



Shandon Presbyterian Church

607 Woodrow Street • Columbia, South Carolina • 29205

January 17, 2021 • 10:30 am



Easter Morning Prayer in Malorosia, by Nikolay Pimonenko

Welcome to Shandon Presbyterian Church

Whether you are a first-time visitor or a longtime member, you have made us better by being with us in worship today.

Every week, our service begins with a word of welcome. We take this seriously. Just as God welcomes all, so too do we strive to be a community as diverse and hospitable as God's kingdom. We don't all look alike or act alike or think alike. We come from different backgrounds, we bring different questions, and we carry different burdens. But every Sunday, we come together and worship the same God.

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. It is our hope and our prayer that you will experience something personal and relevant this morning — a word of hope, a call to action, a spark of faith, a deeper relationship with God.

After the service, please stay for awhile. We'd love to get to know you and help you learn more about us. Well ... that's what we'd say back in "normal" days. The invitation remains, however. We may not be gathering in-person on Sunday mornings right now, but we hope you'll take advantage of other ways of getting acquainted. Reach out to one of our pastors. Explore our website and poke around on our Facebook page. Join us for various drive-through or walk-through events on Sunday afternoons. Reserve some time in our Sanctuary to experience one of our sacred spaces for yourself.

At Shandon Presbyterian Church, we strive to be honest in all of our relationships, so we'll say this from the beginning: if you're looking for a perfect church, we're not it. We don't always get it right. Rather, we're a group of imperfect people who 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

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude

Matthew McCall

I'll Praise My Maker

ARR. JOYCE JONES

Welcome

Rev. Jenny McDevitt

Call to Worship

The Lord is God:

**creator, redeemer, sustainer,
the one who flung stars into the sky to light our way.**

The Lord is God:

**adored and adoring, truth-teller and justice-seeker,
the one who journeys to the cross and bids us follow.**

The Lord is God:

**as invisible as air, as ever-present as breath,
the one who is with us always, to the end of the age.**

Hymn 375

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of
2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith - er by thy help I'm come; and I
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be! Let that
mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise. Teach me
hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home. Je - sus
grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee. Prone to
some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove; praise the
sought me when a stran - ger, wan - dering from the fold of God; he, to
wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my
mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love!
res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Call to Confession

Hannah Ratliff

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,
Forgive us when the distance
 between our head and our heart
 is the longest, hardest journey of all.
Forgive us when we know the right answers
 but do not follow with right action.
Forgive us when we know you are God
 but are too afraid to trust you.
Forgive us when we know our neighbors need us,
 but remain unconvinced our little lives
 can make a difference.
Forgive us when we limit you,
 and forgive us when we limit ourselves.
Remind us, O God, of your expansive love.
(Silent prayer)**

Assurance of God's Grace

Passing of the Peace

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

Proclaiming the Word

The Word for Children *Rev. Molly Spangler*

Prayer for Illumination *Hugh Jacobs*

Scripture Reading Ephesians 1:3-14

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

In him we were also chosen,^[d] having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Jenny McDevitt

Do I Really Have to Believe in Predestination?

Responding to the Word

Anthem

Shandon Choral Scholars

DR. ALICIA WALKER, DIR.

DR. ARI STREISFELD, VIOLIN

This Is My Father's World

ARR. ELAINE HAGENBERG

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears,
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world, I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.

This is my Father's world, He shines in all that's fair,
in the rustling grass I hear Him pass,
He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world, O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.

This is my Father's world, the battle is not done,
Jesus, who died will be satisfied,
and heaven and earth be one.

Affirmation of Faith

I need your sense of time.

Always I have an underlying anxiety about things.

**Sometimes I am in a hurry to achieve my ends
and am completely without patience.**

**It is hard for me to realize that some growth is slow;
that all processes are not swift.**

**I cannot always discriminate
between what takes time to develop
and what can be rushed,
because my sense of time is dulled.**

I measure things in terms of happenings.

**O to understand the meaning of perspective
that I may do all things
with a profound sense of leisure – of time.**

I need your sense of order.

**The confusion of the details of living
is sometimes overwhelming.**

**The little things keep getting in my way
providing ready-made excuses for failure
to do and be what I know I ought to do and be.**

**Much time is spent on things that are not very important
while significant things are put
into an insignificant place in my scheme of order.
I must unscramble my affairs.**

I need your sense of the future.

**Teach me to know that life is ever on the side
of the future.**

**Keep alive in me the forward look,
the high hope,
the onward surge.**

Let me be not frozen either by the past or the present.

