

# Christmas Eve

ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*“The Annunciation to the Shepherds”*

Jean de Limbourg, 1410

## Communion Service

December 24, 2016 | 10:00 pm Worship

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### Ushers

The Johnson Family

*Welcome to Christmas Eve worship at St. Simons Presbyterian Church. Whether a first time visitor or long time member, we are delighted that you are with us in worship this night. As you enter the sanctuary, please silence your cell phones. All children are welcome in worship.*

## CHRISTMAS MUSIC MEDITATION

### CHRISTMAS WELCOME

Rev. Alan Dyer

In Advent we wait for  
the coming of Christ.  
Tonight, on Christmas  
Eve, we now celebrate  
the story of Jesus' birth.  
As we worship, consider  
how the light of the  
Christ child burns in you  
and how we might each  
bear that light in our own  
lives as a sign of hope for  
God's world.

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Bob Brearley

One: We come, hoping to find God here;

**ALL: The Lord has always been with us.**

One: We wait, anticipating a word of Good News;

**ALL: The Word has always been with us;**

One: We watch for that light that shines in the dark;

**ALL: A Child will light our way!**

### \*OPENING HYMN 140

IRBY

*Once in Royal David's City*

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, God who comes to us so small, we confess the overwhelming enormity of darkness that rules our lives. As you came into the world meek and mild, light within us a powerful flow that casts out dim selfishness and greed. Form us in your way of generosity, grace, joy, hope and love, that we may welcome your light and bear it to the world.

*Silence for Personal Confession*

In the name of Jesus, the babe in the manger, we pray. **Amen.**

### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (SUNG)

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King. Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies; With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

CHRISTMAS PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER (ALL) Rev. Bob Brearley

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.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON **Isaiah 9:2-7** *Page 1072, OT, Pew Bible*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON **Luke 2:1-20** *Page 1590, NT, Pew Bible*

CHRISTMAS HOMILY Rev. Alan Dyer

MUSICAL REFLECTIONS

144 IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER CRANHAM

145 WHAT CHILD IS THIS? GREENSLEEVES

OFFERING *Gesu Bambino* Pietro Yon  
Camille Hathaway, Soprano  
Rhonda Hambright, Piano

The offering received tonight will go to the St. Simons Presbyterian Church Deacon's Fund which is used to assists those in need in our community. The Deacon's Fund allows the church to provide (at the pastor's discretion), food, electricity, gas for transportation, temporary emergency lodging, and other urgent aid to those who come to the church in dire and immediate need.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

*The practice of receiving communion by intinction is an ancient one. When taking Communion by intinction, the body of the Church acts together, moving as a community towards the Table. Worshipers are invited to come forward, take a piece of bread, and intinct or dip it in the cup, place it in their mouth, and return to their seats.*

\*HYMN 122 *Silent Night, Holy Night* STILLE NACHT

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Silent Night, Holy Night* STILLE NACHT  
Amy Bishop, Organ

To Ponder Prayerfully

# A Silent Baby

“**P**OLITICIANS COMPETE FOR THE HIGHEST OFFICES. **B**USINESS TYCOONS SCRAMBLE FOR A BIGGER AND BIGGER PIECE OF THE PIE. **A**RMIES MARCH AND SCIENTISTS STUDY AND PHILOSOPHERS PHILOSOPHIZE AND PREACHERS PREACH AND LABORERS SWEAT. **B**UT IN THAT SILENT BABY, LYING IN THAT HUMBLE MANGER, THERE PULSES MORE POTENTIAL POWER AND WISDOM AND GRACE AND ALIVENESS THAN ALL THE REST OF US CAN IMAGINE.”

—Brian McClaren

## St. Simons Presbyterian Church

*Ministers: All members of the church*

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**Leslie McCracken**

Clerk of Session

**Anne Aspinwall**

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.*

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