



Shandon Presbyterian Church

607 Woodrow Street • Columbia, South Carolina • 29205

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2023 • 10:30 am



The Magnificat, Linda Donlin

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. Our child protection policy can be viewed at 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.

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude

Matthew McCall

Ukrainian Bell Carol

ARR. JOSEPH MARTIN

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.

Lighting the Advent Candle

*Lauren and Kenny Phelps
with Ruth, Wilder,
and Roland*

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

ELLACOMBE

**O sing a song of Bethlehem, of shepherds watching there,
And of the news that came to them from angels in the air:
The light that shone on Bethlehem fills all the world today;
Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth the angels sing always.**

Remember with us words the psalmist spoke:

**"I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever.
I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations."**

Psalms 89:1

* Hymn 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

Call to Confession

April Martin

Prayer of Confession

**God our Savior, we ask for your love.
Though we have heard Mary's song,
we still seek security in pride and power and possessions.
Though we know your loving story,
we resist the cost of following you.
Clinging to your love so tightly within us,
we pass by those who are dying for your love
and we turn away from those who are hungry, waiting to be filled.
Forgive us, we pray.
Empower us to reach out in love when you call.
Help us to work for the justice you intend.
Make us messengers of the shalom you share.
As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.
(Silent prayer)**

Assurance of God's Grace

* Response of Praise

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!**

* 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

Millie Bates

Scripture Lessons

Psalm 89:1-4

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to my servant David: 'I will establish your descendants forever and build your throne for all generations.'"

Luke 1:26-39; 46-55

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. John Cook

Looking for Love

Responding to the Word

* Hymn 100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

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,
on Venmo (@ShandonPres), or by visiting shandonpresbyterian.org.*

Anthem

Chancel Choir

DR. JABARIE GLASS, DIR.

Gabriel to Mary Came

CECILIA MCDOWALL

Gabriel to Mary came, and entered at her dwelling,
with his salutation glad her maiden fears dispelling,
'All hail, thou queen of virgins bright! God, Lord of earth and heaven's height,
thy very Son, shall soon be born in pureness, the Savior of mankind.
Thou art the gate of heaven bright, the sinner's healer kind.'
'How should I a mother be to he that am to man a stranger?
How should I my strong resolve, my solemn vows endanger?'
'Pow'r from the Holy Ghost on high shall bring to pass this mystery.
Then have no fear: be of good cheer, believing that still thy chastity
in God's almighty keeping shall all unsullied be.'
Then to him the maid replied, with noble mien supernal,
'Lo, the humble handmaid I of God the Lord eternal!
With thee, bright messenger of heaven, by whom this wondrous news is given,
I well agree and long to see fulfilled thy gracious prophecy.
As God my Lord doth will it, so be it unto me.'
Hail, thou mother of the Lord, who brings of gifts rarest,
peace to angels and to all, when Christ the Lord thou barest!

Do thou, we pray, entreat thy Son for us our longed redemption
himself to win, and from our sin release us; his succor for to give,
that, when we hence taken, we too in heaven may live.
Alleluia! Christus natus est!

* Response

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANAHM

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

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn 145

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

* Benediction

Postlude

Angels from the Realms of Glory

ARR. EDWIN T. CHILD

Worship Notes

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY are Matthew McCall, Rev. Jenny McDevitt, Lauren Phelps, Kenny Phelps, Ruth Phelps, Wilder Phelps, Roland Phelps, April Martin, Heather Woolard-Lawson, Millie Bates, the Chancel Choir, directed by Dr. Jabarie Glass, and Byron Duell (livestream).

TODAY'S LITURGY — The Advent Candle Lighting was written by Rev. Jenny McDevitt. The Prayer of Confession is adapted from Kim Long's *Feasting on the Word*.

AFTER WORSHIP join us on the front sidewalk for refreshments and fellowship. A deacon will be present in the Sower's Chapel for prayer.

Announcements

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT — This afternoon at 4 pm, Shandon's children will present the annual Christmas Pageant. Participants should put on their costumes in Room 209 beginning at 3 pm and be seated in the Sanctuary by 3:45 pm. Questions? Contact Heather Woolard-Lawson at hwoolard@shandonpresbyterian.org

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE — Join us this evening at 8 pm as we tell the familiar, holy story of the night the world changed forever. We'll sing beloved carols; remember the story about shepherds, sheep, and a Savior; and finish the service with candlelight. The Chancel Choir will assist in leading worship.

