



Shandon Presbyterian Church

607 Woodrow Street • Columbia, South Carolina • 29205

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023 • 8 pm



This is God's house. There is a place for you here. Welcome home.

Welcome to 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

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.

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

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ARR. DAN FORREST

Bean Hicks, clarinet

Once In Royal David's City

ARR. LEE J. AFDAHL

Asterisks () indicate portions of worship during which you are invited to stand in body or in spirit.*

* 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.**

The light enters.

This will be a sign for you:

**you will find a child wrapped in cloth
and lying in a manger.**

Unto us a child is born;

**he is named Emmanuel,
"God with us."**

Tonight there is good news of great joy for all people;
let us join our voices with the angels, and sing.

* Hymn 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELIS

Lighting the Advent Candle

*Rev. John Cook
and April Martin*

Response

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 alway.**

Prayer for Christmas Eve

When the world was dark,

**you stepped into the chaos,
and said, "Let there be light,"**

creating the heavens and the earth.

When we were lost in the darkness,
**you came as a baby,
swaddled in a blanket,
trusting frail human hands to hold their Maker.**

When we have needed you most,
**you have crept in beside us.
And we trust you will do the same tonight.**

Come into the darkness again —
**not the friendly darkness,
as when sleep rescues the weary,
but the fearful darkness,
in which people stop believing that war can end,
or that hearts can be mended,
or that lives can change.**

Come into the darkness
**and 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.**

Shine a light into every darkness,
**and teach us once again to be merry.
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace,
you have come to us this night.
Stay with us always, we pray.**

Assurance of God's Grace

* Hymn 132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (verses 1 and 2)

IN DULCI JUBILO

Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Lesson

Allison Croxton

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous

beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

Anthem

Christopher Moore

O Holy Night

ADOLPHE ADAM

Scripture Lesson

John Steedman

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.

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

* Hymn 143

Angels from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

Prayer for Illumination

Christian Mitchell

Hymn 108

Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Verse 1: Solo

Verse 2: Choir

Verse 3: Congregation

Verse 4: Congregation

Verse 5: Choir

Verse 6: Solo

Scripture Lesson

John 1:1-9, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Jenny McDevitt

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Responding to the Word

* Hymn 140

Once In Royal David's City

IRBY

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.

The First Nowell

ARR. DAN FORREST

The first Nowell the angels did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep:
Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light
and so they continued both day and night.
Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.
Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

* 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.**

* Sharing the Light

* Hymn 122

Silent Night, Holy 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 them light;
with the angels let us sing, "Alleluia," to our King:
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

Prayer by Candlelight

* Hymn 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.**

**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

Please extinguish your candle before leaving the sanctuary.

Postlude

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ARR. EMMA LOU DIEMER

Worship Notes

LEADING WORSHIP THIS EVENING are Matthew McCall, Bean Hicks, Rev. Jenny McDevitt, Barnes Dragner (acolyte), Rev. John Cook, April Martin, Allison Croxton, John Steedman, Christian Mitchell, Christopher Moore, the Chancel Choir, directed by Dr. Jabarie Glass, and Jim and Edie McNeish (live-stream).

THIS EVENING'S LITURGY — The Advent Candle Lighting, Prayer for Christmas Eve, and Sharing of the Light were written by Rev. Jenny McDevitt.

Announcements

WELCOMING CHRISTMAS SERVICE — Meet us on the Sanctuary steps tonight at 11:30 pm for a brief service to welcome Christmas. We'll sing, pray, tell the Christmas story, and conclude with candlelight at midnight.

CHRISTMAS DAY STORY TIME — On Christmas Day, children of all ages can enjoy an online story time with Pastor Jenny, Pastor John, Heather, and April. Go to shandonpresbyterian.org/storytime.

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. We will celebrate the hope and promise of a new year with song, prayer, scripture, and reflection. (And bagels.) RSVPs are never required for worship, but it will help us plan the meal. If possible, RSVP at bit.ly/NYEBreakfastchurch.

