

Service for the Lord's Day

ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Prepare the Way
Jan Richardson

Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021 | 10:30 am Traditional Service



WE GATHER TO PRAISE

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

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.



Advanced listening technology is available for those with a hearing impairment. Please locate an usher for assistance.



We extend a special welcome to any visitors worshiping with us today. Please help us get to know you better by filling out the online friendship register using the QR code located in the pew racks.

The Call to Worship is a reminder that, while worship is something we do, we do it as a response to what God has already done. God calls us to worship. We respond to God's call with praise, confession, gratitude, and wonder.

INTROIT

Comfort, Comfort Now My People
Chancel Choir

GENEVAN 42

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. Following the children's moment at the 10:30 AM worship, children ages Preschool (3 years) to 2nd Grade are invited to go with Children's Ministry staff for Children's Chapel. 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

Oh, Come, Emmanuel
Amy Bishop, Organist

arr. Bender

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jeff Shiver

One: I am sending a messenger, says the Lord,

ALL: to prepare the way before me.

One: Even now, a voice is crying out:

ALL: Prepare the way of the Lord!

One: Let us worship God.

*OPENING HYMN 92 *While We are Waiting, Come*

WAITING (Cason)

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (ALL)

Rev. Annie Franklin Arvin

Refining God, You have sent us prophets and we have not listened. We have not always determined what is best or made way for Your reign in our lives, our church, and our society. Forgive us, we pray, and renew Your covenant within us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Silence for Personal Confession

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

*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.

WE SHARE OUR LIFE & GIFTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

*Ginnie Schroeder
Jennifer Moore Griner (Jeremiah and Heidi)*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*The Whatley Family:
William, Lexie, Eloise, Clara Mae, and Alice*

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PREPARATION FOR PRAYER 90

Wait for the Lord (Psalm 27)
Chancel Choir

Berthier

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.

"We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. Whoever is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies." -Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Advent wreath is a Christian tradition borrowed from the Germanic peoples who placed candles on evergreens in the depth of winter. The four candles of the Christian Advent wreath celebrate each of the four Sundays that precede Christmas.

OFFERTORY

Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands
Chancel Choir

Kaan/Raney

*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.*

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

WORD FOR CHILDREN

*All children are invited to come forward at the pastor's invitation.
Following the Word for Children, children Preschool-2nd grade may leave for KidZ Worship.*

CHILDREN'S LITANY OF PARTING

Leader: We now go our separate ways.

Congregation: May God be with you there.

Children: May God be with you here.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16
pg 1232 OT

Jeff Shiver

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Luke 1:57-79
pg 1589 NT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

Preparing the Way for Christmas: Surrender

Rev. Alan Dyer

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (ALL)

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by
the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the
third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from
thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in
the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life
everlasting. Amen.

Though the Bible is the
unique and authoritative
witness to Jesus Christ
and God's word to us,
Presbyterians believe it
requires the power and
illumination of the Holy
Spirit for it to become
God's living word within us.
This prayer calls
upon the Holy Spirit to
silence in us any voice but
God's own, that we may
receive with joy what God
is saying to us.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 109

MERLE'S TUNE

Blest Be the God of Israel (Song of Zechariah)

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

Come, Come Emmanuel

COME, COME EMMANUEL

POSTLUDE

Watchmen, Tell Us of the Night

arr. Hayes

Amy Bishop, Organist

The invitation to the Lord's Supper is extended to all who desire to follow Christ, remembering that access to the communion table is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. Even one who has doubts or whose trust is wavering is invited to the table in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Christ Jesus.



