

# Service for the Lord's Day

ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*"Heaven's Rain"*

Anna Sophia

Christmas Day

December 25, 2016 | 11:00am Worship

**Greeter**

D.A. Martin

**Ushers**

The Warner Family

**Acolyte**

MacKenzie Bishop

# Service for the Lord's Day

## Christmas Day

December 25, 2016 | 11:00am Worship

### 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.*

Welcome to the  
worship of God on  
Christmas Day! We are  
glad that you are with  
us, and we hope that  
you will come again  
and worship with this  
congregation in the  
New Year. God bless  
you and keep you.  
Merry Christmas!

### GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Bob Brearley

*Please sign and pass the friendship register.*

## WE GATHER TO PRAISE

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

### PRELUDE

PERSONENT HODIE

*On This Day Earth Shall Ring*

Chancel Choir; Chancel Ringers; Amy Bishop, Organist

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Reader  
D.A. Martin

One: We praise you, we worship you, we adore you, O God.

**ALL: You hold the heavens in your hand; all stars rejoice in your glory.**

One: You come in the sunrise and bless the splendor of the noonday.

**ALL: The stars in their courses magnify you; day and night tell of your glory.**

One: Your peace blows over the earth, and the breath of your mouth fills all space.

**ALL: You satisfy all things living with your abundance, and our hearts bow at your presence.**

One: We come into this place on Christmas Day to praise our God for the hope, peace, joy, and love of Jesus, born of Mary and redeemer of the world.

### \*OPENING HYMN 134

ANTIOCH

*Joy to the World!*

\* Please stand if able.

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (ALL)

Rev. Alan Dyer

Lord Jesus, this day brings us gladness, grief, and joy. Gladness, because you left the splendor of Heaven's glory to come to a dark and cold world, to bring the light and warmth of your Kingdom to a world so in need of your love. Grief, because though you came into the world, yet the world did not receive you. You came to your own, and your own did not welcome you. Still today, people turn away from you. Sin still scars your creation and the hearts of your own people. Joy, because you offer perfect forgiveness to all who acknowledge their need of you. Cleanse our hearts today and have mercy upon us. We desire to be your children, and we bring our needs before you this Christmas day.

*Silence for Personal Confession*

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

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*GLORIA PATRI 581

H.W. GREATOREX

*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

### JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PREPARATION FOR PRAYER (146)

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

### CHRISTMAS PRAYER 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.

\*HYMN 110

BRING A TORCH

*Love Has Come*

"Prayer is at the heart of worship. In prayer, through the Holy Spirit, people seek after and are found by the one true God who has been revealed in Jesus Christ. They listen and wait upon God, call God by name, remember God's gracious acts, and offer themselves to God."

-The Book of Order,  
PCUSA, W-2.1001

OFFERTORY

arr. Hayes

*I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In*  
Amy Bishop, Organist

\*DOXOLOGY 606

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 are to return to their seats with their parents.*

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Elder Reader  
D.A. Martin

**Isaiah 52:7-10**  
*Page 1144 OT, Pew Bible*

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Traditional English Carol  
arr. Kern

*Christmas Day in the Morning*  
Chancel Choir

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

**John 1:1-14**  
*Page 1645 NT, Pew Bible*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

Rev. Bob Brearley

*"A Poet's Christmas"*

If Jesus Christ, however, is who we as Christian people say he is, the Word became flesh, then no other event in human history can compare with his birth, life, death, and resurrection. Someone may say the Christian affirmation is not true. But if it is true, no one can say it is unimportant. It is the greatest good news that ever came to human beings on this planet. No other work can possible compare with the significance of proclaiming this gospel to all people everywhere.  
-John Leith,  
*The Reformed Imperative,*  
pg.138

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (ALL)

A Declaration of Faith

Jesus, the long expected Savior, came into the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth. We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended.

## WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION 132

IN DULCI JUBILO

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

\*BENEDICTION

As our time of worship comes to an end, the work of Christmas begins.

CHORAL RESPONSE (136)

GO TELL IT

*Go Tell it on the Mountain*

POSTLUDE

arr. Hayes

*Joy to the World!*  
Amy Bishop, Organist

**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.

**Sermons Online.** To hear sermons online, visit [www.sspres.org/sermons](http://www.sspres.org/sermons).

# SPIRITUAL FORMATION AT ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN

## Mission

### Manna House

*First Monday of every month*

Help prepare, serve, and cleanup a meal for guests at "Manna House," a local soup kitchen ministry.

