

Service for the Lord's Day

ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Second Sunday in Advent
December 10, 2023 | 10:30 am Worship Service

Ushers

Bettye Russell

Bain Head

Brady Head

Kate Head

Buddy Hendrick

Tracy Saussy

John Harlan

Acolyte

Maddie Kate George

WE GATHER TO PRAISE

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

We are glad you are with us in worship today and we ask that you silence your cell phones and other devices upon entering the sanctuary. Children are welcome in worship although a nursery is available in the children's hall at the rear of the church. Please ask an usher for guidance. Following the Word for Children those up to 2nd grade are invited to follow a staff member for Children's Chapel.

INTROIT

Processional
KidZ Ensemble Chimes

Mitchell

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Steve Goyer

THREE CHIMES

*The Three Chimes Represent
the Trinity-Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*

PRELUDE

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
Chancel Ringers, Suzanne Morrison, Director

Picardy/arr. Thompson

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Carrie Wessel

One: A voice cries out:

**ALL: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

One: Every valley shall be lifted up,

ALL: and every mountain and hill made low;

One: The uneven ground shall become level,

**ALL: and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.**

One: Let us worship the Lord.

Isaiah 40:3-5

*HYMN OF PRAISE 105

People Look East

BESANCON

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The McConnell Family

Stephen, Whitney, Stephen Michael, and Vivian

* Please stand if able.

Welcome to worship this second Sunday of Advent. Throughout this season, we prepare our hearts for the arrival of Jesus Christ into the world on Christmas, and we celebrate in faith that Christ is here and Christ will come again. During this season of Advent, we'll anticipate Christ's coming by seeking out the glimmer of light that shines in the darkness.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (ALL)

O God, you meet us where we are, in joy and in sorrow, in strength and in weakness, in fertile places and desert places. Forgive us for not wanting you to meet us where we are most afraid to let anyone go; for fear of being seen as the imposter we pretend not to be. Forgive us, God, for hiding behind our wealth, power, success, and learning. Forgive us for our fake righteousness, our tepid faith, and our stubborn insistence that we know best in hopes of hiding how much we don't know. Knowing us as you know us, O God, come to us and open us to your forgiveness. Then set us free to live freely and openly as disciples of Christ.

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.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (ALL)

A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry God delivers the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal son home, God is faithful still.

In the Assurance of Pardon we are reminded once again that God's grace sets us free from guilt and fear. As Walter Brueggemann says, "you can keep singing. You can keep hoping. And because you sing and hope, you can act in freedom, unburdened, uncoerced, unafraid, and without cynicism. The song goes on. It is a subversive, revolutionary song. And we get to sign on to sing and to live it... unafraid!"

PRAYER LIST

Deaths

Lee Jameson

Members

Millard Allen

Pattie Boykin

Anne Faust Brown

Harlan Hambricht

Pat Kent

Joyce Kitchens

Stephen Nelms

Dorothy Russell

Stephen Scarlett

Deryl Warner

Friends and Family

Ellen Fixx

Jack Franklin

Rhett Rhame

Mary Whaley

Long-term Care

Mary Katherine Arens

Joann Bobb

Joan Cummings

Doris Hewell

Ellen Knesek Knowlton

Bill Lueckel

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.

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 children's chapel.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:1-2

pg 1119 OT

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

The Rocking Carol
Chancel Ringers

arr: McChesney

SECOND READING

Mark 1:1-8

pg 1151 NT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

"I Know a Place"

Rev. Dr. Steve Goyer

WE SHARE OUR LIFE & GIFTS

OFFERTORY

Christmas Joy
Chancel Ringers

arr. Dobrinski

*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 GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 93

TRURO

Lift Up Your Head, Ye Mighty Gates

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Carol of the Bells
Amy Bishop, Organist

Hayes

2024 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:

As of December 6th, we have received 135 Pledges totaling \$810,678 which is 54.05% of the 2024 Budget of \$1,500,000

Thank you to everyone who has pledged to support our church for the upcoming year. In case you haven't had the chance, please review the 2024 Ministry Report using the QR code below, or visit sspres.org/giving. This report provides a detailed account of our spending, which we hope you'll consider prayerfully as you contemplate your pledge to our church.



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 envelopes can be found in the pews of 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-Th from 9A-4P (205 Kings Way).

venmo



Advent Calendar

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Sun, December 3** Start of Advent Sunday School
- A Charlie Brown Christmas
All Ages - Youth Suite
 - Heaven and Earth
Combined Adult - Upper Room
 - The Wonder of Advent
20s/30s/40s Women - Parlor
- Sun, December 3** Youth Progressive Supper - 5 pm
- Wed, December 6** Ladies Christmas Luncheon - 11:30 am
- Thurs, December 7-8** TSN St. Augustine Christmas Lights Tour
- Wed, December 13** Caroling on the Trolley - 4 pm & 5 pm
- Fri, December 15** Live Nativity - 6 pm & 7 pm
- Fri, December 15** Youth Lock-In
- Sat, December 16** WD Salvation Army Bell Ringing - 10 am-8 pm
- Sun, December 17** Chancel Choir & Orchestra - 10:30 am
- Sun, December 17** Movie Night (I Heard the Bells) - 6:30PM
- Thurs, December 21** Longest Night Service - 7 pm
- Sun, December 24**
- Worship, Carols, & Nativity Tableau - 10:30 am
 - Lessons, Carols, & Candles
with Nativity Tableau - 5:30 pm
 - Candlelight & Communion Service - 9 pm





CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS
 EVERY ADVENT SEASON MANY OF OUR FOLKS ORDER POINSETTIAS IN MEMORY OR IN HONOR OF LOVED ONES AND THEN SEE HOW BEAUTIFUL THEY LOOK AT CHRISTMAS TIME. ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS OUR DEACONS FUND.
DEADLINE TO ORDER IS DECEMBER 11. 
\$20 EACH | ORDER AT [SSPRES.ORG/POINSETTIA](https://sspres.org/poinsettia)



CAROLING ON THE TROLLEY
 ALL ARE WELCOME!
DECEMBER 13 | 4PM & 5PM
 FOLLOWED BY OHILLI IN THE SOCIAL HALL AT 6PM
BE SURE SIGNUP AT [SSPRES.ORG/CAROLING](https://sspres.org/caroling) 



live
Nativity VOLUNTEERS
GRADES 3RD - 12TH
FRIDAY, DEC 15TH
6PM & 7PM
 **SIGN UP AT [SSPRES.ORG/LIVE-NATIVITY](https://sspres.org/live-nativity)**



SALVATION ARMY
SATURDAY DEC 16TH BELL RINGING
 ONE HOUR SLOTS AVAILABLE FOR SINGLES OR GROUPS FROM 10AM - 8PM
SIGNUP AT [SSPRES.ORG/EVENTS](https://sspres.org/events) 



Movie Night
Featured Movie
I HEARD THE BELLS
Sunday, Dec 17 at 6:30PM
Movie Snacks will be Provided
ALL ARE WELCOME!

This Week | December 10-15

Sunday, December 10

- 8:30 am **Worship Service** - Sanctuary
- 9:30 am **Sunday School** - Various Locations
- 10:30 am **Worship Service** - Sanctuary
- 11:30 am **Membership Ministry Team** - Upper Room
- 6:00 pm **Youth Group** - Britt Room

Monday, December 11

- 9:00 am **Trustee Meeting** - Upper Room
- 3:30 pm **Salvation Army Cooking** - Kitchen
- 6:30 pm **Al-Anon Meeting** - John Law

Tuesday, December 12

- 7:00 am **Youth Chick-Fil-A Breakfast** - Chick-Fil-A
- 9:30 am **Staff Meeting** - John Law

Wednesday, December 13

- 11:00 am **Early Music Ensemble** - Rhonda's Office
- 1:00 pm **Hands and Heart Quilting Ministry** - Music Attic
- 3:00 pm **Chancel Ensemble** - Sanctuary
- 4:00 pm **Christmas Caroling** - Off-Campus
- 6:00 pm **Caroling Chili Dinner** - Social Hall
- 6:15 pm **Chancel Choir** - Sanctuary

Thursday, December 14

- 5:30 pm **Chancel Ringers** - Bell Room

Friday, December 15

- 6:00 pm **Live Nativity** - Side Lot
- 8:00 pm **Youth Lock-in** - Youth Suite

Saturday, December 16

- 9:00 am **Chancel Choir** - Sanctuary
- 10:00 am **Salvation Army Bell Ringing** - SSI Winn Dixie



the
Longest Night
 A WINTER SERVICE OF HOPE & HEALING
Thursday, December 21
7 PM | Sanctuary
LIVESTREAM AT [SSPRES.ORG/LONGESTNIGHT](https://sspres.org/longestnight)

Joy Gift Offering: Today's special Christmas offering goes to supporting retired PC(USA) Church Workers & PC(USA) Racial Ethnic Schools & Colleges.

Elders

Class of 2024

Lee Dillard
 Leslie Hartman
 Buddy Jones
 Mike Kellar
 John Matthews
 Meg Mimbs
 Jerry Spencer

Class of 2025

Chris Bone
 Mary Bryson
 Mary Gash
 Jeff Roberts
 Philip Saussy
 Anne Marie Stirewalt
 Will Tsai

Class of 2026

Sandi Goeldner
 Kevin Lokey
 Lee Malone
 Bryan Neill
 Daryl Rabert
 Tate Simpson
 Carrie Wessel

Deacons

Class of 2024

Lynda Bisher
 Nancy Fixx
 Tom Haughney
 Denise Hidalgo
 Michael Johnson
 Jan Rossiter
 Andrew Turner

Class of 2025

Ami Bishop
 Kelsi Brooks
 Anna Henry
 Sandy Kilgore
 John LaBoone
 Graham Owens
 Joe Wills

Class of 2026

Anne Aspinwall
 Judy Benjamin
 Jackie Griffin
 David Keen
 Lowell Korb
 Katie Rossiter
 Linda Seierstad

Staff

Rev. Dr. Steve Goyer

Interim Pastor
steve@sspres.org

Amy Bishop

Organist
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Frieda Warner

Children's Ministry/CE
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Worship Tech Specialist

Rev. Laurie Bentley

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Handbells
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Eliza Ours

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Leslie McCracken

Clerk of Session

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Anne Aspinwall

Chair of Deacons

Ada Owens

Communications
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Ashley Biletzskov

Preschool Director
ashley@sspres.org

Bob Harper

Treasurer



Savannah Presbytery



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

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