Service for the Lord's Day

St. Simons Presbyterian Church

The Barren Fig Tree
Steve Hammond

Third Sunday of Lent

March 20, 2022 | 10:30 am Traditional Service

Ushers
Jan Rossiter
Mike Kellar
Nardis Kellar
Kathleen Haller
Frank Hamilton

Acolyte
Arthur Owens

WE GATHER TO PRAISE

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

INTROIT 618 — DEO GRACIAS

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High
Chancel Choir, Mark Propst, Director

GATHERING WORDS

One: The Lord be with you.
ALL: And also with you.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS — Rev. Annie Franklin Arvin

Welcome to worship at St. Simons Presbyterian Church. We are so glad that you are worshiping with us today. We ask that you please silence your cell phones prior to the start of worship. As always, all children are welcome in worship. Following the children's moment at the 10:30 AM worship, children ages Preschool (3 years) to 2nd Grade are invited to go with Children's Ministry staff for Children's Chapel. A nursery (located in the children's hall at the rear of the church) is also available for children from birth to five years.

PRELUDE — *In Christ Alone* — Getty/arr. Cota
Chancel Ringers; Suzanne Morrison, Director

The church is not an institution, but the gathered community of faith. "Wherever two or more are gathered in my name," Jesus said, "there am I in the midst of them."

*CALL TO WORSHIP — Albert McCaffrey

One: We are thirsty.

ALL: Our hearts crave living water.

One: We are hungry.

ALL: Our souls ache to be satisfied.

One: We are weary.

ALL: Our minds are tired by thoughts that do not come from God.

One: Thirsty, hungry, and weary,

ALL: Let us worship the God of love.

*OPENING HYMN 816 — WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee

* Please stand if able.

*Prayer of Confession (All) Rev. Dr. Joanna Adams

We try to draw boundaries around Your forgiveness, for we cannot imagine the endlessness of Your grace. We try to make a rule book of Your holy stories, for we cannot grasp the depth of Your living word. We try to make a worldly hero of our Holy Savior, for we cannot understand the majesty of Your gift. Forgive us, Holy One, and gather us more closely into the realm of Your transforming love.

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

Minute for Mission *Day of Service* Buddy Jones

Joys and Concerns of the Church

Preparation for Prayer 90 Taize

Wait for the Lord

Prayers of The People and 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.

To clasp hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world.
–Karl Barth

OFFERTORY — *Melody of Hope* — Tucker
Chancel Ringers

*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

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

WORD FOR CHILDREN

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

CHILDREN'S LITANY OF PARTING

Leader: We now go our separate ways.
Congregation: May God be with you there.
Children: May God be with you here.

FIRST READING — **Psalm 63:1-8** *pg 899 OT* — Albert McCaffrey

ANTHEM — *The Solid Rock* Chancel Choir — Kenyan Melody (Scheer) Bradbury/arr. Hambright

In our life of worship, music can be a powerful presentation and interpretation of the scripture, a response to the gospel, or a prayer offered.

SECOND READING — **Luke 13:1-9** *pg 1619 NT*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON — *Maybe* — Rev. Annie Franklin Arvin

*Affirmation of Faith (All) Declaration of Faith

Jesus Christ overthrew evil powers that enslaved and degraded people, yet He made no use of power to protect Himself. He commanded His followers to place loyalty to Him above loyalty to family and country, yet He lived among them as a servant. Jesus taught with authority, challenging many time-honored customs and ideas, yet He submitted to humiliation and death without a word on His own behalf. He forgave sinners, yet He was counted among sinners. We recognize the work of God in Jesus' power and authority. He did what only God can do. In both His majesty and lowliness, Jesus is the eternal Son of God, God Himself with us.

Although not included in the PC(USA)'s Book of Confessions, the Declaration of Faith is seen as a contemporary confession of faith and used in worship frequently. It begins with the creation story and ends with the fulfillment of the Kingdom of God in eternity. It uses "we" terminology to express the shared nature of Christian faith.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*Hymn of Dedication 435 IN BABILONE

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

*Benediction

Choral Response 599 *Amen* DRESDEN AMEN

Postlude *Toccatina* J. Southbridge

Mark Lochstampfor, 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 be sure to speak with a pastor before or after today's worship or fill out the friendship register, located at the end of each pew. We would love to get to know you better!

