

Service for the Lord's Day

ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



In the Beginning
Jan Richardson

First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021 | 10:30 am Traditional Service



WE GATHER TO PRAISE

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

We are currently operating under a mask optional policy for all indoor activities. As such, masks are welcome but not required for worship. We are also continuing the use of an EPA approved air treatment technology in the sanctuary called Grignard Pure as an added safety measure.



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



We extend a special welcome to any visitors worshipping with us today. Please help us get to know you better by filling out the online friendship register using the QR code located in the pew racks.

INTROIT

Comfort, Comfort Now My People
Chancel Choir

GENEVAN 42

GATHERING WORDS

One: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Alan Dyer

Welcome to worship at St. Simons Presbyterian Church. We are so glad that you are worshipping 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

Creator of the Stars of Night
Amy Bishop, Organist

arr. Callahan

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Holley Rogers

One: A voice cries out saying,

ALL: Do not be afraid.

One: When will God's promises be fulfilled?

ALL: The days are surely coming.

One: He will make ready

ALL: a people prepared for the Lord.

*OPENING HYMN 93

TRURO

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

* Please stand if able.

Today is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is a season of hope and joy, anticipating the fulfillment of the rule of God in Christ's coming in the future. The Scriptures read, the liturgical texts used, the music sung all convey this sense of expectant, joyful longing for the fulfillment of God's promised reign.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (ALL)

Rev. Alan Dyer

God of grace, Your angel says to us, "Do not be afraid." Forgive us when we do not listen, when we are afraid, and when we do not prepare the way. Forgive us when we stand in Your way instead: when we doubt the assurances You make, rather than believe in You; when we are afraid and let the challenging words of the prophets roll off, rather than let them spark hope. Forgive us, O Lord, and grant us assurance that the glory of Your coming does not depend on the righteousness of Your followers. Forgive us and free us to try again.

Silence for Personal Confession

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

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI 581

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*The Biletzskov Family:
Sutton, Ashley, Kerrigan, and Harry*

Each Sunday of Advent, we light a candle as part of our worship. Over four Sundays, the accumulation of light reminds us of the ever closer approach of the Light of the World.

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PREPARATION FOR PRAYER 92

WAITING (Cason)

While We Are Waiting, Come
Chancel Choir

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.

OFFERTORY

Comfort,
Chancel Choir

Larry Shackley

*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.*

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

Malachi 3:1-4
pg 1490 NT

Holley Rogers

One: This is the Word of the Lord.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Hope Lingers On
Chancel Choir

Schneckenburger/arr. Ramsey

SECOND READING

Luke 1:5-17
pg 1587 NT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

Rev. Annie Franklin Arvin
Preparing the Way for Christmas: Make Ready

The church confesses the Scriptures to be the Word of God written, witnessing to God's self-revelation. Where that Word is read and proclaimed, Jesus Christ the Living Word is present by the inward witness of the Holy Spirit. For this reason the reading, hearing, preaching, and confessing of the Word are central to Christian worship.
-PCUSA Directory for Worship

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (ALL)

The Confession of 1967

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God’s promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of a new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be His servant for the reconciliation of the world. Amen.

When this new confession was approved in 1967, it was the first new confession to be adopted by the United Presbyterian Church in nearly 300 years. It sees the life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ as the pattern for the church’s mission today, and calls on all Christians to be reconciled to God and to one another.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 104

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

Come, Come Emmanuel
Chancel Choir

COME, COME EMMANUEL

POSTLUDE

Prepare the Royal Highway
Amy Bishop, Organist

arr. Hobby



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. 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



ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Advent Calendar

- DECEMBER 1** *PW Christmas Luncheon • 11AM*
- DECEMBER 2** *Meal with Friends at Driftwood Bistro
& Jekyll Lights Tour • 5PM*
With the Try Something New Group
- DECEMBER 4** *Messiah Performance • 3PM*
- DECEMBER 8** *Caroling on the Trolley • 4:30PM*
- DECEMBER 12** *Children & Bells in Worship • 10:30AM*
A Christmas Carol at The Ritz • 3PM
With the Try Something New Group, Children, & Youth
- DECEMBER 17 & 18** *Live Nativity • 6PM & 7PM*
- DECEMBER 19** *A Festival of Lessons and Carols 10:30AM*
Chancel Choir and Chamber Orchestra
- DECEMBER 21** *Longest Night Service • 7PM*
- DECEMBER 24** *Candles & Carols Service • 4PM*
Candles & Carols Service • 5:30PM
Candlelight & Communion Service • 10PM
- DECEMBER 26** *Carols with GIYO Ensemble • 10:30AM*

For detailed information on events,
please visit our website at sspres.org/events

Sunday, December 5th NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

If you are interested in joining the church,
we would love to recognize you at either
service on Sunday, December 5!

