

Lessons, Carols, & Candles
with Nativity Tableau
ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Away in a Manger
Mackenzie Kissell

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2023 | 5:30 pm Worship

Ushers

Jan Rossiter
Kathy Wade
Lee Malone
Angie Votsis
Bunnie Lynn

Acolyte

Mille Turner

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

Christmas Eve Medley

Arr. Charles J. Torian, Jr.

Chancel Ensemble – Anne Marie Stirewalt, Ed Jackson, Trumpets; Mike Morgan, French Horn; John Simmons, Trombone; Mike Bradberry, Tuba; Amy Bishop, Organ

O, Come, All Ye Faithful (with “Sheep May Safely Graze”)

Wade/Bach/arr. McKechnie

Amy Bishop, Organist; Mark Lochstampfor, Piano

CHRISTMAS WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Steve Goyer

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.

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

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.**

THE LORD'S ADVENT IS TOLD TO MARY

CAROL

Prepare the Way of the Lord from "The Glory of Christmas"

Lloyd Larson

Chancel Choir and Orchestra

Chancel Ensemble and Judy Foster, Ann Marie Morrison, Clarinets; Charlotte Zell, Percussion;
Harlan Hambright, Timpani; Amy Bishop, Piano

FIRST READING

Luke 1:26-38

Page 1588, NT

*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

CAROL

That Night

Annie Akins and Tim Akins

Ann Nermoe, Soloist and Guitar

OFFERING

Christ is Born this Holy Night from "The Glory of Christmas"

Chancel Choir and Orchestra

Lloyd Larson

THIRD READING

Luke 2:1-7

Page 1590, NT

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."

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH



STEWARDSHIP GIVING UPDATE

\$1,500,000 OPERATING BUDGET

AS OF DECEMBER 20, 2023,

We have received 183 Pledges totaling \$1,065,714 which is 71% of the 2024 Budget of \$1,500,000.

Thank you to everyone who has pledged to support our church for the upcoming year. In case you haven't had the chance, please review the 2024 Ministry Report using the QR code. This report provides a detailed account of our spending, which we hope you'll consider prayerfully as you contemplate your pledge to our church.



PAJAMA PARTY

JANUARY 19TH | 6-9 PM
2ND GRADE & UNDER | NURSERY PROVIDED
Join us for dances, crafts, games, & PANCAKES!
REGISTRATION REQUIRED.
SSPRES.ORG/EVENTS



SAVE THE DATE

Kirkin o' the TARTAN

January 28th, 2024
8:30 am & 10:30 am Worship

ONLINE DIRECTORY

WE ARE CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF UPDATING OUR ONLINE DIRECTORY.

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO PROVIDE YOUR INFO USING THE LINK BELOW.

THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE WILL BECOME PART OF THE CHURCH'S RECORDS, BUT WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

LINK TO DIRECTORY UPDATE
SSPRES.ORG/MEMBERSHIP



Feel free to call the church office with Questions: 638-2220



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.



Worship Online. A livestream of the 10:30A worship service is available every Sunday at sspres.org/livestream. A recording of the worship is available immediately afterwards for viewing anytime. To hear sermons online, visit 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-Th from 9A-4P (205 Kings Way).

venmo



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Elders

Class of 2024

Lee Dillard
 Leslie Hartman
 Buddy Jones
 Mike Kellar
 John Matthews
 Meg Mimbs
 Jerry Spencer

Class of 2025

Chris Bone
 Mary Bryson
 Mary Gash
 Jeff Roberts
 Philip Saussy
 Anne Marie Stirewalt
 Will Tsai

Class of 2026

Sandi Goeldner
 Kevin Lokey
 Lee Malone
 Bryan Neill
 Daryl Rabert
 Tate Simpson
 Carrie Wessel

Deacons

Class of 2024

Lynda Bisher
 Nancy Fixx
 Tom Haughney
 Denise Hidalgo
 Michael Johnson
 Jan Rossiter
 Andrew Turner

Class of 2025

Ami Bishop
 Kelsi Brooks
 Anna Henry
 Sandy Kilgore
 John LaBoone
 Graham Owens
 Joe Wills

Class of 2026

Anne Aspinwall
 Judy Benjamin
 Jackie Griffin
 David Keen
 Lowell Korb
 Katie Rossiter
 Linda Seierstad

Staff

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steve@sspres.org

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Ada Owens

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Ashley Biletzskov

Preschool Director
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Bob Harper

Treasurer



Savannah Presbytery



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

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