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.

To Aid in Worship. Advanced listening technology is available for those with a hearing impairment. Please locate an usher for assistance.

If You Are in Need of Prayer. Please let us know how we can be praying for you by visiting with a pastor or staff member before or after worship, or by visiting sspres.org/prayer.

Worship Online. A livestream of the 10:30A worship service is available every Sunday at sspres.org/livestream. A recording of the worship is available immediately afterwards for viewing anytime. To hear sermons online, visit sspres.org/sermons or subscribe to the St. Simons Presbyterian Podcast on iTunes or Google Play.

Ways to Give. Offering boxes can be found at the entrances to the sanctuary. You can also give electronically through text messaging or Venmo. Text the code "SSPC" and send to the number: 73256. Or give with Venmo by scanning the QR code on the right or by searching for @sspres. You can also mail or drop off checks or cash offering to the church office anytime M-F from 9A-4P (205 Kings Way).

venmo

Spiritual Formation at St. Simons Presbyterian

Mission

Manna House
First Monday of Every Month.
1408 G Street, Brunswick, GA
Help prepare, serve, and cleanup a meal for guests at "Manna House," a local soup kitchen ministry.

Chris Pippart at cpipp109@gmail.com.

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

Richard Hathaway at thehathaways2@comcast.net.

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.

Annie Franklin Arvin at annie@sspres.org or 638-2220.

Children

Children's Chapel
Sundays: following the "Word for Children" during worship. *(Pre K-2nd)*

Wednesdays: (Preschool to Grade 5)
Faith, fun, and music.
Meet on the playground veranda at 4PM.

KidZ 2nd Sunday (Grades 3 to 5)
Monthly on 2nd Sundays: Faith and fun. Meet on the Veranda at 5PM.

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

Youth

Youth Group
Sunday evenings at 5:00PM.
(Resuming January 23)
Meet on the Veranda.

Breakfast Devotion (Grades 6 to 12)
Tuesdays at 7:00AM at Chick-Fil-A
(Resuming January 11)
Transportation to school is available for middle schoolers.

Annie Franklin Arvin at annie@sspres.org.

Young Adults

TGIF/Faith on Tap
Casual social gatherings for the 20s/30s/40s group. Location and dates vary. Kids welcome.

Ada Owens at ada@sspres.org or 638-2220.

Discipleship

Sunday School
Begins at 9:15 AM in Various Locations
Sunday School classes are available for all ages.

Coffee will be made available for all.

:: The God We Can Know (Combined SS Class)
By Rob Fuquay - Social Hall

:: Always A Guest
By Barbara Brown Taylor - Upper Room

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

Men's Bible Study
Wednesdays at 10AM in the Upper Room
Men's Bible Study led by Nat Scott every Wednesday. Visitors are always welcome.

John Matthews at jhmatthews7@comcast.net.

Women's Bible Study/Prayer Group
(Resuming in January 27)
Thurdays at 10AM in the Upper Room
Gwen Mayberry gwenmayberry@gmail.com or 638-8711.

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

Nardis Kellar at nardisk@gmail.com or (912) 230-2254
Ginny Connors at ginnyconnors1@gmail.com
or (608) 220-8481

Music

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

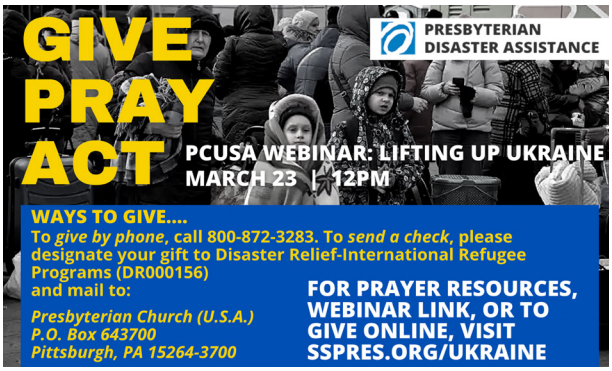
Handbells and Other Instrumentation
Handbells, chimes and instruments remain an important part of the ministry of St. Simons Presbyterian. For more information about the music ministry, please contact Rhonda Hambright or Suzanne Morrison.