*Marie Dodd at mariewdodd@bellsouth.net.*

### PAL Mentoring Program

Mentor children in Brunswick elementary schools as part of Positive Adult Leadership (PAL) Mentoring.

*Richard Hathaway at thehathaways2@comcast.net.*

### Habitat for Humanity

Join us for local Habitat for Humanity home construction. Builds happen each fall and winter.

*Alan Dyer at alan@sspres.org or 638-2220.*

### Community & Global Missions

Share God's love with service locally and globally. Missions include Angel Tree Christmas Gifts, Hunger Action Team, and summer mission trips.

*Alan Dyer at alan@sspres.org or 638-2220.*

## Children

### Sunday School

*Begins at 9:30AM in the Social Hall with breakfast*

### WeeKidZ (3 Years to Grade 2)

*Sundays:* Wee Worship/KidZ Worship following the "Word for Children" during 11AM worship.

*Wednesdays:* Faith, fun, and music. Meet on the playground veranda at 4PM. WOW supper at 6PM.

### KingdomKidZ (Grades 3 to 5)

*Second Sundays:* Faith and fun. Meet in the Britt Room for supper at 6PM.

### Chimes and Choir (Grades 3 to 5)

*Wednesdays:* Meet on the playground veranda at 4PM.

*Frieda Warner at frieda@sspres.org or 638-2220.*

## Youth

### Sunday School

*Begins at 9:30AM in the Social Hall with breakfast*

### Fellowship

*Sunday evenings in the Youth Suite*

Dinner at 6PM

Mid & Senior High at 6:30PM (Grades 6 to 12)

### Breakfast Devotion (Grades 6 to 12)

*Tuesdays at 7:00AM at Chick-Fil-A*

Transportation to school is available for middle schoolers.

### Music (Grades 6 to 12)

*Sundays:* Youth Ensemble meets at 5PM in Music Attic

*Meg Johnson at meg@sspres.org*

## Young Adults

### Faith on Tap

*Monthly Thursday (usually 2nd Thursdays) at 7PM*

A casual young adult Bible Study for 20 and 30-somethings meets monthly. Location varies. Childcare available.

*Alan Dyer at alan@sspres.org or 638-2220.*

## Discipleship

### Sunday School

*Begins at 9:30AM in the Social Hall with breakfast*

Sunday School classes are available for all ages.

Please come for breakfast and a time of fellowship each week in the Britt Room prior to class.

**Britt Class** - Upper Room

**Come & See** - Social Hall

**Rejoice** - Chapel

**Trinity** - Parlor

*Frieda Warner at frieda@sspres.org or 638-2220.*

### Men's Bible Study

*Mondays at 12PM in the Britt Room*

Come for lunch and Men's Bible Study led by Alan Dyer every Monday. Visitors are always welcome.

*Thursdays at 7:15 AM in the Britt Room*

Come for breakfast and Community Men's Bible Study led by Bob area pastors every Thursday.

*John Matthews at jhmatthews7@comcast.net.*

### Ladies' Video Bible Study

*Wednesdays at 10:30AM in the Youth Suite*

Gather for prayer and discussion each week using a video study. All women are invited!

*Gail Ledbetter at gbledbetter@att.net.*

### Women's Bible Study/Prayer Group

*Thursdays at 10AM in the Upper Room (Sept.-May)*

*Gwen Mayberry gwenmayberry@gmail.com or 638-8711.*

### Presbyterian Women (PW) Circles

All women are invited to join a PW Circle. Circles meet for Bible Study each month.

*Alison Schueneman at schueneman@gmail.com.*

*Nancy Harper at nanhbasket@aol.com.*

## Music

### Choir

Choirs for all ages are available. See Children and Youth for graded choir schedule. Adults meet in the Ashantilly wing on Wednesday nights.

### Handbells and Other Instrumentation

Handbells, chimes and instruments are an important part of the music ministry for children through adults.

*Rhonda Hambright at rhonda@sspres.org or 638-2220.*

*Suzanne Morrison at suzanne@sspres.org*

## Pastoral Care

### Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry offers confidential one-on-one Christian care to those experiencing difficult life circumstances.

*Jann Briscoe at jannbriscoe@gmail.com or 269-0212.*

### Pastoral Care

To notify the church of illness, hospitalization, births, deaths, or prayer request, contact the church office at 912-638-2220. If you need pastoral care after hours please contact one of our pastors.

*St. Simons Presbyterian 638-2220*

*Rev. Bob Brearley at 912-399-5957*

*Rev. Alan Dyer at 937-623-7963*

*Rev. Jann Briscoe 912-269-0212*

# Third Day of Christmas Party

December 27th 6 - 9 pm

\$15.00



Register Online!

