

# Service for the Lord's Day

ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*Matthew's House*

Kevin Burns

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020 | 10:30 am Outdoor Worship Service



Masks are required for all adults and strongly encouraged for children over the age of two. Disposable masks are available at welcome table.



Please maintain at least 6 feet from others not in your party while sitting and standing.



We extend a special welcome to any visitors worshipping with us today. Please help us get to know you better by filling out the online friendship register using the QR code below or by visiting [sspres.org](http://sspres.org)



Advent is a season of hope and joy, anticipating the fulfillment of the rule of God in Christ's coming in the future. The scriptures read, the liturgical texts used, and the music sung all convey this sense of expectant, joyful longing for the fulfillment of God's promised reign.

# WE GATHER TO PRAISE

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

## INTROIT

*Prepare the Way of the Lord*  
Congregation

PREPARE THE WAY

*Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,  
and all people will see the salvation of our God.*

## GATHERING WORDS

One: The Lord be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Alan Dyer

*Welcome to outdoor worship with St. Simons Presbyterian Church. We are so glad that you are worshipping with us today. Please be sure to wear your mask throughout our worship time as well as silence your cell phones prior to the start of worship. As always, all **children are welcome** in worship. Following the anthem, children ages Preschool (3 years) to 2nd Grade are invited to go with Children's Ministry staff for KidZ Worship. Unfortunately, at this time, an on-site nursery is not available.*

## PRELUDE

*Sheep May Safely Graze*  
Amy Bishop, Pianist

J. S. Bach

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Annie Franklin Arvin

One: God-with-us, Immanuel,

**ALL: comes to give us our own Holy Family,**

One: here with the body of Christ this day.

**ALL: Let us rejoice and be glad!**

One: Let us worship God together!

## \*HYMN (*found on page 4*)

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

## \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (ALL)

Holy and loving God, we have dwelt in darkness and preferred it to the light; we have been proud of our accomplishments and despaired over our shortcomings. Smooth down the mountains of our pride, and lift up the valleys of our doubts. Open a path in the wilderness of our lives that we might find our way to You again. Refine us and prepare us once again for life in Your kingdom.

*Silence for Personal Confession*

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

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In the Assurance of Pardon we are reminded once again that God's grace sets us free from guilt and fear. As Walter Brueggemann says, "You can keep singing. You can keep hoping. And because you sing and hope, you can act in freedom, unburdened, uncoerced, unafraid, and without cynicism. The song goes on. It is a subversive, revolutionary song. And we get to sign on to sing and to live it... unafraid!"

\*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

ADVENT SONG

*Light One Candle*  
Congregation

Sleeth

*Light one candle for Hope, one bright candle for Hope, He brings hope to all the world, he comes, he comes. Light one candle for Peace, one bright candle for Peace, He brings peace to all the world, He comes, He comes.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT

*Andrew, Becca, Mary West, Millie, & Margaret Drew Turner*

ANTHEM

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*  
Chancel Choir Ensemble

Praetorius

*Following the Anthem, children Preschool-2nd grade may leave with Ms. Frieda for KidZ Worship.*

SCRIPTURE READING **Matthew 1:18-25**

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

*Christmas Vacation: Matthew's House*

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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

POST COMMUNION PRAYER 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

\*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 GO FORTH TO SERVE

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Wake, Awake for Night is Flying*

arr. Callahan

Amy Bishop, Pianist

## SUPPORT ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

venmo



**Ways to Give.** You can give your tithes and offerings 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 left 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).

# Prepare the Way, O Zion 106



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!  
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.  
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.  
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.  
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3–5 and Psalm 24:7–10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812; rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958;  
 adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.

MUSIC: *Then Swenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930  
 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN  
 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain



ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# ADVENT CALENDAR

**December 16**

Caroling Car Parade - 4:30PM  
*meet in SSPC back parking lot*

Chancel Ensemble Carols - 6:15PM  
*under portico in back parking lot at SSPC*

**December 18 & 19**

Live Nativity - 6PM & 7PM  
*front lawn at SSPC*

**December 24**

Lessons & Carols Service - 4:30PM  
*front lawn at SSPC & online*

**Advent Sermon Series**  
Sundays, beginning Nov. 29

*Christmas Vacation*

TOUR OF HOMES:  
Mark, Matthew, John & Luke

# This Week | Dec 6 - Dec 11

## Today, December 6

- 8:30 am **Live Stream Worship** - Online
- 9:00 am **Combined Sunday School** - Zoom
- 9:00 am **Britt Class** - Online
- 10:30 am **Outdoor Worship** - Frederica Academy
- 6:30 pm **Youth Gathering** - The Head's House

