

Service for the Lord's Day

ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"A Miracle to the World"

Emmeline Griffith, Age 9

4th Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2017 | 11:00 am Traditional Service

Greeter

D.A. Martin

Ushers

Emma Hidalgo

Sophie Hidalgo

Denise Hidalgo

Sean Hidalgo

Acolyte

Carolina Wessel

WE GATHER TO PRAISE

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

INTROIT

Joy to the World
Chancel Ringers

arr. Ingram

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

Away in a Manger
Chancel Ringers

arr. Kinyon

*CALL TO WORSHIP

D. A. Martin

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. Like Mary, we celebrate the coming of the Christ child, what God has already done. And we wait in expectation of the full coming of God's reign on earth and for the return of Christ, what God will yet do.

One: Bless the Lord with me, for God is great.

ALL: The Mighty One has done great things.

One: Pray for the gift of love from God.

ALL: Shine in our lives, Lord Jesus Christ.

One: Let us worship God.

*OPENING HYMN 143

REGENT SQUARE

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (ALL)

Rev. Bob Brearley

God our Maker, we confess that we are not ready to meet you. You offer us a place in your house, yet we find no room for you in our lives. You invite us into your eternal realm, yet we fail to welcome others. Forgive us, God of grace. Let your word of life be with us so that we may truly believe that nothing is impossible with you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

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.

WE SHARE OUR LIFE & GIFTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Jay, Ramey, Mark, Maren and Jenna Shirah

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PREPARATION FOR PRAYER

arr. Ingram

Once in Royal David's City
Chancel Ringers

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.

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. Tucker

A Christmas Carillon Chancel Ringers

*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

Psalm 89:1-4

Page 926 OT

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

"Mary turns out to be not simply the mother of Jesus but an ideal role model for all followers of Jesus: a servant of God who embodies faith and faithfulness."

-Mark Allan Powell

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Page 1588 NT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

Rev. Alan Dyer

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (ALL)

A 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. He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth. 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.

Today's Affirmation of Faith is taken from "A Declaration of Faith," which was written in the 1970s in a poetic style and emphasizes that God is compassionate and ineffable. Unlike some of the more ancient confessions of faith, this affirmation is intentionally written in a form to be easily used to worship.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 113

GLORIA

Angels We Have Heard on High

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

arr. Hayes

Joy to the World
Amy Bishop, Organist

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 worshipping 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.sspres.org/sermons.

Sign up for our eNewsletter. Stay informed by subscribing to our weekly eNewsletter. Sign up on our friendship register or visit www.sspres.org/newsletters.

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.

Marie Dodd at mariewdodd@bellsouth.net.

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 Social Hall with breakfast

KidZ Crew (Preschool to Grade 5)

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

Wednesdays: Faith, fun, and music. Meet on the playground veranda at 4PM. WOW 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.

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

Youth

Sunday School

Begins at 9:30AM in the Social Hall with breakfast

Sunday Night Fellowship

Sunday evenings in the Youth Suite

Dinner at 6PM

Mid & Senior High at 6:30PM (Grades 6 to 12)

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

Meg Johnson at meg@sspres.org.

Young Adults

Faith on Tap

Monthly Thursday (usually 2nd Thursdays) at 7PM

A casual young adult Bible Study for 20 and 30-somethings meets monthly. Location varies. Childcare available.

Alan Dyer at alan@sspres.org or 638-2220.

Discipleship

Sunday School

Begins at 9:30AM in the Social Hall with breakfast

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 - Upper Room

Come & See - Social Hall

Rejoice - Chapel

Trinity - Parlor

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

Men's Bible Study

Mondays at 12PM in the Britt Room

Come for lunch and Men's Bible Study led by Alan Dyer every Monday. 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

Wednesdays at 10:30AM in the Youth Suite

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 Ashantilly wing on Wednesday nights.

Handbells and Other Instrumentation

Handbells, chimes and instruments are an important part of the music ministry for children through adults.

Rhonda Hambright 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.

Jann Briscoe at jannbriscoe@gmail.com or 269-0212.

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.