## MISSION TRIP

July 12-19, 2017

Contact  
Nat Scott  
nat@sspres.org

## Montaña de Luz

Providing hope for children  
affected by HIV/AIDS in Honduras

Register by January 1st!

## Manna House

January 2nd

Mondays

9:30 am - Cook

11:00 am - Serve

1:00 pm - Clean



Save the Date!  
Owen & Mobley o Súilleabháin  
in Concert

January 13th | 7:30pm

Sacred Celtic Chants,  
Original Songs & Stories  
filled with humor &  
authenticity.

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

This Week | Dec 25 - Dec 31

### Today, Dec 25

10:30 am Christmas Coffee - Social Hall

11:00 am **Worship** - Sanctuary

### Monday, Dec 26 - Church office closed\*

8:00 pm **Al-Anon Meeting** - John Law Room

8:00 pm **AA Meeting** - Britt Room

### Tuesday, Dec 27

6:00 pm **Third Day of Christmas Party** - Britt Room

### Thursday, Dec 29

8:00 pm **Al-Anon Meeting** - John Law Room

8:00 pm **AA Meeting** - Britt Room

### Sunday School Classes

Sundays at 9:30 am beginning with breakfast in  
the Social hall.- Starting back on Jan 1st.

**Children**- Children's Hall  
Preschool & Elementary

**Youth**- Youth Suite  
Senior High & Mid High

#### Adult

**Britt Class**- Upper Room  
**Come & See**- Fellowship Hall  
**Rejoice**- Chapel  
**Trinity**- Parlor

**Christmas Wreaths:** The wreaths on the front doors of the church are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Bill and Meg Way by Alex and Ron Binkney.

**Christmas Banners:** The hand crafted silk banners symbolize the meaning behind each week of Advent. The first banner with the cross anchor symbolizes Hope. The second banner with the dove symbolizes Peace on earth. The third banner with the lyre symbolizes Joy. The fourth banner with the angel symbolizes Love & the proclaiming of Good News. The star is the guiding light for all to Bethlehem and symbolizes the light of Christ.

**Poinsettia Dedication:** Two Christmas poinsettias were given by Mary Avram in loving memory of Gene Avram and Roger Frobe. We regret having inadvertently left out these names in last week's bulletin. If you dedicated a poinsettia this year, please feel free to take one home with you after the service.

# Merry Christmas!

Thank you for worshipping with  
St. Simons Presbyterian Church!

To Ponder Prayerfully

# In The Bleak Mid-Winter

“**W**HAT CAN I GIVE HIM,  
POOR AS I AM?  
IF I WERE A SHEPHERD,  
I WOULD BRING A LAMB.  
IF I WERE A WISE MAN,  
I WOULD DO MY PART,  
YET WHAT CAN I GIVE HIM?  
GIVE MY HEART.”

—Christina Rossetti

## St. Simons Presbyterian Church

*Ministers: All members of the church*

**Rev. Bob Brearley**  
Co-Pastor  
[bob@sspres.org](mailto:bob@sspres.org)

**Nat Scott**  
Congregational Life  
[nat@sspres.org](mailto:nat@sspres.org)

**Rhonda Hambright**  
Music Ministry  
[rhonda@sspres.org](mailto:rhonda@sspres.org)

**Jeannine Torbert**  
Administrator  
[jeannine@sspres.org](mailto:jeannine@sspres.org)

**Walter Lynn**  
Building Coordinator  
[walter@sspres.org](mailto:walter@sspres.org)

**Rev. Alan Dyer**  
Co-Pastor  
[alan@sspres.org](mailto:alan@sspres.org)

**Frieda Warner**  
Children's Ministry/CE  
[frieda@sspres.org](mailto:frieda@sspres.org)

**Amy Bishop**  
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[amy@sspres.org](mailto:amy@sspres.org)

**Betty Carter**  
Secretary  
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**Judy Cauley**  
Preschool Director  
[judy@sspres.org](mailto:judy@sspres.org)

**Rev. Jann Briscoe**  
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**Meg Johnson**  
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Handbells  
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**Caroline Kittle**  
Communications  
[caroline@sspres.org](mailto:caroline@sspres.org)

**Leslie McCracken**  
Clerk of Session

**Anne Aspinwall**  
Chair of Deacons

**Al Ledingham**  
Treasurer



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

205 Kings Way | St. Simons Island, GA 31522 | 912-638-2220

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