

# Service for the Lord's Day

ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*The Visitation*

Gloria Ssali

4th Sunday of Advent

December 23, 2018 | 11:00 am Traditional Service

**Greeter**

D.A. Martin

**Ushers**

Bunnie Lynn

Harry Moffett

Sandi Goeldner

Molly Macaulay

**Acolyte**

John Cannon Wessel

# WE GATHER TO PRAISE

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

## INTROIT

Britten

*This Little Babe*

Rhonda Hambright, Camille Hathaway,  
Ann Marie Morrison, and Beverly Fetter

## 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 pew. As you enter the sanctuary, please silence your cell phones. All children are welcome in worship. If you prefer, a nursery (located in the children's hall at the rear of the church) is available for children from birth to five years. Worship resources for children are available at the sanctuary entrances.*

## PRELUDE

arr. Wyrzten

*Adeste Fidelis*

Amy Bishop, Organ; Beverly Fetter, Piano

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

D.A. Martin

One: Our souls magnify the Lord!

**ALL: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!**

One: The mighty One has done great things for us!

**ALL: Holy is God's name!**

One: God is our Maker and our Redeemer; from  
generation to generation God gives mercy.

**ALL: Let us worship God.**

## \*OPENING HYMN 88

VENI EMMANUEL

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Advent, meaning "the coming," is a time when we wait expectantly. Christians began to celebrate it as a season during the fourth and fifth centuries. Even as we celebrate what God has already done in the Christ child, we also wait in expectation of the full coming of God's reign on earth and for the return of Christ.

\* Please stand if able.

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (ALL)

Rev. Annie Franklin Arvin

Advent God, we confess that we are not always the people you hope us to be. The very ones you favor, we too often ignore or ridicule. The ones you knock off their pedestals, we admire and emulate. We are so focused on having more and more that we risk being sent away empty. Forgive us, Mighty God, and look with grace upon us. Help us to live secure in your love and to be the ones of peace for our world.

*Silence for Personal Confession*

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

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*GLORIA PATRI

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

*SSPC College Students*

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PREPARATION FOR PRAYER (108)

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING 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.

The Advent wreath is a Christian tradition borrowed from the Germanic peoples who placed candles on evergreens in the depth of winter. The four candles of the Christian Advent wreath celebrate each of the four Sundays that precede Christmas.

Scripture tells us that we are able to love ourselves and to love others, because we have first been loved by God. So, too, we give of ourselves and our resources out of gratitude to God for what God has already graciously given to us. We give because God has first given to us.

## OFFERTORY

arr. Wyrzten

*Mary Did You Know?*  
Amy Bishop, Organ; Beverly Fetter, Piano

## \*DOXOLOGY

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.*

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

D.A. Martin

**Micah 5:2-5**

*Page 1445 OT*

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## ANTHEM

Stephen Paulus

*Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella*  
Harlan Hambright, Guitar

## NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

**Luke 1:39-55**

*Page 1588 NT*

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## SERMON

Rev. Alan Dyer

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (ALL)

Declaration of Faith

Jesus, the long expected Savior, came into the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended.

## WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION 110

BRING A TORCH

*Love Has Come*

\*BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE (113)

GLORIA

*Gloria in Excelsis Deo! (Refrain)*

POSTLUDE

arr. Johnson

*Angels, From the Realms of Glory*  
Amy Bishop, Organ

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 tomorrow for Christmas Eve worship at 5:30P and 10P in the sanctuary.

**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 pew 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.

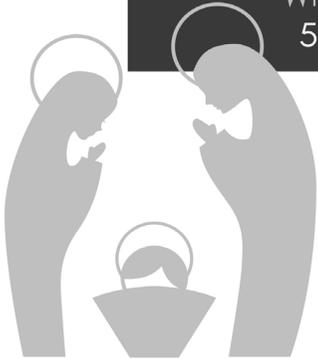
**If You Are in Need of Prayer.** You may fill out a prayer request card (available in the pews) and place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher.

**To Aid in Worship.** A "Rocking Room" with live video of the service is available in the chapel located outside of the front right doors of the sanctuary. Hearing assistance devices and large print hymnals and Bibles may be obtained from the ushers.

**Sermons Online.** To hear sermons online, visit [www.sspress.org/sermons](http://www.sspress.org/sermons).

# Christmas Eve CANDLE & CAROLS SERVICE

WITH CHILDREN'S NATIVITY TABLEAU  
5:30 PM | SANCTUARY



## CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION

10:00 PM | SANCTUARY

## CHURCH OFFICE CHRISTMAS HOURS

Tuesday, December 25

Office Closed

Wednesday, December 26

Office Closed



# THIRD DAY OF CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 27 | 6 - 9 PM | Britt Room

RSVP by December 20th

DETAILS & REGISTRATION ONLINE

# SIGN UP FOR CHANCEL FLOWERS 2019

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PROVIDING THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ON A SUNDAY FOR WORSHIP DURING 2019, 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)



## Advent Communion

DRAW NEAR IN WATCHING AND WAITING

LAST SERVICE TODAY | DECEMBER 23

SERVICE WILL BEGIN AT 5 PM IN THE CHAPEL

## LAND, AIR, & SEA

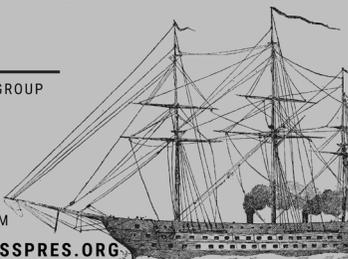
WITH THE TRY SOMETHING NEW GROUP  
JANUARY.10.2018

### WE WILL VISIT:

- THE RAILROAD MUSEUM
- SHIPS OF THE SEA MUSEUM
- MIGHTY 8TH AIR FORCE MUSEUM

MORE INFO & SIGN UP AT [SSPRES.ORG](http://SSPRES.ORG)

RSVP DEADLINE IS JANUARY 3RD



## PIZZA + MOVIE NIGHT

AND SALAD, TOO!