St. Simons Presbyterian 638-2220

Rev. Bob Brearley at 912-399-5957

Rev. Alan Dyer at 937-623-7963

Rev. Jann Briscoe 912-269-0212

Deacon's Fund Christmas Eve *Offering*

The Deacon's Fund is used throughout the year at the pastors' discretion to support people in crisis.

Third Day of Christmas Party

Wed,
Dec 27

\$15/person

6 PM



Each person should bring a wrapped gift - something you already have at home, a re-gift, etc (\$10). We will have extra gifts if you are not able to bring one.

Deadline to RSVP is Today!

Manna House

January 1st

Mondays

9:30 am - Cook

1st

11:00 am - Serve

1:00 pm - Clean



Save the Date!

Davidson College
Jazz Ensemble

Tues, January 9 | 7:30pm

We need volunteers to host musicians overnight and helpers to serve dinner.

Contact Rhonda Hambright
rhonda@sspres.org

This Week | December 24 - 30

Today, Dec 24

- 8:30 am **Chapel Service** - Sanctuary
- 9:00 am **Coffee Hour** - Social Hall
- 9:30 am **Sunday School** - Various Locations
- 11:00 am **Traditional Service** - Sanctuary
- 5:30 pm **Candles & Carols Service** - Sanctuary
- 10:00 pm **Communion Service** - Sanctuary

Monday, Dec 25 - Church office closed

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

Tuesday, Dec 26 - Church office closed

Wednesday, Dec 27

- 6:00 pm **Third Day of Christmas Party** - Britt Room

Thursday, Dec 28

- 7:00 am **Men's Breakfast Bible Study** - Britt Room
- 8:00 pm **AA Meeting** - Britt Room
- 8:00 pm **Al-Anon Meeting** - John Law Room

Friday, Dec 29

- 10:00 am **Book Discussion & Prayer** - Jann's Office

Sunday School Classes @ 9:30 am

Adult

Britt Class - Upper Room
Come & See - Social Hall
Rejoice - Chapel
Trinity - Parlor
30s & 40s - Youth Suite

Children

Children's Hall
Preschool & Elementary

Youth

Youth Suite
Senior High & Mid High

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

Sign up for Chancel Flowers: If you are interested in providing the Chancel flowers for worship on a Sunday in 2018, please sign up on the flowers board in the Memorial Garden Hallway.

Offering Envelopes: The offering envelopes for 2018 are here. If you have signed up to receive them, they are available for pick up in the Back Hallway with your name printed on them.

Poinsettias: If you dedicated a poinsettia this year, please feel free to take one home with you after the service this morning.

To Ponder Prayerfully

Be a Dwelling for God

“**T**HE INTENSITY AND STRAIN THAT MANY OF US BRING TO CHRISTMAS MUST SUGGEST TO SOME ONLOOKERS THAT, ON THE WHOLE, CHRISTIANS DO NOT SEEM TO HAVE GOTTEN THE POINT OF IT. PROBABLY FEW OF US HAVE THE FAITH OR THE NERVE TO TAMPER WITH HALLOWED CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS ON A LARGE SCALE, OR WITH OUR OTHER HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS. BUT A SMALL EXPERIMENT MIGHT PROVE INTERESTING. WHAT IF, INSTEAD OF DOING SOMETHING, WE WERE TO BE SOMETHING SPECIAL? BE A WOMB. BE A DWELLING FOR GOD. BE SURPRISED.”

— Loretta Ross

St. Simons Presbyterian Church

Ministers: All members of the church

Rev. Bob Brearley
Co-Pastor
bob@sspres.org

Nat Scott
Congregational Life
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Rhonda Hambright
Music Ministry
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Jeannine Torbert
Administrator
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Judy Cauley
Preschool Director
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Rev. Alan Dyer
Co-Pastor
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Frieda Warner
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Walter Lynn
Building Coordinator
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Leslie McCracken
Clerk of Session

Anne Aspinwall
Chair of Deacons

Rev. Jann Briscoe
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Suzanne Morrison
Handbells
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Caroline Kittle
Communications
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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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