

Service for the Lord's Day

ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"Jacob's Dream"

Marc Chagall

1st Sunday after Pentecost

June 11, 2017 | 10:00 am Worship

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Greeter

Charlotte Zell

Ushers

Bethany Leggett

Greer Ward

Jeff Ward

Jerry Spencer

Acolyte

Aynsley Szczesniak

WELCOME

Welcome to worship at St. Simons Presbyterian Church. As you enter the sanctuary, please silence your cell phones. All children are welcome in worship. If you prefer, a nursery (located in the children's hall at the rear of the church) is available for children from birth to five years. Worship resources for children are available at the sanctuary entrances.

INTROIT (18)

Batak Melody

Hallelujah! Sing Praise to Your Creator

Chancel Choir

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Alan Dyer

Please sign and pass the friendship register.

WE GATHER TO PRAISE

Let us now prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.

PRELUDE

D. Wagner

Praise to God, Immortal Praise

Amy Bishop, Organ

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Charlotte Zell

One: We come to celebrate God's blessings to us.

ALL: Surely God is in this place!

One: We come to open ourselves to God's guidance and love.

ALL: Surely God is in this place!

One: We come to see more clearly God's presence in our lives.

ALL: Surely God is in this place!

One: We come to see God in this community of seekers.

ALL: Surely God is in this place!

One: We come to pray, praise, and offer ourselves to God.

ALL: Surely God is in this place! Let us worship God!

*OPENING HYMN 1

NICAEA

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

* Please stand if able.

The Prelude, Call to Worship, and Opening Hymn provide a means of moving the congregation with its liturgical leaders from the ordinary, structured context that characterizes daily life toward a kind of antistructure, in which the worshipers stand on equal ground in the presence of the triune God. Laying aside the various ways that society categorizes people and assigns status, the congregation awaits God's gifts. The first gift is God's own self. The second is the gift of community.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (ALL)

Rev. Bob Brearley

Gracious God, in the fields of our lives, we strive to be fruitful but we often fall short. We get so comfortable that we sleep when we need to be vigilant about the errors in our own lives and the injustices around us. We are so casual about wrongdoing that it creeps into our lives and threatens to overwhelm the good we do. Forgive us. Keep us awake so that we can produce the lives you call us to live.

Silence for Personal Confession

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI

H.W. GREATORIX

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

WE SHARE OUR LIFE & GIFTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Refugee Resettlement

Mary Bowie

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PREPARATION FOR PRAYER

K. Lee Scott

Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (ALL)

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.

OFFERTORY

I Want to be a Christian
Amy Bishop, Organ

arr. M. McDonald

Presbyterian pastor and author Frederick Buechner has famously said, "To confess sins to God is not to tell God anything that God doesn't already know. Until we confess them, however, they are the abyss between us and God. When we confess our sins, they become the bridge."

A doxology is a sung text which praises the Holy Trinity. These words sung to the tune known as OLD HUNDREDTH represent the most common doxology.

*DOXOLOGY

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.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

WORD FOR CHILDREN

*All children please come forward at the pastor's invitation.
Following the Word for Children, children Preschool-2nd grade may leave for KidZ Worship.*

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING

Charlotte Zell

Psalm 139:1-12

Page 974 OT

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

L. Shackley

Lord, I Believe

Chancel Choir

SECOND READING

Genesis 28:10-19

Page 43 OT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION 287

Gracious Spirit, heed our pleading; fashion us all anew.
It's your leading that we're needing; help us to follow you.
Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.

