looked down and saw darkness.

"I will go there," said Light.

Hope looked down and saw despair.

"I will go there," said Hope.

Peace looked down and saw war.

"I will go there," said Peace.

Joy looked down and saw sorrow.

"I will go there," said Joy.

Love looked down and saw hatred.

"I will go there," said Love.

And so it came to be that the Lord of Light,
the Source of Hope, the Prince of Peace,
the Creator of Joy, the King of Love, the Son of God,
came down and crept in beside us.

* Carol

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

**Love has come: a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high!**

A Prayer for Christmas Eve
Rev. John Cook

**Incarnate God,
The birth of your son, Jesus, 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 need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:1-16

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there,

the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room. Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Jenny McDevitt

Christmas at Luke's House

Responding to the Word

* Carol 115

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

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, praying:

**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

*All are welcome at Christ's table. As an act of hospitality,
all of the bread is gluten-free, and all of the cups contain grape juice.*

Prayer after Communion

Offering

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

Anthem

*Chancel Choir
(8 pm)*

See Amid the Winter's Snow
ARR. DAN FORREST

*Yasmin Bradshaw
(11 pm)*

O Holy Night
ADOLPHE ADAM

* 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 122

Silent Night, Holy Night!
STILL 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 beam 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 134

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

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ARR. EMMA LOU DIEMER

Worship Notes

LEADING WORSHIP THIS EVENING are Matthew McCall, Rev. Jenny McDevitt, David Ross, Lisa Ross, Brennan Ross, Ellen McDuffie, John McDuffie, Rev. John Cook, Jennifer Mitchell, Yasmin Bradshaw, and the Chancel Choir.

THE COVER IMAGE features what "Luke's house" might have looked like according to his version of the Christmas story. Luke alone mentions the specific accommodations into which Jesus was born. Archaeologists and historians have taught us that the space made available to Mary and Joseph (and all the animals) likely was not a backyard barn, but a portion of a home attached, yet set a bit lower -- somewhat similar to a modern day, split-level home. In other words, Jesus was born right into the center of a home. A variety of houses are on display in the Sower's Chapel. Four of them have been tagged as "gospel houses." Take a look at all of them. Do any of them represent Christmas the way you celebrate it? How so?

Information and Announcements

LESSONS AND CAROLS — Sing the season with us one more time at 10:30 am on Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25. Wear your cozy pajamas or your Christmas finery (or anything in between). Christmas cookies and hot chocolate will be available afterward!

EPIPHANY — This year, we celebrate Epiphany on Sunday, January 1, at 10:30 am. This is a wonderful way to celebrate the hope and promise of a new year. Join us as we tell the story of the Magi who journeyed to meet the baby Jesus following a star. Everyone will receive a “star word” to help guide them through the year ahead. This service is a mix of an old story and new traditions. Come see where the light will lead us!

SUNDAY SCHOOL — Sunday School classes for all ages will resume on Sunday, January 8 at 9:15 am.

SHANDON ON WEDNESDAYS (SOW) — Beginning January 11, join us each Wednesday for dinner and programming for all ages. Dinner takes place at 5 pm in the Activity Center. At 6 pm, there is adult programming, youth Bible study, and Arise & Shine Children’s Choir rehearsal. At 6:30 pm there is Children’s Bible study and Shandon Ringers rehearsal. At 7:30 pm there is Chancel Choir rehearsal. Dinner reservations are due each Monday by 6 pm. Childcare is available for children under the age of four.

HYMN FESTIVAL — Micah 6:8 instructs us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. Join us Sunday, January 22 at 3 pm to sing the way of justice and celebrate the teachings of Martin Luther King, Jr. This event will be led by Shandon’s music ministry and community friends.

Upcoming Worship

December 25 — Lessons and Carols

January 1 — Epiphany Sunday, Rev. Jenny McDevitt preaching

January 8 — Baptism of Our Lord, Jackson Ringley preaching

New Series Beginning January 15 — Everyone’s Favorite Heresies: Theological Missteps Throughout History

The Staff of Shandon Presbyterian Church

Rev. Jenny McDevitt, Senior Pastor & Head of Staff

Rev. John Cook, Associate Pastor for Discipleship

Matthew McCall, Director of Music and Media

Dr. Jabarie Glass, Director of the Chancel Choir

Heather Woolard, Director of Children’s Ministry

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

Johnnie Floyd, Receptionist