SUNDAY SCHOOL — Sunday school classes for all ages will resume on Sunday, January 7, 2024 at 9:15 am. For information regarding children's education, contact Heather Woolard-Lawson at hwoolard@shandonpresbyterian.org, for youth and young adults, contact April Martin at amartin@shandonpresbyterian.org, for college and UKirk, contact Rev. John Cook at jcook@shandonpresbyterian.org, and for contact Rev. Jenny McDevitt at jmcdevitt@shandonpresbyterian.org.

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

MESSY CHURCH ON JANUARY 10 — All ages are invited to join us Messy Church, where faith is so real you can reach out and touch it. (And play and create and experiment with it!) January's Messy Church will center around the theme of Light, in honor of Epiphany. We will meet in the Sanctuary at 6:10 pm. The service includes simple liturgy, Messy Stations, and sharing the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Rev. Jenny McDevitt and Heather Woolard-Lawson lead this joyful, expressive, accessible service. Childcare is available for the infants and young toddlers.

YOUTH GROUP — Youth Group will resume January 7, 5-7 pm in the McDonald Youth Center. Join in for a time of study, music, fun activities, and dinner. Youth will also begin preparing for Youth Sunday, which is March 17. For more information, contact April Martin at amartin@shandonpresbyterian.org.

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MUSIC — Shandon has musical opportunities for children of all ages! Children and youth are encouraged to join the fun making music together and in worship. Arise and Shine Children's Choir will resume on January 17 at 6 pm in the Choir Room. Youth Music (6th-12th grades) will resume on January 7 at 5 pm in McDonald Youth Center. Contact Matt McCall (mmccall@shandonpresbyterian.org) for more information.

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.

VBS 2024 — Save the date! Vacation Bible School will take place July 8 through July 12, 2024. More information, including how to sign-up, will be available soon. Questions? Contact Heather Woolard-Lawson at hwoolard@shandonpresbyterian.org.

Upcoming Worship



Christmas has come, and Christ with it. And so we rejoice! We rejoice because we are strengthened and encouraged that we are not alone in this world — this world that is both astonishingly beautiful and yet still tremendously broken. How do we as Christians live faithfully in the midst of such complexity? Our winter sermon series will explore some of the ways Christians can be a voice for reason, justice, and truth in a world that so often seems to spin toward other extremes. Rev. Jenny McDevitt will preach.

January 7

Choosing How We See One Another

January 14

These Days Require Courage

January 28

Deciding Who and What Shapes Us

February 4

Trusting the Truth (and Pursuing It)

February 11

Having a Vision For, Not Just Anger Against



Poinsettias

Presented to the glory of God

In memory of

By

Robert C. Bacon	Marcia, Robin, Linnea, & RJ Bacon
Irene H. Bacon	Marcia, Robin, Linnea, & RJ Bacon
Joel P. Winchip	Marcia, Robin, Linnea, & RJ Bacon
John Wells	Jane Gardner
David White	Jane Gardner
Bob Hill	Jane Gardner
Our parents: Dick & Diane Hazelwood & Randy Ruble	Jeff Ruble & Cathy Hazelwood
Corrie & Everett Gladden	Leigh Gladden Lalos & Beth Gladden Rice
David M. White, Sr.	Carolyn, Marshall, & Alston White
Guy & Kay White	Carolyn, Marshall, & Alston White
Mr. & Mrs. John Anker	Jane Anker
My dear husband, Dale Gurnell	Betty Gurnell
Our precious grandson, Tyler Sims	Betty Gurnell
Marion Tompkins McArthur	Jim Gilchrist
Helen Dawes & Watson Dawes	Patty & Bill Quattlebaum
Miriam Quattlebaum & Gerald Quattlebaum	Patty & Bill Quattlebaum
Beloved brother of Lisa S. Ross, Howell S. Stone	David, Lisa, & Brennan Ross
Our Grandparents	Katy & Mac Humphries
Margaret, Ed, & Joan Diehl	Judy Chandler
Blackwell & Mary Murchison	Laura Murchison
Mr. & Mrs. L. E. Thames	Jim & Chae Thames
Mr. & Mrs. V. E. Dawson	Jim & Chae Thames
Mr. & Mrs. O. L. Hwang	Jim & Chae Thames
Timmy Thames	Jim & Chae Thames
Our Parents	Wayne Bryan & Mimi Parrott
Our Son	Wayne Bryan & Mimi Parrott
Our Parents	Stacey & Jim Brennan
Hunter Hudson	Tricia Kuna & Woody Williams
Ingrid Williams	Tricia Kuna & Woody Williams
Karen Hook	Molly Hook
Norma Schwinn	Norma & Allan Weldon & Children
Margaret & Frank Jordan	Margaret Jordan & Bob Kramer
Bert & Elise Kramer	Margaret Jordan & Bob Kramer
My Parents, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph E. Bradford, Sr	Fraser Bradford

