

Service for the Lord's Day

ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Good News of Great Joy
Sarah Are

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2019 | 11:00 am Traditional Service

WE GATHER TO PRAISE

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

Greeter

Anna Henry

Ushers

Barbara Powers

Phil Massie

Linda Massie

Bettye Russell

Philip Saussy

Tracy Saussy

Acolyte

Sophia Washburn

INTROIT

Bell Peal

Chancel Ringers; Suzanne Morrison, 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. During the announcements please take a moment to sign and pass the friendship register located at the end of the row. As you enter the worship space, please silence your cell phones. All children are welcome in worship. If you prefer, a nursery (located in the children's hall) is available for children from birth to five years. Worship resources for children are available at the entrances to the social hall. Bibles & hymnals are available at each entrance. Please return them to the carts as you exit the social hall following worship. Hymns and scripture will also be displayed on the screens during worship.

PRELUDE

DEAN WAGNER

Carillon for Advent
Chancel Ringers

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Anna Henry

One: We are waiting on you, God.

**ALL: Though the darkness still feels deep,
the star is beginning to shine.**

One: The everlasting light is creeping closer.

**ALL: Hope is in the air. Peace is promised.
Joy is on the tips of our tongues.**

One: Love is coming. Love divine, all loves excelling.

ALL: We are waiting on love. And Love is waiting on us.

*OPENING HYMN 110

BRING A TORCH

Love Has Come

The word worship comes from an old English term that was not originally religious in connotation. Worship simply meant "to ascribe honor to something or someone because of its/their ultimate importance." This is what we do when we worship God.

* Please stand if able.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (ALL)

Kate Buckley

Forgiving God, we have messed up in so many ways: we have attempted to disguise ourselves in fake piety, we have done something good only to make ourselves feel better, we have failed to exercise the compassion that Jesus embodied. Forgive us, Merciful God, for that which we have done and left undone. How long, O Lord, will you be angry with us? Spread your mercy upon us that we might be made new.

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

Hillary, Bud, Ace, and Hank Stringfellow

PREPARATION FOR PRAYER

Love Came Down at Christmas
Chancel Choir

Traditional Irish

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.

Every journey begins with a time of figuring out what to take along and what to leave behind. Similarly, the confession of sin is an opportunity to reflect on those things we're carrying around with us (anxiety, guilt, shame) that, with God's grace, we can safely leave behind.

In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again into the darkness of our world.

“To be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything He has given us – and He has given us everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of His Love, every moment of existence is a grace, for it brings with it immense graces from Him.”
-Thomas Merton

OFFERTORY

Dobrinski

Angel Tidings
Chancel Ringers

Electronic giving is available by texting the code “SSPC” to the number 73256.

*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 please come forward at the pastor’s invitation.
Following the Word for Children, children Preschool-2nd grade may leave for KidZ Worship.*

FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10-16
Page 1069 OT

Anna Henry

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Matthew 1:18-25
Page 1497 NT

We pray the Prayer for Illumination before reading scripture because we recognize that, without the work of the Spirit, it’s impossible for us truly to hear the good news, especially when that good news includes a challenging word within it.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

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.

The affirmation is the response of the people to the proclamation of the Word. The faith we affirm shapes our lives and expresses the hope and expectancy that are part of the Christian life.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 140

IRBY

Once in Royal David's City

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

GLORIA

Gloria!
Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

Wake, Awake
Amy Bishop, Organist

arr. Callahan

We go forth into the world to serve God in our daily lives as a continuation of our worship until such time as we gather again. Please join us again on Tuesday for Christmas Eve worship with children's nativity tableau at 4PM and 5:30PM and Christmas Eve Communion at 10PM.

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 row 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.

Giving By Text. You can give your tithes and offerings electronically through text messaging. Text the code "SSPC" and send to the number: 73256.

If You Are in Need of Prayer. You may fill out a prayer request card (available in the racks affixed to the hymnal carts) and place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher.

To Aid in Worship. 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.

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.

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.

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 Children's Hall with breakfast

KidZ Crew (Preschool to Grade 5)

Sundays: KidZ Worship following the "Word for Children" during 11AM worship. *(Pre K-2nd)*

Wednesdays Starting August 28th: Faith, fun, and music. Meet on the playground veranda at 4PM. Wednesday Night Supper at 6PM.

KidZ Fellowship (Grades 3 to 5)

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

Chimes and Choir

Wednesdays: Meet on the playground veranda at 4PM.