SERMON

Rev. Alan Dyer

An Altar in the World: **Vision**
"The Practice of Waking Up to God"

Today, we begin a summer sermon series that is guided by Barbara Brown Taylor's book, "An Altar in the World." Each week during the months of June, July, and August we will consider where and how God is at work beyond the four walls of the church in the simple and ordinary places of life. We begin this series with the story from Genesis of Jacob's dream in the wilderness at Bethel. As you listen to the scripture and sermon, consider what it means to you that God can (and does) "drop a ladder" to someone like Jacob in a place like Bethel.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (ALL)

A Declaration of Faith

We acknowledge one God alone, whose demands on us are absolute, whose help for us is sufficient. That One is the Lord, whom we worship, serve, and love. We do not fully comprehend who God is or how he works. God's reality far exceeds all our words can say. The Lord's requirements are not always what we think is best. The Lord's care for us is not always what we want. God comes to us on his own terms and is able to do far more than we ask or think.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 450

SLANE

Be Thou My Vision

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE (539)

Donaldson

We Will Go Out with Joy

POSTLUDE

D. Paxton

The Awakening Call
Amy Bishop, Organ

As worship comes to a close, consider those places where we are individually and as a church called to "wake up to God." Where do you see God dropping ladders in your life and in the lives of those around you? How will you mark those places this week?

If You Are New Here. Whether you are visiting from out-of-town, a seasonal resident, or searching for a church home, we are delighted that you are worshiping with us today. If you are interested in receiving more information about membership or the ministries of our congregation, please indicate that on the Friendship Register as it is passed down your pew at the beginning of worship so that we can be in touch with you soon.

Child Care. Children of all ages are welcome in worship. If you prefer, a nursery is available for children, birth through age five. The nursery is located in the Children's Wing at the rear of the church.

If You Are in Need of Prayer. You may fill out a prayer request card (available in the pews) and place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher.

To Aid in Worship. A "Rocking Room" with live video of the service is available in the chapel located outside of the front right doors of the sanctuary. Hearing assistance devices and large print hymnals and Bibles may be obtained from the ushers.

The Story of the Refugee Resettlement Committee at SSPC

On New Year's Day, 2017, the sermon at St. Simons Presbyterian Church was titled "Jesus the Refugee." We heard that day how Mary and Joseph took Jesus and fled the violence of King Herod that threatened Bethlehem in the months after the birth of Jesus. The holy family was forced to leave their homeland and became refugees in Egypt. The formation of the Refugee Discussion Group resulted from that sermon. Over the past six months a group of church members have met regularly to pray, reflect, and learn about the global refugee crisis happening in our world right now. Through our Bible study we were encouraged to be good neighbors to all people through purposeful action and active welcome.

We discovered, however, that we are not the best location to welcome a refugee family landing in the United States directly from a foreign country. There are nine relief agencies that help settle newly arriving refugees, and none of them are located in Glynn County. The nearest such agency is Lutheran Services in Savannah which places families only in Chatham County. Yet we could be a resettlement place for refugees who have been placed in another city and now wish to move to a second location.

Merritt Groeschel, the daughter of Bill and Anne Stembler and the sister of Bess Chambliss, has been a great help to us. She is actively involved in the refugee ministry of Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. Merritt is aware of some families who have been settled in the Washington and Baltimore areas and desire a move further south. We are currently in conversation with a Syrian family, consisting of a father and mother and four sons, ages 4 through 15. They would like to visit Glynn County to see if they could find good employment in construction, good schools for the sons, and affordable housing for a new life for this family. They have been legal residents of the United States for a full year.

In May, 2017, we approached the Session with our concerns about the refugee crisis and our hope for our congregation's active involvement in helping a refugee family if possible. The Session listened to us and eagerly and unanimously approved the formation of a Refugee Resettlement Committee and the establishment of a Refugee Fund to receive donations from church members and friends. Church members have already made contributions to this fund. (Checks to SSPC, marked "Refugee Fund.")

Our Refugee Resettlement Committee has been led by Carol Snyder (912-267-0481), who has done thorough research in all that is involved in the resettlement process and is available to answer any questions you may have. Other members include Mary Avram, Judy Benjamin, Mary Bowie, Bob Brearley, Jann Briscoe, Alan Dyer, Beth Evans, Anna Henry, Patti Jordan, Martha Martin, Mary Rutherford, Alex Snyder, and Anne Stembler.