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. 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-F from 9A-4P (205 Kings Way).

venmo



ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Advent Calendar

- DECEMBER 8** • *Caroling on the Trolley* • 4:30PM
- DECEMBER 12** • *Children & Bells in Worship* • 10:30AM
A Christmas Carol at The Ritz • 2:15PM
With the Try Something New Group, Children, & Youth
- DECEMBER 17 & 18** • *Live Nativity* • 6PM & 7PM
- DECEMBER 19** • *A Festival of Lessons and Carols* 10:30AM
Chancel Choir and Chamber Orchestra
- DECEMBER 21** • *Longest Night Service* • 7PM
- DECEMBER 24** • *Candles & Carols Service* • 4PM
Candles & Carols Service • 5:30PM
Candlelight & Communion Service • 10PM
- DECEMBER 26** • *Carols with GIYO Ensemble* • 10:30AM

For detailed information on events,
please visit our website at sspres.org/events

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Jennifer Moore Griner

Originally from Tifton, GA; Jennifer and her husband David (not pictured) attended Valdosta State University. Work took them to Savannah, GA where they lived for 4 years. They moved to Saint Simons Island after the birth of their second child to be closer to family. Jeremiah (5) is attending kindergarten at Saint Simons Elementary and Heidi Kipling (3) stays at home with mom. The Griner family has lived on the island for 5 years now and they have no plans of ever leaving!



Virginia "Ginnie" Schroder

Though born in Atlanta, Ginnie raised her two sons and worked on Long Island, NY for over 45 years. After vacationing on St. Simons frequently throughout those years, she became a full-time resident in 2007. A retired educator, Ginnie enjoys reading, playing bridge, music, writing and learning even more about this beautiful area. Her sons now live in Colorado, where she visits as often as possible. She looks forward to worshipping with the friends she has made at St. Simons Presbyterian Church.



Sunday, December 5

- 8:30 am **Early Worship** - Sanctuary
- 9:30 am **Sunday School** - Various Locations
- 10:30 am **Traditional Worship** - Sanctuary
- 5:00 pm **Youth Gathering** - Youth Suite

Monday, December 6

- 9:00 am **Manna House** - 1408 G Street
- 10:00 am **Chancel Ensemble** - Sanctuary
- 10:30 am **Congregational Care Soup Making** - Kitchen
- 3:00 pm **Congregational Life Meeting** - Upper Room
- 6:30 pm **Al-Anon Meeting** - John Law

Tuesday, December 7

- 7:00 am **Youth Breakfast Devotion** - SSI Chick-fil-a
- 9:30 am **Staff Meeting** - Upper Room
- 10:00 am **PW Planning Committee Meeting** - Britt Room
- 1:00 pm **Ladies Bridge Group** - Library

Wednesday, December 8

- 10:00 am **Men's Bible Study** - Upper Room
- 4:00 pm **KidZ Music Practice** - Sanctuary
- 4:30 pm **Caroling on the Trolley** - Meet on Front Steps
- 6:00 pm **Chancel Ringers** - Sanctuary
- 7:00 pm **Chancel Choir** - Sanctuary

Thursday, December 9

- 10:00 am **Grief Group** - John Law
- 10:00 am **Ladies Bible Study** - Upper Room
- 1:00 pm **Hospice Grief Group** - John Law

Friday, December 10

No Activities Planned for This Day

Chancel Flowers: The chancel greenery is given to the glory of God by the greenery committee.

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

Angel Tree: Friendly reminder that Angel gifts are due by December 6th and can be dropped off in the church office M-F from 9am-4pm.

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Family Advent - Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch
9:30 am / Social Hall

Advent Video & Scripture Series - Maranatha!
9:30 am / Upper Room

To Ponder Prayerfully
Surrender

“**L**EARN WHAT LOVE IS. IT IS COMPLETE AND UTTER SURRENDER. THAT’S A BIG WORD, SURRENDER. IT DOESN’T MEAN LETTING PEOPLE WALK ALL OVER YOU, TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOU. IT’S WHEN WE SURRENDER CONTROL, LET GO OF OUR EGOS, THAT ALL THE LOVE IN THE WORLD IS THERE WAITING FOR US. LOVE IS NOT A GAME, IT’S A STATE OF BEING.”

-Henry Miller

In each of the Gospels, the story of Jesus is intertwined with that of his cousin John, the one whom the prophets foretold would come to “prepare the way of the Lord.” And so this Advent we are focusing our attention in worship on the story of John the Baptist. As we follow John’s journey through the scriptures we are invited to consider how his witness long ago helps to “prepare the way” in our own hearts to receive the Good News of the Christ child yet again.



St. Simons Presbyterian Church

Ministers: All members of the church

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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.

205 Kings Way | St. Simons Island, GA 31522 | 912-638-2220