JAN  
13TH

ALL ARE WELCOME!  
SIGN UP ONLINE  
AT [SSPRES.ORG](http://SSPRES.ORG)



## Let's go BOWLING!

JANUARY 20TH | 6 PM | STRIKE ZONE

WE WILL MEET AT THE BOWLING ALLEY AT 6 PM.  
COST IS \$10 PER PERSON. ALL ARE WELCOME!

# This Week | December 23 - 28

## Today, Dec 23

- 8:30 am **Chapel Service** - Sanctuary
- 9:00 am **Coffee Hour & Breakfast** - Social Hall
- 9:30 am **Sunday School** - Various Locations
- 11:00 am **Traditional Service** - Sanctuary
- 5:00 pm **Advent Communion** - Sanctuary

## Monday, Dec 24

- 5:30 pm **Christmas Eve Worship Service** - Sanctuary
- 8:00 pm **AA Meeting** - Britt Room
- 8:00 pm **Al-Anon Meeting** - John Law Room
- 10:00 pm **Christmas Eve Communion** - Sanctuary

## Tuesday, Dec 25 (Merry Christmas!)

All Day **Church Office Will be Closed**

## Wednesday, Dec 26

All Day **Church Office Will be Closed**

## Thursday, Dec 27

- 7:00 am **Men's Bible Study** - Britt Room
- 4:00 pm **Yoga Class** - Youth Suite
- 6:00 pm **Third Day of Christmas Party** - Social Hall
- 8:00 pm **AA Meeting** - Britt Room
- 8:00 pm **Al-Anon Meeting** - John Law Room

## Friday, Dec 28

10:00 am **Book Study and Prayer** - Jann's Office

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

**Advent Communion:** Please join us in the sanctuary this afternoon at 5 pm for our final Advent communion service. All are welcome.

**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!

**Marriage Enrichment Weekend:** Drs. Genie and Preston Dyer - retired social work and family studies professors from Baylor University in Texas - will be coming to the island to lead a Friday/Saturday marriage enrichment retreat at SSPC. More info to come, but mark your calendars now for the weekend of February 22nd & 23rd!

**Source:** Parts of today's liturgy are adapted from liturgy written by Rev. Thom Shuman.

To Ponder Prayerfully

# Singing Wonder

“**W**HEN THESE TWO WOMEN GATHER TO SHARE THE WONDER OF GOD’S WORK THROUGH THEM, THEY NEITHER PREACH NOR TEACH NOR STUDY NOR DEBATE. THEY SING.”

-David Lose

## St. Simons Presbyterian Church

*Ministers: All members of the church*

**Rev. Alan Dyer**  
Pastor  
[alan@sspres.org](mailto:alan@sspres.org)

**Nat Scott**  
Congregational Life  
[nat@sspres.org](mailto:nat@sspres.org)

**Rhonda Hambright**  
Music Ministry  
[rhonda@sspres.org](mailto:rhonda@sspres.org)

**Jeannine Torbert**  
Administrator  
[jeannine@sspres.org](mailto:jeannine@sspres.org)

**Judy Cauley**  
Preschool Director  
[judy@sspres.org](mailto:judy@sspres.org)

**Rev. Annie Franklin Arvin**  
Assoc. Pastor of Youth & Mission  
[annie@sspres.org](mailto:annie@sspres.org)

**Frieda Warner**  
Children’s Ministry/CE  
[frieda@sspres.org](mailto:frieda@sspres.org)

**Amy Bishop**  
Organist  
[amy@sspres.org](mailto:amy@sspres.org)

**Walter Lynn**  
Building Coordinator  
[walter@sspres.org](mailto:walter@sspres.org)

**Leslie McCracken**  
Clerk of Session

**Rev. Jann Briscoe**  
Parish Associate  
[jann@sspres.org](mailto:jann@sspres.org)

**Madelynne Risi**  
BRIDGE Director  
[madelynne@sspres.org](mailto:madelynne@sspres.org)

**Suzanne Morrison**  
Handbells  
[suzanne@sspres.org](mailto:suzanne@sspres.org)

**Ada Owens**  
Dir. of Communications  
[ada@sspres.org](mailto:ada@sspres.org)

**Molly Macaulay**  
Chair of Deacons

**Al Ledingham**  
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

 [www.sspres.org](http://www.sspres.org)

 [facebook.com/saintsimonspresbyterian](https://facebook.com/saintsimonspresbyterian)

 [instagram.com/saintsimonspres](https://instagram.com/saintsimonspres)