WELCOMING CHRISTMAS SERVICE — Tonight at 11:30 pm, meet us on the Sanctuary steps for a brief service that will welcome Christmas when it first arrives. We'll sing, pray, tell the Christmas story, and conclude with candlelight at midnight. This service will not include a sermon.

POINSETTIAS — Poinsettias purchased in honor or memory of loved ones can be taken home or shared with a friend following the 8 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED — The Church Office will be closed for Christmas on Monday, December 25, and Tuesday, December 26. Regular office hours will resume on Wednesday, December 27.

NEW YEAR'S EVE BREAKFAST CHURCH — Next Sunday at 10:30 am, we'll gather around tables in the Activity Center to worship over breakfast next Sunday. We will celebrate the hope and promise of a new year with song, prayer, scripture, and reflection. RSVPs are never required for worship, but it will help us plan the meal. If possible, RSVP at bit.ly/NYEbreakfastchurch. This service will be in-person only, and will not be live-streamed.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET — This annual event provides an easy and meaningful way to honor your family and friends by making donations in their names. This year's supported organizations are: the Free Medical Clinic, the Mwandu Orphan and Vulnerable Children Centre (Zambia), and the Salvation Army. Visit bit.ly/3EfEPmz to give or bring cash or check to the Church Office.

WEEKEND BACKPACK FOOD — During December, we are collecting 16-ounce containers of peanut butter.

CAFE JUSTO — Buy 10 bags of Cafe Justo coffee and get one free bag! Plus a free colorful Christmas gift-bag with every gift purchase. To order, contact Rowena Nylund.

SUNDAY SCHOOL — Sunday school classes for all ages will resume on Sunday, January 7, 2024 at 9:15 am.

SHANDON ON WEDNESDAYS — Shandon on Wednesdays will resume on Wednesday, January 10. Dinner will take place in Davis Hall at 5:15 pm, followed by Messy Church at 6:10 pm. Childcare will be available beginning at 6 pm for infants and toddlers. Reservations for dinner are requested for dinner by Monday, January 8. Make reservations on Realm or by calling the church office at (803) 771-4408.

DANCE CLASSES — Elder-turned-dance instructor Garrett Humphries will teach a series of shag lessons January 17, 24, and 31 at 6 pm in the Activity Center. Attendance at the first class is strongly encouraged in order to properly enjoy the remaining classes. No experience required; no partner is necessary.

This Week at Shandon

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

- 10 am** Childcare (Room 106)
- 10 am** Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 10:30 am** Worship - The Fourth Sunday of Advent (Sanctuary)
- 11:30 am** Fellowship (Front Sidewalk)
- 3 pm** 5th Tradition AA (McDonald Youth Center)
- 4 pm** Christmas Eve Worship - Family Service with Children's Christmas Pageant (Sanctuary)
- 7:20 pm** Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 8 pm** Christmas Eve Worship - Traditional Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)
- 11:30 pm** Welcoming Christmas Service (Front Steps)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

Church Office closed.

- 6:15 pm** 5th Tradition AA (McDonald Youth Center)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

Church Office closed.

- 6 pm** Youth Basketball Practice (Activity Center)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

- 9:30 am** Quilt Group (Room 210)
- 12:15 pm** Staff Meeting (Library)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

- 6 pm** Youth Basketball Practice (Activity Center)
- 7 pm** Adult Basketball Practice (Activity Center)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

- 6 pm** Youth Basketball Practice (Activity Center)
- 6:15 pm** 5th Tradition AA (McDonald Youth Center)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

No events scheduled.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

- 10 am** Childcare (Room 106)
- 10:30 am** Breakfast Church (Activity Center)
- 3 pm** 5th Tradition AA (McDonald Youth Center)

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
Sandie Stillinger, Bookkeeper
Carolyn Bennett, Childcare Coordinator
Gerald Taylor, Facilities Manager
Georgia Shaw, Receptionist
Rev. Susannah Cook, Receptionist