

February 6, 2022 • 10:30 a.m.



Life, by Addie-Grace Cook

# 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 questons 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 Jackson Ringley at jringley@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 upto-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

Matthew McCall Moderement Anime from Children's Corner

Welcome

Rev. John Cook

Centering Music

Sarah Cifani Sonata and Connie Schulz J.J. NAUDOT

\* Call to Worship

Come and worship, proclaim God's ways of faithfulness and steadfast love.

We will tell of God's love, which unfolds in our lives.

Come and worship, for we are God's people, rejoicing in his graciousness.

God is always with us, there is nothing which can keep us apart.

Come to the One who tells stories;

worship our God who keeps promises. We rejoice with God who is with us always.

\* Hymn 299

You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim

HANOVER

Call to Confession

Rev. Robert Walker

Prayer of Confession

What can we say about our foolish lives, God of Love?

Too often, we choose to worship power

when we could serve others in humility.

We toss and turn at night, all those things over which we have

no control keeping us wide awake,

when we could turn them over to you.

No matter how many times we hear the news

that death has lost its power over us, we dread that day and try everything we can to postpone it.

For believing that our sins are more powerful than your mercy,

forgive us, Grace of the world.

You cast out your net of grace so that all

might be gathered into your kingdom.

Your Spirit carries the whispers of our hearts to you, and we are embraced with your hope, blessed with

your love through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

(Silent prayer)

Assurance of God's Grace

Who has the right to judge us? Only Christ. Yet Christ died for us, Christ was raised for us, Christ reigns in power over us – Christ even prays for us!

This is the love which binds us to God forever.

There is nothing in this world, or beyond, which will keep us from being God's children.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Response

Glory to God GLORIA (TAIZE)

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest! Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

Passing of the Peace

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

**Proclaiming the Word** 

The Word with Children Jackson Ringley

Prayer for Illumination
Herb Blake

New Testament Lesson

Romans 8:26-39

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. John Cook

Things Jesus Never Said: Everything Happens for a Reason

# Responding to the Word

\* Hymn 841

#### God Is My Strong Salvation

AURELIA

God is my strong salvation; what foe have I to fear? In peril and temptation my light, my help, is near. Though hosts encamp around me, firm to the fight I stand; what terror can confound me, with God at my right hand?

Place on the Lord reliance; my soul, with courage wait; God's truth be thine affiance, when faint and desolate. God's might thy heart shall strengthen, God's love thy joy increase; mercy thy days shall lengthen; the Lord will give thee peace.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May the God whose life is stronger than death be with you. **And also with you.** 

Come to the One who searches your hearts.

We open them to God, who justifies us.

Let us give thanks to God who shows us steadfast love.

We sing to the Lord, whose grace is kept in our hearts.

... prayer continues ...

With those who listen and understand, with those who seek a discerning mind, we sing our thanksgivings to you:

Holy, holy, holy God, you justify us with grace.

All creation sings your praise, hosanna in the highest!

... prayer continues ...

As we rejoice that Jesus gave us everything, as we remember nothing stands between us and God, we speak of that mysterious faith which is ours:

Christ died, giving up his own life for us; Christ was raised, God's treasure brought forth from the potter's field;

Christ will intercede for us, with joy and hope.

... prayer continues ...

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

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

Anthem

Chancel Choir

DR. JABARIE GLASS, DIR.

O God, Beyond All Praising
GUSTAV HOLST, ARR. RICHARD PROULX

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay; for we can only wonder at every gift you send, at blessings without number and mercies without end: we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word, we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

The flower of earthly splendor in time must surely die, its fragile bloom surrender to you the Lord most high; but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown, though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown: for Christ the man from heaven from death has set us free, and we through him are given the final victory!

Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring, that we who know your favor may serve you as our king; and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill, we will triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still: to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways, and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

\* Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

- \* Prayer of Dedication \* Hymn 846
- Fight the Good Fight

DUKE STREET

\* Benediction

Postlude

## **Worship Notes**

**LEADING WORSHIP TODAY** are Matthew McCall, Rev. John Cook, Rev. Robert Walker, Jackson Ringley, Herb Blake, and the Chancel Choir under the direction of Dr. Jabarie Glass.