Youth

Sunday School

Begins at 9:30AM in the Youth Suite with breakfast

Sunday Night Fellowship

Sunday evenings in the Youth Suite

Dinner at 6PM

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

Frieda Warner at frieda@sspres.org

Annie Franklin Arvin at annie@sspres.org

Young Adults

TGIF/Faith on Tap

Monthly Friday (usually 2nd Friday) at 6PM

A casual social gathering for the 20s/30s/40s group. Location varies. Movie night at church will coordinate for the kids.

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

Discipleship

Sunday School

Begins at 9:30 AM

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 (Traditional) - Chapel

Come & See (Discussion) - Upper Room

Rejoice (Sharing) - John Law Room

20s/30s/40s (Conversational) - Youth Suite

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

Men's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 10AM in the Upper Room.

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

Thursdays at 7:15 AM in the Britt Room

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

John Matthews at jhmatthews7@comcast.net.

Ladies' Video Bible Study (Beginning Oct 10)

Wednesdays at 3PM in the Chapel

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) Circle

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

Anne Aspinwall at anneaspinwall@gmail.com or 912-399-1101

Terri Simpson at tsimp57@yahoo.com or 912-580-8754.

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 are an important part of the music ministry for children through adults.

Rhonda Hambricht 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.

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. Alan Dyer 937-623-7963

Rev. Annie Franklin Arvin 828-443-0299

Kate Buckley 912-222-1757

PLEASE JOIN FOR OUR
Christmas Eve
CANDLE & CAROLS SERVICES
WITH CHILDREN'S NATIVITY TABLEAU
TWO FULL SERVICES
4 PM & 5:30 PM | SOCIAL HALL

CHRISTMAS EVE
COMMUNION
10:00 PM
SOCIAL HALL



SIGN UP FOR
CHANCEL FLOWERS 2020



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PROVIDING THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ON A SUNDAY FOR WORSHIP DURING 2020, PLEASE SIGN UP FOR A SPECIFIC WEEK ON THE FLOWER BOARD IN THE MEMORIAL GARDEN HALLWAY. PLEASE BE SURE TO EMAIL ADA OWENS WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE PRINTED IN THE BULLETIN A WEEK PRIOR TO THE SUNDAY YOU SIGN UP FOR! (ADA@SSPRES.ORG)

Let's go
BOWLING!
JANUARY 12TH | 6 PM | STRIKE ZONE
WE WILL MEET AT THE BOWLING ALLEY AT 6 PM. COST IS \$10 PER PERSON. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Live Streaming Worship



WATCH SUNDAY
WORSHIP
ONLINE AT
SSPRES.ORG
SUNDAYS AT 11AM

Today, December 22

- 8:30 am **Chapel Service** - Social Hall
- 9:00 am **Coffee Hour & Breakfast** - Britt Room
- 9:30 am **Sunday School** - Various Locations
- 11:00 am **Traditional Service** - Social Hall

Monday, December 23

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

Tuesday, December 24

- 4:00 pm **Christmas Eve Service** - Social Hall
- 5:30 pm **Christmas Eve Service** - Social Hall
- 10:00 pm **Christmas Eve Communion** - Social Hall

Wednesday, December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY - Office Closed

Thursday, December 26

HOLIDAY - Office Closed

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

Friday, December 27

No Activities Scheduled for This Day

Hope Hall: Today is our last day collecting donations for the Heifer Project. Our Hope Hall has been a wonderful success this Christmas season and we have all of you to thank!

Christian Celebration: We share in celebration with Keith & Jackie Griffin on the birth of their grandson, Myles Christian Young, who was born on Thursday, December 12. Welcome to the world, Myles!

Source: Parts of today's liturgy are adapted from Rev. Stephen Fearing.

To Ponder Prayerfully

Doing God's Thing

“**J**OSEPH BECOMES... A MODEL FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. HE LEARNS THAT BEING TRULY RIGHTEOUS DOES NOT MEAN LOOKING UP A RULE IN A BOOK AND THEN DOING THE ‘RIGHT THING’; IT MEANS WRESTLING WITH THE COMPLEXITIES OF A PROBLEM, LISTENING FOR THE VOICE OF GOD, AND THEN DOING GOD’S THING.”

-Dr. Thomas G. Long

St. Simons Presbyterian Church

Ministers: All members of the church

Rev. Alan Dyer

Pastor
alan@sspres.org

Nat Scott

Congregational Life
nat@sspres.org

Rhonda Hambright

Music Director
rhonda@sspres.org

Phoebe Roland

KidZ Music Director
phoebe@sspres.org

Ada Owens

Dir. of Communications
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Rev. Annie Franklin Arvin

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Frieda Warner

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Handbells
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Walter Lynn

Building Coordinator
walter@sspres.org

Leslie McCracken

Clerk of Session

Molly Macaulay

Chair of Deacons

Bob Harper

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