

# Lessons, Carols, and Candles

ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*For Unto Us a Child is Born*  
Clarisse Pastor

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2022 | 5:30 pm Worship

#### Ushers

Keith Griffin  
Anna Henry  
David Keen  
Jan Rossiter  
Cathy Rossiter  
Tate Simpson

#### Acolyte

Maddie Kate George  
Mary West Turner

## MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

Amy Bishop, Organ; Rhonda Hambright, Piano; Anne Marie Stirewalt, Trumpet

## CHRISTMAS 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.*

Rev. Dr. Steve Goyer

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Annie Franklin Arvin

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

**ALL: break forth into singing and give praise!**

One: The Lord has brought comfort to all people;

**ALL: the Lord will bring righteousness and peace.**

One: With one voice, let us cry out:

**ALL: Praise the Lord!**

## \*OPENING HYMN 133

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

## CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

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.

## THE LORD'S ADVENT IS TOLD TO MARY

CAROL

*Dazzling Joy*  
Chancel Choir

Joseph Martin



FIRST READING

Luke 1:26-38  
*Page 1588, NT*

Emmeline Griffith

\*HYMN 140

*Once in Royal David's City*

IRBY

## THE LORD'S ADVENT IS TOLD TO JOSEPH

SECOND READING

Matthew 1:18-24  
*Page 1497, NT*

Greer Anderson and  
Mobley Grace Ward

DUET

*That Night*  
Ann Nermoe and Mark Propst

Annie Akins and Tim Akins

OFFERING

*Celebration of Light*  
Chancel Choir

Joseph Martin

## THE LORD IS BORN

THIRD READING

Luke 2:1-7  
*Page 1590, NT*

Brayden Neill

CAROL

*O Holy Night*  
Rhonda Hambright and Chancel Choir

A. Adam/arr. Stone

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. **Gifts can also be made electronically by texting the code "SSPC" to 73256.**

# 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.

## 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 Noel

The first Noel 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.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

## 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!

## TAKING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST TO THE WORLD

### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

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."

### INSTRUCTION FOR LIGHTING YOUR CANDLE



*You are invited to receive the light of Christ from your neighbor by tilting your unlit candle towards the upright lit candle. For everyone's safety, please be aware of those around you and assist our younger worshipers in lighting their candles. We ask that you wait to extinguish your candle until you have exited the sanctuary.*

\*CANDLELIGHT HYMN

*Silent Night*

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.

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*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. And what is the work of Christmas? In the words of Dr. Howard Thurman: "To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the people, to make music in the heart."

Source: Parts of tonight's liturgy are adapted from Call to Worship 2018-19.



# UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH



## St. Simon's Presbyterian Church IN-HOME COMMUNION

BEGINNING IN 2023.

Sign up for our newsletter for updates at [sspres.org/newsletters](https://sspres.org/newsletters)



Do What You Have the  
POWER to Do  
*Studies of Six New Testament Women*  
HELEN BRUCH PEARSON



OTHER DENIZENS OF THE DEEP

## BOOK STUDY

- Thursdays | 5:30PM
- January 5 - February 16
- John Law Room

CONTACT BRENDA HAUGHNEY  
WITH QUESTIONS: 704.641.2621

BOOKS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE FOR \$10

# BINGO

ALL ARE WELCOME  
BRING A FRIEND!

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18  
6PM / SOCIAL HALL / TACO BAR

>> PLEASE BE SURE TO RSVP BY JANUARY 15

SIGN UP AT [SSPRES.ORG/BINGO](https://sspres.org/bingo)

SAVE THE DATE

## Kirkin o' the Tartan

January 29th, 2023

8:30 am & 10:30 am Worship



**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 be sure to speak with a pastor before or after today's worship or fill out the friendship register, located at the end of each pew. We would love to get to know you better!



**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.



**To Aid in Worship.** Advanced listening technology is available for those with a hearing impairment. Please locate an usher for assistance.



**If You Are in Need of Prayer.** Please let us know how we can be praying for you by visiting with a pastor or staff member before or after worship, or by visiting [sspres.org/prayer](https://sspres.org/prayer).



**Worship Online.** A livestream of the 10:30A worship service is available every Sunday at [sspres.org/livestream](https://sspres.org/livestream). A recording of the worship is available immediately afterwards for viewing anytime. To hear sermons online, visit [sspres.org/sermons](https://sspres.org/sermons) or subscribe to the St. Simons Presbyterian Podcast on iTunes or Google Play.



**Ways to Give.** Offering boxes can be found at the entrances to the sanctuary. You can also give electronically through text messaging or Venmo. Text the code "SSPC" and send to the number: 73256. Or give with Venmo by scanning the QR code on the right or by searching for @sspres. You can also mail or drop off checks or cash offering to the church office anytime M-F from 9A-4P (205 Kings Way).

venmo





# MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Thank you for worshipping with us at  
St. Simons Presbyterian Church



To Ponder Prayerfully

# Only the Beginning

“FOR OUTLANDISH CREATURES LIKE US, ON OUR WAY TO A HEART, A BRAIN, AND COURAGE, BETHLEHEM IS NOT THE END OF OUR JOURNEY BUT ONLY THE BEGINNING—NOT HOME BUT THE PLACE THROUGH WHICH WE MUST PASS IF EVER WE ARE TO REACH HOME AT LAST.”

-Frederick Buechner, *The Magnificent Defeat*

## St. Simons Presbyterian Church

*Ministers: All members of the church*

**Rev. Dr. Steve Goyer**

Interim Pastor  
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**Nat Scott**

Congregational Life  
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**Rhonda Hambright**

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**Madelynne Risi**

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**Leslie McCracken**

Clerk of Session

**Pat Heran**

Chair of Deacons

**Iris Ellis**

Children's Choir Director

**Doug Marshall**

Worship Tech Specialist

**Bob Harper**

Treasurer



*St. Simons Presbyterian Church is a member of the Savannah Presbytery and the Presbyterian Church (USA)*

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