

Service for the Lord's Day

ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



A Road Runs Through It
Jan Richardson

Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021 | 10:30 am Traditional Service

Ushers

Martin White

Judy Benjamin

Nancy Fixx

Anna Henry

Acolyte

Mobley Grace Ward

WE GATHER TO PRAISE

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

INTROIT

Joy to the World

arr. N. Robertson

Children's Choir - Iris Ellis, Director

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

What is Christmas Without Jesus?

arr. Allen

Children's Choir - Iris Ellis, Director

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mike Kellar

One: A voice cries out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord!”

ALL: Make God's paths straight.

One: Every valley will be filled, and every mountain will be leveled.

ALL: The crooked will be made straight.

One: The rough and rocky ways will be smoothed.

ALL: All will see the salvation of God.

One: See the light from on high.

ALL: The dawn is breaking.

One: The Lord is coming!

ALL: Let us worship the Lord with gladness!

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. Advent is about far more than preparing to celebrate the first coming of Christ, the incarnate Word. Advent is a season of hope, during which we anticipate the future coming of Christ to judge, and to establish His rule over all things

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (ALL)

Rev. Annie Franklin Arvin

In Your presence, Holy God, we confess that we need repentance. We have broken Your commands against idolatry. We do not live in peace with Your creation or Your people. We have not trusted Your word, and we are afraid. Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise, for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news and for the sake of all the world.

Silence for Personal Confession

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

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Assurance of Pardon proclaims God's faithfulness. Our lives are redeemed by the saving grace of God—the Gospel in miniature. God does for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

*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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*The Bryson Family:
Ben, Mary, and Gussie*

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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.

During this Advent Season,
we celebrate Christian
leaders in the Presbyterian
Church USA - past, present,
and future - through
support of the Christmas
Joy Offering. Envelopes
for the joy offering can
be located at the end
of each pew or you can
donate online by scanning
the QR code below. May
our gifts, and the leaders
who receive them, point
us always to the truth of
the one whose birth we
celebrate, Jesus Christ
- the truly perfect gift.



OFFERTORY

A Christmas Carillon arr. Margaret R. Tucker
Chancel Ringers - Suzanne Morrison, Director

*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 80:1-7
pg 919 OT

Mike Kellar

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

ANTHEM

Fantasy on "Hyfrydol"
Chancel Ringers - Suzanne Morrison, Director

arr. Sandra Winter

SECOND READING

Luke 3:1-16
pg 1593 NT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

Preparing the Way for Christmas: Repentance

Rev. Alan Dyer

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (ALL)

A Declaration of Faith

God sent His Son to proclaim release to those who are bound, to announce that God’s promised kingdom is at hand, to urge everyone to repent and believe the good news. The Lord is moving toward the time when the glorious liberty of the children of God will be manifest throughout the whole creation. We testify God is at work here and now when people obey Christ’s commission to witness to Him and make disciples of all nations, when they spread the good news by their words and embody it in their lives.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 96

WINCHESTER NEW

On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Festal Fanfare
Amy Bishop, Organist

J. S. Bach

What are you taking from worship? A new thought, a deep feeling, a glimpse of grace, a challenge? Where will you see God today? A hope or a prayer for the 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 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!



Health. 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.



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 12** Children & Bells in Worship • 10:30AM
A Christmas Carol at The Ritz • 2:00PM
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

CELEBRATING OUR AUTHORS



Calling All Authors of St. Simons Presbyterian

As part of our year-long 75th Anniversary, the SSPC Library is assembling an exhibit of publications from all our Church Member Authors, both past and present. This exhibit will be displayed in a carousel just beyond the Library stained-glass doors.

The exhibit will be on display for an extended period; cataloged items will be available for circulation after three months. We are asking our authors to consider having their works become part of our permanent collection, or alternately, to loan their works for this special exhibit. We have a number of publications already in our cataloged items but would like to include publications from ml our authors. All genres with content appropriate for a church library are welcome. To include your publications in this exhibit and for additional information please contact Jean Sucher:

jeansucher@comcast.net 912-638-8596 (phone) 912-258-5065 (text)

This Week | December 12 - 18

Sunday, December 12

- 8:30 am **Early Worship** - Sanctuary
- 9:30 am **Combined Sunday School** - Upper Room & Zoom
- 10:30 am **Traditional Worship** - Sanctuary
- 2:00 pm **Youth & KidZ Meet for Christmas Carol** - Veranda
- 3:00 pm **TSN & Youth A Christmas Carol** - Ritz Theatre

Monday, December 13

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

Tuesday, December 14

- 7:00 am **Youth Breakfast Devotion** - Chick-fil-A
- 9:30 am **Staff Meeting** - Upper Room
- 1:00 pm **Ladies Bridge Group** - Library

Wednesday, December 15

- 10:30 am **Men's Bible Study** - Upper Room
- 1:30 pm **Hands & Heart Quilting Ministry** - Music Attic
- 7:00 pm **Chancel Choir** - Sanctuary

Thursday, December 16

- 10:00 am **Ladies Bible Study** - Upper Room

Friday, December 17

- 6:00 pm **Live Nativity** - Front Lawn
- 7:00 pm **Live Nativity** - Front Lawn

Saturday, December 18

- 6:00 pm **Live Nativity** - Front Lawn
- 7:00 pm **Live Nativity** - Front Lawn

Chancel Flowers: The chancel flowers in today's service are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Leslie McCracken, with thanks from the Session.

Christmas Wreaths: The wreaths on the front doors of the church are given by Ron and Alex Binkney in honor of their grandchildren.

Source: Parts of today's liturgy are adapted from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Family Advent - Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch
9:30 am / Social Hall

Advent Video & Scripture Series - Maranatha!
9:30 am / Upper Room

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 16.
\$15 EACH | ORDER AT SSPRES.ORG/POINSETTIA

SSPC PRESCHOOL
Coastal Coalition
of Children's

**ANGEL
TREE**

- Most needed items include clothes & ONE toy/book.
- Please bring gifts back unwrapped.

Gifts for Pre-K Angels are due December 15th

Nativity Volunteers

ALL AGES WELCOME!

December 17th & 18th | 6 PM & 7 PM

SIGN UP AT SSPRES.ORG/LIVE-NATIVITY



CHANCEL CHOIR & CHAMBER ORCHESTRA PRESENTS

**A FESTIVAL OF
LESSONS & CAROLS**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19 | 10:30 AM
livestream at sspres.org

*the
Longest Night*

A WINTER SERVICE OF HOPE & HEALING

Tuesday, December 21
7 PM | Sanctuary

To Ponder Prayerfully

The Cost of Repair

“**F**ORGIVENESS IS A STARTING PLACE, NOT A STOPPING PLACE. IT IS GOD’S GIFT TO THOSE WHO WISH TO BEGIN AGAIN, BUT WHERE WE GO WITH IT IS UP TO US. MOST OF US PREFER REMORSE TO REPENTANCE. WE WOULD RATHER FEEL BADLY ABOUT THE DAMAGE WE HAVE DONE THAN GET ESTIMATES ON THE COST OF REPAIR. WE WOULD RATHER LEARN TO LIVE WITH GUILT THAN FACE THE HARD WORK OF NEW LIFE.”

-Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor

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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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.

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