

Service for the Lord's Day

ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"The Magi Journeying to Bethlehem"

Cappella Palatina di Palermo, Italy

1st Sunday after Christmas Day

December 31, 2017 | 11:00 am Traditional Service

Greeter

D.A. Martin

Ushers

Emma Hidalgo
& Team

Acolyte

Kate Head

WE GATHER TO PRAISE

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

INTROIT (147)

Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

Tom Haughney, Frank Lea, & Bud Longley

GATHERING WORDS

One: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

We thank God for your presence with us in worship today as we prepare our hearts and minds for a new year as the church of Jesus Christ. If you are looking for a home for your faith, we would be delighted to welcome you into this church family. Please let us know of your desire to join. God bless you and keep you.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Bob Brearley

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

D. Paxton

In Dulci Jubilo

Dr. Emri Comer, Organist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

D. A. Martin

One: We have come to praise God, who has done wonderful things among us.

ALL: In Jesus, the Christ, God has shown us love, giving light for our darkness, and strength for all our days.

One: Gather together to worship the Almighty, bow before God in prayer. Open your hearts to God's saving word.

ALL: Arise, shine, for your light has come!

One: Our God is worthy of our praise. Rejoice in the Lord always.

*OPENING HYMN 134

ANTIOCH

* Please stand if able.

Joy to the World

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (ALL)

Rev. Alan Dyer

Eternal God, by a star you led magi to the worship of your Son. Guide the nations of the earth by your light, that the whole world may see your glory. You sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and baptize us once again with your Spirit. Forgiven and renewed, may we show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ. Hear our prayers, O 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.

WE SHARE OUR LIFE & GIFTS

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PREPARATION FOR PRAYER (142)

UNE JEUNE PUCELLE

Twos in the Moon of Wintertime

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.

OFFERTORY

The Very First Christmas Day
Dr. Emri Comer, Organist

C. Gassman

The offering of material goods in worship is a corporate act of self-dedication in response to God. It expresses thanksgiving to God, the giver of life and all goods, and the redeemer from sin and evil. During public worship, at an appropriate time, and as an act of thanksgiving, the tithes and offerings of the people are gathered and received.
-The Directory for Worship, PCUSA

*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

Isaiah 60:1-3, 18-22

Page 1155 OT

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

John H. Hopkins, Jr.

We Three Kings

Dr. Emri Comer, Organist

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

Page 1497 NT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

Rev. Bob Brearley

"Following Yonder Star"

"People have an idea that the preacher is an actor on a stage, and they are the critics, blaming or praising the preacher. What they don't know is that they are the actors on the stage; the preacher is merely the prompter standing in the wings, reminding them of their lost lines."

—Søren Kierkegaard

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (ALL)

Ephesians 3:17b-21

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 150

DIX

As With Gladness Men of Old

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE (601)

DANISH AMEN

Amen

POSTLUDE

Spiritual

Go, Tell It on the Mountain
Dr. Emri Comer, Organist

In the Benediction we are assured of God's peace and blessing; we seek to follow Christ's way, sustained by power of the Holy Spirit. God calls the church to join the mission of Christ in service to the world. As we engage in that mission, we bear witness to God's eternal reign.

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 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.

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

Manna House

January 1

Mondays
1st

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



What a better way to start off the new year than by helping to serve those in need within our community. All are invited and we hope to see you there!

UPCOMING CONCERTS!

Davidson College Jazz Ensemble & Orchestra

Tues, January 9 | 7:30pm

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

Contact Rhonda Hambright
rhonda@sspres.org

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Owen & Moley Súilleabháin in Concert with Mum!

Sat, January 13 | 7:30pm

Sacred Celtic Chants,
Original Songs & Stories
filled with humor &
authenticity.

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Interested in being of service?

Congregational

CARE TEAM

Please visit our website to learn about all the ways you can help or contact Molly Macaulay at (912) 223-6514 or mmmpr@bellsouth.net



This Week | Dec 31 - Jan 6

Today, Dec 31

8:30 am **Chapel Service** - Sanctuary
9:00 am **Coffee Hour & Breakfast** - Social Hall
9:30 am **Sunday School** - Various Locations
11:00 am **Traditional Service** - Sanctuary

Monday, Jan 1 - Church office closed

9:00 am **Manna House** - 1408 G. Street Brunswick
8:00 pm **AA Meeting** - Britt Room
8:00 pm **Al-Anon Meeting** - John Law Room

Wednesday, Jan 3

7:00 pm **Chancel Choir** - Sanctuary

Thursday, Jan 4

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, Jan 5

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

Sunday School Classes at 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

Thank you from Staff: We would like to extend our gratitude for all of the delicious and thoughtful gifts that we received in the office this year for Christmas. What a blessing you all are to us and this church. We pray that every member of our congregation had a wonderful holiday full of many blessings and memories that will be cherished. We look forward to all that God has in store for us in the upcoming new year!

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. Please be sure that you provide the information you would like printed in the bulletin to Caroline Kittle (caroline@sspres.org) at least one week prior to your date.

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.

To Ponder Prayerfully

The World Still Knows

“**A**ND THE WORLD STILL KNOWS THOSE PERSONS
WISE ENOUGH
TO FOLLOW A STAR,
THOSE WHO DO NOT CONSIDER THEMSELVES TOO INTELLIGENT
TOO POWERFUL
TOO WEALTHY
TO KNEEL TO A CHILD.
THE NIGHT IS STILL DARK,
BUT BY THE LIGHT OF THE STAR,
EVEN TODAY
WE CAN STILL SEE
TO KNEEL TO A CHILD.”

— Ann Weems

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
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Frieda Warner
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Leslie McCracken
Clerk of Session

Anne Aspinwall
Chair of Deacons

Rev. Jann Briscoe
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Youth Ministry
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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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