**Grant me your sense of the future,
without which all life would sicken and die.**

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 Tithes and Gifts

Text SHANDONPC to 73256 or visit shandonpresbyterian.org

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
OLD HUNDREDTH

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

Benediction

Postlude

Prelude in C

J.S. BACH

Worship Notes

Leading worship today are: Rev. Jenny McDevitt, Hannah Ratliff, Rev. Molly Spangler, Hugh Jacobs, Matthew McCall, Dr. Alicia Walker, Dr. Ari Streisfeld, and the Shandon Choral Scholars: Johnnie Felder, Dr. Jabarie Glass, Andrew Mitchell, Jennifer Mitchel, Ashlee Poole and Kelley Powell.

The Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession were written by Rev. Jenny McDevitt.

Today's Affirmation of Faith is a prayer written by Howard Thurman, an African American author, philosopher, theologian and civil rights leader. While not a traditional "affirmation," we affirm the universal needs and longings it expresses and the hope and accountability that comes from voicing them aloud in community.

The painting *Easter Morning Prayer* in Malorosia, by Nikolay Pimonenko, captures the moment right before a gathered group offers a blessing for the meal. One way of understanding predestination is that we spend our lives waiting for a blessing. A more expansive understanding affirms that God's abundant blessings are upon us already. We do not need to wait, we need only live our

Announcements

MEET HANNAH RATLIFF AND PARTICIPATE IN THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING. On Sunday, January 24, our new pastoral assistant, Hannah Ratliff will be at the church noon to 1 p.m. to greet everyone and say hello. You are invited to drive through the portico and introduce yourself. Let's help Hannah feel welcome. At the same time, you are invited to participate in our Souper Bowl of Caring event by bringing a donation of food or money for the Harvest Hope Food Bank. (Please see a list of acceptable food items to donate here: harvesthope.org/get-involved/donate-food.) We will continue to collect food and money donations through Sunday, February 7. This year, Eastminster Presbyterian is doing a donation match for food banks in South Carolina with a goal of raising \$1,000,000. Our donations to Harvest Hope will add to that goal of addressing hunger in our state.

YOUTH GROUP IS HAPPENING! Sixth- to 12th-grade youth are meeting 5:15-6:00 p.m. each Sunday. We are taking turns having Bible study over Zoom and some in-person gatherings for events like bonfires and hikes. Our weekly youth email has all of the details. If you have a youth who would like to join us, please contact Molly Spangler, mspangler@shandonpresbyterian.org, to add your name to our youth email distribution list.

WRITTEN THAT YOU MIGHT BELIEVE: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN. Join Rev. Jenny McDevitt for a five-week study of the Gospel of John. In a partial return to our "Shandon on Wednesdays" schedule, this class will meet on Zoom on 6-7 p.m. Wednesdays through February 17. You are welcome to eat dinner while we meet. Classes will build upon conversation from prior weeks, but you are welcome to join at any time as your schedule allows. Contact the church office to sign up. The Zoom link will also be available in weekly church email communication.

COMMUNITY THROUGH SONG. Explore some of our most loved hymns, focusing on scriptural connections, theological implications and the stories behind them in a brief hymn study at 6 p.m. each Tuesday on Facebook. Join Matt McCall, director of music and organist, in the comments portion of the video to add your own thoughts, ask questions and find community through song.

SHANDON ON WEDNESDAY CHECK-IN. SOW Check-ins are moving from a pre-recorded message to a 20-minute Zoom conversation and prayer with the pastors at noon each Wednesday. The Zoom link will be included in the weekly Thursday e-mail or through the church office.

WINTER/SPRING SUNDAY SCHOOL. We invite you to join our virtual children's and adult Sunday School classes for winter and spring 2021. For updated Zoom links, see the weekly Sunday morning email, or contact Molly Spangler, mspangler@shandonpresbyterian.org.

SCHEDULE A VISIT WITH THE PASTORS. Shandon's pastoral staff is making "porch visits" to congregation members. Give us a call (803-771-4408) or send an email, and we'll come to your porch, driveway or lawn: jmcdevitt@shandonpresbyterian.org, jcook@shandonpresbyterian.org or mspangler@shandonpresbyterian.org. You may also schedule an individual meeting at the church.

CAFÉ JUSTO FOR THE NEW YEAR. A new shipment of freshly roasted Café Justo has just arrived. Purchases provide financial support to organic coffee-growing families in Chiapas, Mexico. To order, email Rowena Nylund, Rnylund@sc.rr.com, call 803-252-7752 or text 803-743-7122. Coffee is available (whole bean or ground) in decaf, 100% Arabica (milder), 50% Arabica/50% Robusta (moderate) and 100% Robusta (strongest). Each one-pound bag costs \$10 and has the name of the coffee grower. Over the past 10 months, Shandon and Forest Lake Presbyterian Church have sent \$10,000 to help growers and their families have more secure, financially independent lives.

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
Hannah Ratliff, Shandon/UKirk Pastoral Assistant
Tinsley Moise, Children's Ministry Assistant
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
Jessica Joyner, Office Manager
Catherine Teal, Financial Manager
Sandie Stillinger, Bookkeeper
Gerald Taylor, Sexton