Patrick J. McDevitt	Paul & Brenda McDevitt
J. B. & Catherine Allen	Their Family
Kaye Amores	Brian, Iris, & Penelope Hilpish
Grandma Johnnelle Ramsey	Her grandchildren, Henry, Ellie, & Jack
Sam & Margaret Lytchfield	John & Linda Shaylor
Edward and Sadie Shaylor	John & Linda Shaylor
Mr. & Mrs. Grady L. Patterson	Their Family
Drs. John & Frances Timmons	Johnny & Laura Timmons
Alice Timmons Morissey	Johnny & Laura Timmons
Dr. Steven Griffin Patterson	His Family
Jim & Anne Cuddy	Katherine Cuddy
Mack & Peggy Pugh Kelly	Fred Pugh
Edna M. Pugh	Fred Pugh
Frank & Margaret Jordan	Leck & Sally Patterson
Flynn Harrell	Anne Harrell
Dick Massey	Jane Massey
Marilyn Miss	John & Susan Steedman
Vincent Masters	John & Susan Steedman
Nan & George Steedman	John & Susan Steedman
Phyllis & John Leflore	David, Nancy, Ansley, & Jordan Roberts
Dale Roberts, Roy Roberts, Doug Robert	David, Nancy, Ansley, & Jordan Roberts
Julie Travis & Amanda Roberts	David, Nancy, Ansley, & Jordan Roberts

In honor of

Carolyn N. Winchip
 Bob & Nancy Woods
 Our grandchildren: Owen, Mary Oliver, & George
 Drucilla Brookshire
 Martha Bode
 Grammy & Grandsie
 Marmie & Pops
 Our children: Mary Allyson, Tripp, Nathan, & Elliott
 Our Parents
 Shandon Staff
 Circle 5
 Prayer Shawl Ministry
 The Pastors & Church Staff
 Meals on Wheels Drivers
 Marion Hook
 Jean Weldon
 Alexander & Byron Duell
 The Hicks Family
 Our Shandon Village that has loved us, lifted us up, and
 strengthened us as we welcomed Jackson to the world
 Frances, Tyler, Francie, & Ellie Yarbrough
 Elizabeth & Mary Redden Timmons
 Our Children & Grandchildren
 Judy Medlin, our faithful and inspiring Moderator
 Charles & Sylvia Sellers

By

Marcia, Robin, Linnea, & RJ Bacon
 Jane Gardner
 Jeff & Cathy Hazelwood
 Carolyn, Marshall, & Alston White
 Carolyn, Marshall, & Alston White
 Larkin & Nathan
 Larkin & Nathan
 Carter & Peyton Hassinger
 Katy & Mac Humphries
 Jim & Chae Thames
 Chae Thames
 Chae Thames
 Wayne Bryan & Mimi Parrott
 Harriet McMaster
 Molly Hook
 Norma & Allan Weldon & Children
 Jennifer Duell
 The Duell Family

 The Ramsey Family
 Mama and Daddy
 Mama and Daddy
 Leck & Sally Patterson
 Circle 9
 David, Nancy, Ansley, & Jordan Roberts

This Week at Shandon

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

- 9 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

The church office will be open until 3 pm.

- 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

- 9 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