Please contact Alan (alan@sspres.org)
with any questions

FINDING FAITH IN THE STORY OF THE GRINCH Family Advent Sunday School Series

9:30AM // NOV 28 - DEC 19
SOCIAL HALL

*The Grinch hated Christmas!
But then his HEART grew 3 sizes!*

All ages will discover ways to grow
our own faith this Advent season.



AN ADVENT VIDEO & SCRIPTURE SERIES

MARANATHA! OUR LORD IS COMING!

SUNDAYS ✦ BEGINNING NOVEMBER 28
9:30AM ✦ UPPER ROOM

A TRY SOMETHING NEW EVENT

A MEAL WITH FRIENDS + JEKYLL LIGHTS TOUR

DEC 2ND • 5PM • DRIFTWOOD BISTRO

BE SURE TO REGISTER - LIMITED TO 20 PEOPLE

DEEPEN RELATIONSHIPS AND CREATE NEW ONES OVER GOOD

FOOD AND GOOD FELLOWSHIP AS PART OF ST. SIMONS

PRESBYTERIAN'S MINISTRY TO GOD'S "OLDER CHILDREN."

SIGN UP AT SSPRES.ORG/EVENTS

The 2021 Community Messiah Chorus Presents

HANDEL'S

MESSIAH

PART THE FIRST

Saturday, December 4th

3PM at St. Simons Presbyterian Church

This Week | Nov 28 - Dec 4

Sunday, November 28

- 8:30 am **Early Worship** - Sanctuary
- 9:30 am **Combined Sunday School** - Upper Room & Zoom
- 10:30 am **Traditional Worship** - Sanctuary
- 11:30 am **Arbery Informational Gathering** - Social Hall
- 5:00 pm **Youth Gathering** - Youth Suite

Monday, November 29

- 10:00 am **Chancel Ensemble** - Location Varies
- 6:30 pm **Al-Anon Meeting** - John Law
- 7:00 pm **Messiah Rehearsal** - Sanctuary

Tuesday, November 30

- 7:00 am **Youth Breakfast Devotion** - Chick-fil-A
- 9:30 am **Staff Meeting** - Upper Room

Wednesday, December 1

- 11:30 am **PW Ladies Luncheon** - Social Hall
- 1:30pm **Hands and Heart Quilting Ministry** - Music Attic
- 6:30 pm **Chancel Ringers** - Sanctuary
- 7:30 pm **Chancel Choir** - Sanctuary

Thursday, December 2

- 10:00 am **Ladies Bible Study** - Upper Room
- 5:00 pm **Dinner w/ Friends & Jekyll Lights** - Driftwood Bistro

Friday, December 3

No Activities Planned for This Day

Saturday, December 4

Christian Sympathy: We extend Christian sympathy to the family and friends of Luke Hutto, who passed away on Sunday, November 21. Please join us in praying for God's peace and comfort to surround Luke's mother, Anna Henry, as well as his family and friends near and far who mourn his passing.

Angel Tree: Friendly reminder that Angel gifts are due by December 6th and can be dropped off in the church office M-F from 9am-4pm.

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

★ INFORMATIONAL GATHERING
ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY'S
RESPONSE TO AHMAUD ARBERY

Q & A

Ask our pastors your questions...

NOVEMBER 28 | SOCIAL HALL ✦
FOLLOWING 10:30 WORSHIP

To Ponder Prayerfully

Hope

“I WILL NOT HATE,
AND I WILL NOT FEAR,
IN OUR DARKEST HOUR,
HOPE LINGERS ON.”

-Lissa Schneckenburger

In each of the Gospels, the story of Jesus is intertwined with that of his cousin John, the one whom the prophets foretold would come to “prepare the way of the Lord.” And so this Advent we are focusing our attention in worship on the story of John the Baptist. As we follow John’s journey through the scriptures we are invited to consider how his witness long ago helps to “prepare the way” in our own hearts to receive the Good News of the Christ child yet again.



St. Simons Presbyterian Church

Ministers: All members of the church

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Pastor
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Molly Macaulay

Chair of Deacons

Bob Harper

Treasurer

Iris Ellis

Children’s Choir Director

Kendall McDonald

Worship Tech Specialist



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