If the Syrian family decides to make the move to Glynn County, we will seek to be good neighbors to them by helping them locate affordable, three-bedroom housing in a good school district, gainful employment in construction for the father and possible part-time employment for the mother and oldest son, and help them with transportation needs including an affordable car or van. We will be their friends in Christ.

In the meantime, please keep this faithful adventure in your prayers and tell us of your desire to get involved with the Refugee Resettlement Committee. Thank you.



The Al Rifai Family



Father's Day Cards

Last chance to purchase today!

VBS Family Dinner

Wednesday, June 14th

6:00 PM | Social Hall

Free and Open to all!

RSVP Online!

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Beach Night!

FRIDAY, JUNE 16

7 PM | COAST GUARD STATION



Montaña de Luz



Wish List

As our Honduras mission trip approaches we are asking for donations of toiletries & supplies that will be taken with the group!

Full Wish List of Needs Online!

We are collecting items in the **RED** buckets in the Back Hallway!

Questions? Contact Nat Scott - nat@sspres.org

This Week | June 11 - 17

Today, June 11

- 8:30 am **Morning Prayer** - Sanctuary
- 9:00 am **Breakfast/Joint Sunday School** - Social Hall
- 10:00 am **Worship** - Sanctuary
- 11:15 am **VBS Volunteer Meeting** - Social Hall
- 5:00 pm **Marsh's Edge Worship** - Marsh's Edge

Monday, June 12

- 5:30 pm **Diaconate Meeting** - Upper Room
- 8:00 pm **AA Meeting** - Britt Room
- 8:00 pm **Al-Anon Meeting** - John Law Room

Tuesday, June 13

- 9:00 am **VBS Day 1** - Social Hall
- 5:30 pm **Session Meeting** - Upper Room

Wednesday, June 14

- 9:00 am **VBS Day 2** - Social Hall
- 6:00 pm **VBS Family Dinner** - Social Hall
- 7:00 pm **Chancel Choir** - Choir Room

Thursday, June 15

- 7:15 am **Men's Breakfast Bible Study** - Britt Room
- 9:00 pm **VBS Day 3** - Social Hall
- 4:00 pm **Free Flow Yoga** - Youth Suite
- 8:00 pm **AA Meeting** - Britt Room
- 8:00 pm **Al-Anon Meeting** - John Law Room

Friday, June 16

- 7:00 pm **Youth Beach Fellowship** - Coast Guard Station

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE



8:30 AM
Morning Prayer
Sanctuary



9 AM
**Breakfast/
Joint Sunday School**
Social Hall



10 AM
Worship
Sanctuary

Chancel Flowers: The Chancel flowers this morning are given by Brenda and Buddy Jones to the glory of God and in memory of our parents, Dr. and Mrs. Edward G. Jones and Howard C. Bowie.

Christian Celebration: We extend joy and congratulations to Wilma and Skip Knight upon celebration of their 69th wedding anniversary together on Tuesday, June 6. We pray that God continue to bless and nurture this couple for many more years to come!

To Ponder Prayerfully

Before I Move On

“I CAN SET A LITTLE ALTAR, IN THE WORLD OR IN MY HEART. I CAN STOP WHAT I AM DOING LONG ENOUGH TO SEE WHERE I AM, WHO I AM THERE WITH AND HOW AWESOME THE PLACE IS. I CAN FLAG ONE MORE GATE TO HEAVEN - ONE MORE PATCH OF ORDINARY EARTH WITH LADDER MARKS ON IT - WHERE THE DIVINE TRAFFIC IS HEAVY WHEN I NOTICE IT AND EVEN WHEN I DO NOT. I CAN SEE IT FOR ONCE, INSTEAD OF WALKING RIGHT PAST IT, MAYBE EVEN SETTING A STONE OR SAYING A BLESSING BEFORE I MOVE ON TO WHEREVER I AM DUE NEXT.”

— Barbara Brown Taylor, *An Alter in the World*

St. Simons Presbyterian Church

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Treasurer



St. Simons Presbyterian Church is a member of the Savannah Presbytery and the Presbyterian Church (USA) and is a Stephen Ministry Congregation.

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