



# Shandon Presbyterian Church

607 Woodrow Street • Columbia, South Carolina • 29205

January 24, 2021 • 10:30 am



*Seventy Times Seven*, by Jan Richardson

## 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*

My Song Is Love Unknown

RALPH VAUGH WILLIAMS

Welcome

*Rev. Jenny McDevitt*

Call to Worship

*Caroline Webb*

We gather in the presence of a God  
whose mercy reaches far and wide:  
**wider than every sea and ocean  
and wide enough for all of God's children.**

We gather in the presence of a God  
who knows our sorrow:  
**when the ground shakes and we are filled with despair,  
God's heart is the first to break.**

We gather in the presence of a God  
whose love is beyond our imagining:  
**God never gives up on us  
and never leaves us to face the world alone.**

**Let us worship the God of mercy and grace,  
of compassion and peace!**

Hymn 435

**There's A Wideness in God's Mercy**  
IN BABILONE

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea.  
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of the mind.

There's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib-er-ty.  
And the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.

There is no place where earth's sor-rows are more felt than up in heaven.  
If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's Word,

There is no place where earth's fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.  
and our lives re-flect thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our Lord.

Call to Confession

*Rev. Molly Spangler*

## Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,  
Our lives do not always reflect the grace we receive.  
We mean well,  
but sometimes there is a disconnect  
between who we mean to be  
and who we are in any given moment.  
Help us to bridge this gap, O God.  
Enable us to face the truth of ourselves  
not so we might give in to despair  
but so we might live into our full humanity.  
Our lives belong to you;  
help them to reflect your 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. John Cook*

### Prayer for Illumination

*Jennifer Webb*

### Scripture Reading

Matthew 18:15-21

"If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

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

### Scripture Reading

John 20:19-23

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so

I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

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 Forgiveness?

## Responding to the Word

## Anthem

*Shandon Choral Scholars*  
DR. ALICIA WALKER, DIR.  
SHANDON CHOIR SCHOLARS

Prayer of Saint Francis  
ALLEN POTE

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace,  
where there is hatred, let me sow love.  
Where there is injury, thy pardon, Lord.  
Where there is doubt, let there be faith.

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace,  
where there's despair, let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness, let there be light.  
Where there is sadness, let there be joy.

O, Divine Master, grant that I may not  
so much seek to be consoled, as to console,  
to be understood, as to understand,  
to be loved, as to love.

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace,  
where there is hatred, let me sow love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
and it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

## 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](http://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 F Major  
J.S. BACH

## Worship Notes

Leading worship today are: Rev. Jenny McDevitt, Rev. Molly Spangler, Parker Webb, Matthew McCall, Dr. Alicia Walker, and the Shandon Choral Scholars: Johnnie Felder, Dr. Jabarie Glass, Andrew Mitchell, Jennifer Mitchell, Ashlee Poole and Kelley Powell.

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.

## Announcements

**MEET HANNAH RATLIFF AND PARTICIPATE IN THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING.** You are invited to drive through the portico and meet our new pastoral assistant, Hannah Ratliff, from noon to 1 p.m. today. Stop by and introduce yourself and help welcome Hannah to Shandon. At the same time, please bring with you a donation of food or money for our Souper Bowl of Caring event for Harvest Hope Food Bank. (Please see a list of acceptable food items to donate here: [harvesthope.org/get-involved/donate-food](http://harvesthope.org/get-involved/donate-food).) We will continue to collect food and money donations through Sunday, February 7. This year, Eastminister 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.

**OUTDOOR WORSHIP SUNDAYS AT 1 P.M.** Session has approved outdoor worship to be held each Sunday at 1 p.m., beginning January 31, for up to 65 total participants. (The service will be repeated at 2 p.m. if pre-registered numbers indicate a need.) The service will be similar, but not identical, to the pre-recorded service each week, including a hymn, prayers, scripture and the sermon for the week. Advance registration will be required. More details, including sign-up information, will be sent to the congregation via email and a calling post on Monday, January 25. Our pre-recorded, online worship services will continue to be offered just as they are now.

**YOUTH GROUP IS HAPPENING!** Sixth- to 12th-grade youth are meeting 5:15-6 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](mailto:mspangler@shandonpresbyterian.org), to add your name to our youth email distribution list.

**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](mailto:mspangler@shandonpresbyterian.org).

**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.

**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" sched-

ule, 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.

**WEEKEND BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAM.** Donations of shelf-stable food can be dropped off at Shandon's portico in the designated box. This month, we are collecting macaroni and cheese (individual size). Donations to this program will be delivered to Dreher High and A.C. Moore Elementary students. For more information, contact Rowena Nylund, 803-252-7752, Rnylund@sc.rr.com.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES.** If you requested offering envelopes, you may pick them up from the table under the portico.

**HELP LEAD WORSHIP REMOTELY.** Miss being in worship together? Help us lead online. We would love to include you in the following ways as we continue worshipping remotely:

- Leading the Call to Worship (script provided).
- Leading the Affirmation of Faith (script provided).
- Reading scripture (script provided).
- Inviting us into the offering (you provide some of the words; we'll help).
- Small drawing projects (for school-aged children).

Contact Rev. Jenny McDevitt, [jmcdevitt@shandonpresbyterian.org](mailto:jmcdevitt@shandonpresbyterian.org), to participate.

### **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