Candles and Carols

St. Simons Presbyterian Church

"Nativity"
Haynes Hallman, Age 8

Christmas Eve Candles & Carols

December 24, 2017 | 5:30 pm Worship

Ushers
Sean Hidalgo
Emma Hidalgo
Mike Aspinwall
Anne Aspinwall
Fred Griffith
Mary Bryson
Ben Bryson
Kathy Cathey
Karen Bair

Acolytes
Emmeline Griffith
Madison Brown

Welcome

Welcome to worship at St. Simons Presbyterian Church. As you enter the sanctuary, please silence your cell phones. All children are welcome in worship. Please note that out of consideration for our nursery workers, we do not provide a nursery for this Christmas Eve service. If you prefer, a "rocking room" with live video of the service as well as toys for children is available in the Chapel located outside of the front right door of the sanctuary.

Music for Meditation

Amy Bishop, Organ
Rhonda Hambright, Piano

Christmas Welcome

Rev. Bob Brearley

Prelude

G. Martin

Prepare the Way of the Lord
Chancel Choir

Tonight's Christmas Eve worship tells the story of Jesus' birth chronologically, beginning with the expectation of a Messiah to come as voiced in Old Testament times by the prophet Isaiah. As we begin 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. Alan Dyer

One: The people who walked in the darkness have seen a great light.

ALL: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined.

One: Come, let us worship God!

ALL: The One whose light brings hope to a weary world.

Based on Isaiah 9:2

*Opening Hymn 133

ADESTE FIDELES

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Christmas Prayer & 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.

* Please stand if able.

The Lord's Advent is Told to Mary

Solo — Herms/ Nordeman

Be Born in Me
Ann Nermoe

First Reading — Luke 1:26-38 — Kelly Johnson
Page 1588, NT

Carol — Austrian Carol, arr. Luboff

Still, Still, Still
Chancel Choir

The Lord's Advent is Told to Joseph

Second Reading — Matthew 1:18-24 — Graham Owens
Page 1497, NT

*Hymn 140 — IRBY

Once in Royal David's City

Offering — Davis/York

One Silent Voice from *Small, Dancing Light*
Tom Haughney, Solo
Chancel Choir

The Lord is Born

Third Reading — Luke 2:1-20 — Morgan Plog
Page 1590, NT

Solo — Adam/arr. Hayes

O Holy Night
Rhonda Hambright

The offering received tonight will go to the St. Simons Presbyterian Church Deacon's Fund which is used to assist 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.

Grae Frazier, Age 4

Nativity Tableau

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Ethan Tsai, Age 6

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo

The First Nowell

The first Nowell the angel did say,
was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

English Jane Buckley, Age 6

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are, Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright:
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!

Tonight we light the Christ Candle remembering that with the birth of Christ, salvation has drawn near. The God who ordered the chaos of the universe has come down into the chaos of our world. The Word which was with God at the beginning has come to dwell among us. In the words of Eugene Peterson, "The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood."

Taking the Light of Christ to the World

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Candlelight Hymn

STILLE NACHT

Silent Night, Holy Night

The congregation is invited to remain seated and turn on their candles during the singing of the candlelight hymn.

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:
Christ the Saviour is born; Christ the Saviour is born!"

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Saviour is born; Christ the Saviour is born.

Moment of Silence

*Charge and Benediction

*Candlelight Processional

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn 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 newborn king!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

As our time of worship ends, the work of Christmas begins. As we go out about that work, may we take with us the words of Meister Eckhart who wrote: "The eternal birth which God bore and bears unceasingly in eternity is now born in time, in human nature. St. Augustine says this birth is always happening. But if it does not happen in me, what does it profit me? What matters is that it shall happen in me."

Please keep moving away from the doors as you exit. Thank you.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXITING THE SANCTUARY

The congregation is invited to join the choir on the front driveway of the church following worship (weather permitting) to "sing in Christmas" by candlelight. Ushers will help guide you as you exit. Please remember to return your candles to the collection baskets being held by ushers following the singing.

Transepts and Front of Sanctuary: Please exit sanctuary using the doors on either side of the chancel. Follow signs to outside paths that lead to front driveway.

Back of Sanctuary: Please exit using the main sanctuary doors at the rear of the sanctuary. Please be considerate to those behind you by continuing to move away from the doors as you exit onto the front driveway.

Singing in Christmas

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Saviour was born on Christmas Day.
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years, Are met in thee tonight.

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove.
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

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.

Register Online!

Manna House

January 1st

Mondays 1st

9:30 am - Cook
11:00 am - Serve
1:00 pm - Clean

Save the Date!

Davidson College Jazz Band

Tues, January 9 | 7:30pm

We need volunteers to host choir members overnight and helpers to serve dinner.

Contact Rhonda Hambright
rhonda@sspres.org

Merry Christmas!

Thank you for worshiping with
St. Simons Presbyterian Church!

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 Registers that are located on the ends of the pews so that we can be in touch with you soon.

Child Care. Children of all ages are welcome in worship. If you prefer, a "rocking room" with live video of the service as well as toys for children is available in the Chapel located outside of the front right door of the sanctuary.

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 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 eNewletter. Sign up on our friendship register or visit www.sspres.org/newsletters.

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 evening.

To Ponder Prayerfully

The Christmas Spirit

"The Christmas spirit is that hope
which tenaciously clings to the hearts of the faithful
and announces
in the face of any Herod the world can produce
and all the inn doors slammed in our faces
and all the dark nights of our souls
that with God all things still are possible,
that even now
unto us a Child is born!"

—Ann Weems

St. Simons Presbyterian Church

Ministers: All members of the church

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Chair of Deacons

Al Ledingham
Treasurer

St. Simons Presbyterian Church

Savannah Presbytery

Presbyterian Church (USA)

STEPHEN MINISTRY

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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