

Service for the Lord's Day

ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Nativity

Edward Reginald Frampton

First Sunday After Christmas Day

December 26, 2021 | 10:30 am Traditional Service

Ushers

Tate Simpson

Terri Simpson

Nardis Kellar

Jan Rossiter

Acolyte

EJ Buckley

WE GATHER TO PRAISE

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

INTROIT

Christmas Bells

GIYO Graduates and Chancel Ensemble

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. We are so glad that you are worshipping with us today. We ask that you please silence your cell phones prior to the start of worship. As always, all children are welcome in worship. A nursery (located in the children's hall at the rear of the church) is also available for children from birth to five years.

PRELUDE

He is Born

arr. Hamlin

Amy Bishop, Organist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mike Kellar

One: Praise the Lord!

ALL: Praise God in the heavens.

One: Praise the Lord from the earth!

ALL: Young and old alike,

One: men and women together.

ALL: Praise the Lord!

Psalm 148:1, 7, 12

*OPENING HYMN 143

REGENT SQUARE

Angels from the Realms of Glory

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (ALL)

Rev. Annie Franklin Arvin

God of wonder, You surround us with signs of Your glory and surprise us with Your presence, yet we often miss the marvels You place before us. Forgive us and make us alert to the ways You make Yourself known, that we might be witnesses to Your good news and proclaim Your extravagant love.

Silence for Personal Confession

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

* Please stand if able.

In our life of worship, music can be a powerful presentation and interpretation of the scripture, a response to the gospel, or a prayer offered. As such, today's worship service centers on an exploration of the history and meaning of some of the most well known Christmas carols of the Christian faith. In lieu of a sermon, we will learn the story behind the origins of four popular carols and consider how they continue to instruct and guide us as followers of Jesus Christ today.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI 581

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.

“If my sinfulness appears to me to be in any way smaller or less detestable in comparison with the sins of others, I am still not recognizing my sinfulness at all. ... How can I possibly serve another person in unfeigned humility if I seriously regard his sinfulness as worse than my own?”
–Dietrich Bonhoeffer

WE SHARE OUR LIFE & GIFTS

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.

OFFERTORY

Ding Dong Merrily on High
Instrumental Ensembles

arr. Barker

*DOXOLOGY (606)

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

FIRST READING

Psalm 148
pg 982 OT

Mike Kellar

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:4-7
pg 1830 NT



A HISTORY OF CAROLS

Rhonda Hambright, Director;

Oboe; Jason Cherne, Violin;

Thomas Trinh, Flute, Oboe, or Violin; Matthew Pendarvis, Cello;

AnnMarie Morrison, Clarinet; Brooke Zell, Viola;

Ed Jackson, Anne Marie Stirewalt, Mark Propst, Trumpet;

Jacob Torbert, Baritone; John Simmons, Trombone;

David Stewart, Percussion; Amy Bishop, Organ



*CAROL STORY

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

Traditional

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

From God our heav'nly Father a blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born the son of God by name.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

"Fear not," then said the angel, "let nothing you affright;
this day is born a Savior, the true and radiant light,
to free all those who trust in him from Satan's pow'r and might."
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.



Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And in true love and fellowship each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas is filled with heav'nly grace.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

*CAROL STORY

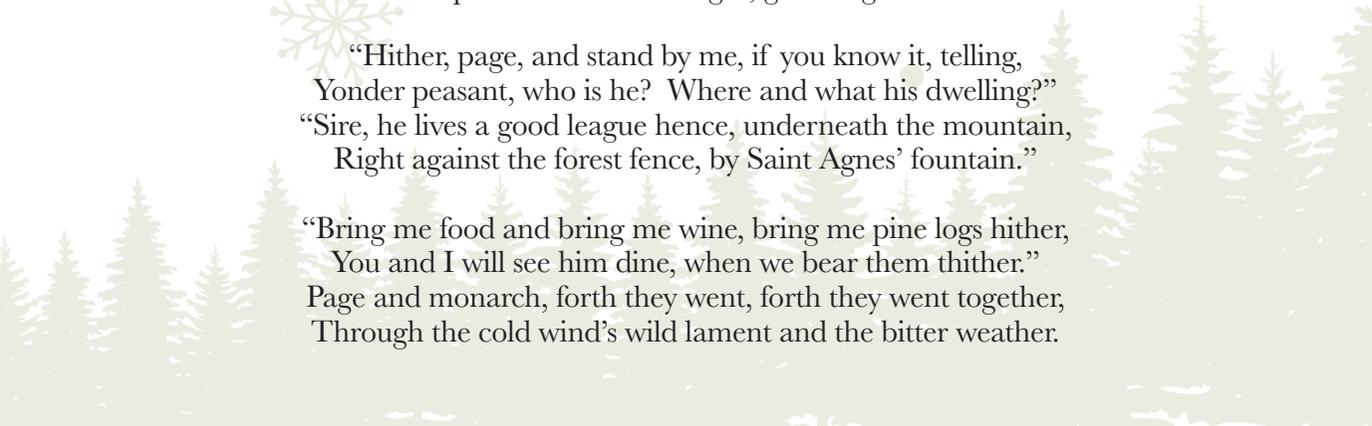
Good King Wenceslas

Traditional



Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight, gath'ring winter fuel.

"Hither, page, and stand by me, if you know it, telling
Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?"
"Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence, by Saint Agnes' fountain."