**TODAY'S LITURGY** was written by Thom M. Shuman for Year A, Proper 12. The prayer for illumination was written by Kim Long in *Feasting on the Word*, Year A, Vol 2 (Proper 12).

**AFTER WORSHIP TODAY** join us outside for cookies, coffee and other refreshments. Additionally, a deacon will be present in the Sower's Chapel to receive prayer concerns.

#### **Announcements**

**IT'S TIME TO 'HOST' FAMILY PROMISE** — There are four families currently in transitional housing supported by Family Promise. Shandon's support, along with Gill Creek Baptist Church, during our host week of February 6-13 includes gift cards for groceries, gas, meals and budgeted money to help pay the rent. If you would like to support these families, please sign up online at bit.ly/familypromisefeb2022.

**SOW PROGRAMMING** — Shandon on Wednesdays is continuing our monthly intergenerational gathering for fellowship and educational opportunities for all ages. We begin the evening with dinner followed by children's choirs and Bible studies for children, youth and adults. We also have child care available for children under the age of 4.

- February 9 program "Cleaning Up COVID." Mike Young of Palmetto Commercial Services will talk with us about COVID cleanup, both on a big scale and what we need to know in everyday life. Look for a reservation link in your email.
- Additional SOW spring dates are March 2, April 6 and May 11.

**CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH CHOIRS** — Shandon has opportunities for children and youth of all ages to join the fun of making music together and in worship. Arise Choir (ages 4 through first grade) meets 6-6:30 p.m. Wednesdays in Room 224. Shine Choir (second through fifth grades) meets 6:30-7 p.m. Wednesdays in Room 224. Youth Choir (sixth through 12th grades) meets Sunday afternoons during regularly scheduled youth group activities. For more information, contact Matt McCall, mmccall@shandonpresbyterian.org.

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** — Session has called the Annual Congregational Meeting for Sunday, February 13, 2022, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. The congregation will receive the 2021 annual report and the 2022 budget, elect officers to the class of 2025, and approve the 2022 pastoral terms of call. The slate of officers was sent via email last week. Hard copies and additional documents are available from the church office. All documents will be

provided in person at the meeting. The meeting will take place in the Sanctuary and will also be livestreamed. Members attending via livestream will vote by phone at the end of the meeting.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 15** — We welcome your news for the March issue of The Spire. Please submit items of interest to the congregation to cward@shandonpresbyterian.org.

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH MEALS ON WHEELS** — Drivers are needed for Meals on Wheels routes served by Shandon. Volunteers deliver meals and make a friendly visit to eight to 10 seniors and people with disabilities in our community. If you are interested in driving on a routine basis or as a substitute, please contact Harriet McMaster, harrietmcmaster@gmail.com or 803-603-6128.

**CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY WITH CAFÉ JUSTO** — A bag of Café Justo makes a tasty gift for anyone on your valentine list. Only \$10 for a full pound with a colorful free valentine gift bag. To order, Rowena Nylund, Rnylund@sc.rr.com, call 803-252-7752 or text 803-743-7122.

**AV VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** — Since the return to indoor, in-person worship, our services are livestreamed each Sunday morning. Behind the scenes are volunteers who work to ensure that anyone who wishes to worship with Shandon Presbyterian can do so from anywhere in the world. From microphones to graphics, camera angles to lighting, these volunteers are integral to our worship life together. If you would like to learn more about joining this team and provide AV support during worship services, contact Matt McCall, mmccall@shandonpresbyterian.org. No experience necessary!

## **Worship Archives**

Miss a service? Want to hear a prayer a second time or read a sermon text?

Our worship archives include weekly bulletins, links to livestream recordings, and PDFs of sermon manuscripts (as available).

Visit shandonpresbyterian.org, then select Worship and Music.

Sermons are also available as a podcast on SoundCloud and Apple Podcasts.

### The Staff of Shandon Presbyterian Church

Rev. Jenny McDevitt, Senior Pastor and Head of Staff
Rev. John Cook, Associate Pastor for Discipleship
MC Jordan, Children and Youth Ministries Assistant
Jackson Ringley, Educational Ministries Assistant
Matthew McCall, Director of Music and Organist
Dr. Jabarie Glass, Interim Chancel Choir Director
Ashlee Poole, Youth 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