## Monday, December 7

- 10:00 am **Chancel Ensemble** - Location Varies

## Tuesday, December 8

- 9:30 am **Staff Meeting** - Zoom
- 10:00 am **One-derful Morning Glories Circle** - Zoom
- 12:00 pm **Lunch Bunch vCircle** - Alex Binkney's Yard
- 2:00 pm **Circle of Esther** - Location Varies

## Wednesday, December 9

- 10:00 am **Men's Bible Study** - Zoom
- 1:30 pm **Hands & Heart Quilting Ministry** - Youth Suite
- 7:00 pm **Chancel Ringers** - Social Hall

## Thursday, December 10

- 10:00 am **Ladies Bible Study** - 218 Kings Way
- 10:00 am **Grief Group** - Upper Room

## Friday, December 11

**No Activities Scheduled for this Day**

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

**Christian Celebration:** We share in celebration with Scott and Madelynne Risi on the birth of their first son, Colson Oliver Risi, who was born on Sunday, November 22. Colson was welcomed with great joy by his two older sisters, Draper Evans & Charleston. Welcome to the world, Colson!



## CAR-OLING & CAR PARADE

December 16 | 4:30 PM  
meet in back parking lot at SSPC

**SIGN UP AT SSPRES.ORG TO LET US KNOW YOU'RE COMING**



AN EVENING OF

## Christmas Carols

With the Chancel Ensemble

Wednesday, Dec 16 | 6:15PM

UNDER THE PORTICO IN THE BACK PARKING LOT AT SSPC

WEAR A MASK. ALL ARE WELCOME!



live

## Nativity volunteers

ALL AGES WELCOME!

friday & saturday  
DECEMBER 18TH & 19TH  
6PM & 7PM

**SIGN UP AT SSPRES.ORG/LIVE-NATIVITY**



Advent Devotions with SSPC

## Home to Home

watching & waiting

A book of daily Advent devotions written by members & friends of St. Simons Presbyterian Church

DOWNLOAD AT SSPRES.ORG  
OR PICK UP A COPY IN CHURCH OFFICE



ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN

## 2021 Chancel Flowers

**SIGN UP AT SSPRES.ORG/FLOWERS**



## THE SEASON OF GIVING IS NEAR

GIVING AN ANIMAL IS LIKE GIVING SOMEONE A SMALL BUSINESS, PROVIDING WOOL, MILK, EGGS AND MORE. ANIMAL DONATIONS CAN PROVIDE FAMILIES A HAND UP, INCREASING ACCESS TO MEDICINE, SCHOOL, FOOD AND A SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD.

**VISIT SSPRES.ORG TO GIVE THROUGHST SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

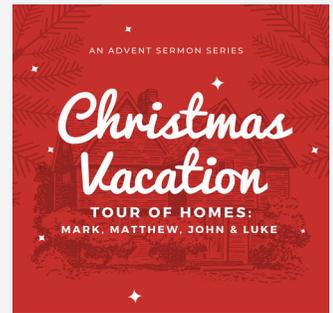


To Ponder Prayerfully  
**God With Us**

“CHRISTMAS AT MATTHEW’S HOUSE IS A HUGE GATHERING OF EXTENDED FAMILY. BUT IT IS ALSO A HOME WHERE THOSE WHO WOULD OTHERWISE BE SEEN AS OUTSIDERS ARE NOT ONLY WELCOME BUT HAVE PRIDE OF PLACE. THEIR PICTURES ARE ALSO ON THE WALL. THEY BELONG HERE ALONG WITH ALL THE REST. WHEN WE SAY THAT JESUS IS IMMANUEL - ‘GOD WITH US’ - IT TURNS OUT THAT ‘US’ IS NOT JUST THE EXTENDED FAMILY OR THE ONES WHO SHARE A BIRTHRIGHT. THE ‘US’ IS ALL OF US: THE WHOLE HUMAN FAMILY.”

-Cynthia M. Campbell  
*Christmas In The Four Gospel Homes*

In a typical year, many of us would spend the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas visiting people’s homes for Christmas parties, gift exchanges, and cookie decorating. When we visit someone’s home, it’s always interesting to see how each person decorates their space in a way that is unique to them. Just like our own homes are distinctly filled and decorated with things we cherish, each gospel is unique and quite different than the others. Some are filled with details while others are quite concise. Some are full of metaphors while others recount a time period in a man’s life. Each gospel is different, and each gospel points towards a different beginning of the Good News. This Advent season, come on vacation to visit Mark, Matthew, John, and Luke in their homes as we explore together where the Good News begins in each gospel.



**St. Simons Presbyterian Church**

*Ministers: All members of the church*

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*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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