"Bring me food and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither,
You and I will see him dine, when we bear them thither."
Page and monarch, forth they went, forth they went together,
Through the cold wind's wild lament and the bitter weather.

“Sire, the night is darker now, and the wind blows stronger,
Fails my heart, I know not how; I can go no longer.”
“Mark my footsteps, my good page, tread now in them boldly,
You shall find the winter’s rage freeze your blood less coldly.”

In his master’s steps he trod, where the snow lay dinted:
Heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure, while God’s gifts possessing,
You who now will bless the poor shall yourselves find blessing.

*CAROL STORY *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day* Calkin

I heard the bells on Christmas day their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come, the belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th’unbroken song of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head: “There is no peace on earth,” I said,
“For hate is strong, and mocks the song of peace on earth, good will to men.”

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: “God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth, good will to men.”

Till, ringing, singing on its way, the world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime, of peace on earth, good will to men.

*CAROL STORY *African-American Spiritual*

Go, Tell it on the Mountain

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo!
above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (ALL)

A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 134

ANTIOCH

Joy to the World

*BENEDICTION

We go forth into the world
to serve God in our daily
lives as a continuation of our
worship so that our work is
our worship until such time
as we gather again.

POSTLUDE

I Saw Three Ships
Amy Bishop, Organist

arr. Isele



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 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!



Health. We are currently operating under a mask optional policy for all indoor activities. As such, masks are welcome but not required for worship. We are also continuing the use of an EPA approved air treatment technology in the sanctuary called Grignard Pure as an added safety measure.



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.



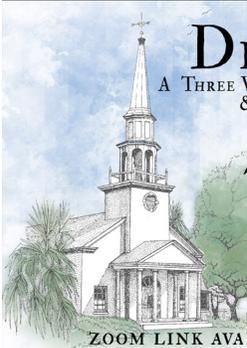
Worship Online. A livestream of the 10:30A worship service is available every Sunday at sspres.org/livestream. A recording of the worship is available immediately afterwards for viewing anytime. To hear sermons online, visit sspres.org/sermons or subscribe to the St. Simons Presbyterian Podcast on iTunes 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-F from 9A-4P (205 Kings Way).

venmo





DISCOVER SSPC

A THREE WEEK CLASS FOR VISITORS, NEW MEMBERS & THOSE WHO JUST WANT TO LEARN MORE.
LED BY REV. ALAN DYER

*What does it mean to be Presbyterian?
How do I join the Church?
Where can I get involved?*

JANUARY 2, 9 & 16
9:30 AM | YOUTH SUITE
ZOOM LINK AVAILABLE AT [SSPRES.ORG/DISCOVER](https://sspres.org/discover)



2022 Chancel Flowers

FLOWER SIGNUP CHART IN BACK HALLWAY
EMAIL DEDICATION INFO TO ADA@SSPRES.ORG



PAJAMA PARTY

JAN 21 6-9PM

COME JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL PJ PARTY! THIS IS AN EVENT FOR SSPC CHILDREN 5TH GRADE AND UNDER. CHILDREN 2 AND UNDER WILL BE IN THE NURSERY. CHILDREN IN PRESCHOOL WILL PARTICIPATE IN AGE APPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES. CHILDREN IN K THROUGH 5TH GRADE MAY BRING ONE GUEST (GUEST'S PARENTS NEED TO COMPLETE REGISTRATION AS WELL).

CHILDREN WEAR PAJAMAS AND PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES, GAMES, DANCES, AND CRAFTS. WE SERVE A PANCAKE SUPPER AND WATCH A MOVIE!

NURSERY PROVIDED | SIGNUP AT [SSPRES.ORG](https://sspres.org)



SAVE THE DATE

Kirkin o' the Tartan

January 23rd, 2022
8:30 am & 10:30 am Worship

This Week | December 26 - 31

Sunday, December 26

10:30 am **Traditional Worship** - Sanctuary

Monday, December 27

OFFICE CLOSED

6:30 pm **Al-Anon Meeting** - John Law

Tuesday, December 28

No Activities Planned for This Day

Wednesday, December 29

No Activities Planned for This Day

Thursday, December 30

No Activities Planned for This Day

Friday, December 31

OFFICE CLOSED

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

Source: Parts of today's liturgy are adapted from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion.



Celebrating Authors

OF ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN

As part of our year-long 75th Anniversary, the SSPC Library is assembling an exhibit of publications from all our Church Member Authors, both past and present. This exhibit will be displayed in a carousel just beyond the Library stained-glass doors.

To include your publications in this exhibit and for additional information please contact Jean Sucher:

jeansucher@comcast.net
912-638-8596 (phone) 912-258-5065 (text)

To Ponder Prayerfully

Still Sing

“L

AFTER THE ANGELS,

AFTER THE STABLE,

AFTER THE CHILD,

THEY WENT BACK...

AS WE ALWAYS MUST,

BACK TO THE WORLD THAT DOESN'T UNDERSTAND

OUR TALK OF ANGELS AND STARS

AND ESPECIALLY NOT THE CHILD.

WE GO BACK COMPLAINING THAT IT DOESN'T LAST.

THEY WENT BACK SINGING PRAISES TO GOD!

WE DO HAVE TO GO BACK,

BUT WE CAN STILL SING THE ALLELUIAS!

-Ann Weems

St. Simons Presbyterian Church

Ministers: All members of the church

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Bob Harper

Treasurer

Iris Ellis

Children's Choir Director

Kendall McDonald

Worship Tech Specialist



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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