Rhonda Hambright at rhonda@sspres.org or 638-2220.
Suzanne Morrison at suzanne@sspres.org

Pastoral Care

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.

Rev. Joanna Adams 404-427-6166
Rev. Annie Franklin Arvin 828-443-0299
Rev. Kate Buckley 912-222-1757



This Week | March 20 - 25

Sunday, March 20
- 8:30 am **Early Worship** - Sanctuary
- 9:30 am **Sunday School** - Various Locations
- 10:30 am **Traditional Worship** - Sanctuary
- 5:00 pm **Youth Gathering** - Youth Suite
- 5:00 pm **2nd Sunday Gathering (3rd-5th)** - Children's Hall

Monday, March 21
- 5:30 pm **Diaconate Meeting** - Upper Room
- 6:30 pm **Al-Anon Meeting** - John Law

Tuesday, March 22
- 7:00 am **Okefenokee Boat Tour** - Depart from SSPC
- 7:00 am **Youth Chick-fil-a Breakfast** - SSI Chick-fil-A
- 9:30 am **Staff Meeting** - Upper Room
- 1:00 pm **Ladies Bridge Group** - Library

Wednesday, March 23
- 10:00 am **Chancel Ensemble** - Sanctuary
- 10:00 am **Men's Bible Study** - Upper Room
- 1:30 pm **Hands & Heart Quilting Ministry** - Music Attic
- 4:00 pm **KidZ Crew** - Veranda
- 6:00 pm **Wednesday Night Supper** - Social Hall
- 6:30 pm **Transition Prayer Time** - Upper Room
- 6:30 pm **Chancel Ringers** - Sanctuary
- 7:30 pm **Chancel Choir** - Sanctuary

Thursday, March 24
- 10:00 am **Grief Group** - John Law
- 10:00 am **Ladies Bible Study** - Upper Room
- 5:00 pm **New Officer Training** - Upper Room

Friday, March 25
- 11:00 am **Transition Prayer Time** - Sanctuary

Chancel Flowers: The chancel flowers in today's worship are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Kevin Seymour, by Howard & Catherine Seymour.

Lenten Paraments: "The fabric for the paraments is purple to represent the season of lent, a period of preparation for Easter which symbolizes repentance. Although I chose many dark purples, I purposely added lighter fabrics to represent hope. The black spiked vine, or path, running through the design is to represent the crown of thorns." *-Sandi Kilgore*

Wednesday Night Supper: Join us for a delicious meal and fellowship this Wednesday, March 23, at 6 PM. Dinner will include Shrimp-N-Grits, Salad, Rolls, Dessert. Plant based options are available when registering. A kid friendly option will be available as well! Be sure to signup at sspres.org/wednesday-night-supper

Source: Parts of today's liturgy are adapted from Call to Worship.

To Ponder Prayerfully

Common Humanity

"When the unspeakable happens, what default settings do we revert to? "Nothing happens outside of God's plan." "God is growing your character through this tragedy." "Don't worry, the Lord never gives anyone more than they can bear." "Nothing is ever lost." "Buck up - other people have it worse."

The problem with every one of these answers is that they hold us apart from those who suffer. They keep us from embracing our common lot, our common brokenness, our common humanity."

-Debie Thomas

St. Simons Presbyterian Church

Ministers: All members of the church

Rev. Dr. Joanna Adams
Interim Pastor
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Rev. Annie Franklin Arvin
Assoc. Pastor of Youth & Mission
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Clerk of Session

Molly Macaulay
Chair of Deacons

Bob Harper
Treasurer

St. Simons Presbyterian Church

Savannah Presbytery

Presbyterian Church (USA)

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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