

Service for the Lord's Day

ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Christ in the Wilderness', 1898

Briton Riviere

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026 | 10:30 am Worship Service

Ushers

Portia Hendrick
Buddy Hendrick
Elizabeth Shewell
Nancy Paris
Anne Aspinwall

Acolyte

Jack Callaway

WE GATHER TO PRAISE

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

We are glad you are with us in worship today and we ask that you silence your cell phones and other devices upon entering the sanctuary. Children are welcome in worship although a nursery is available in the children's hall at the rear of the church. Please ask an usher for guidance. Following the Word for Children those up to 2nd grade are invited to follow a staff member for Children's Chapel.

INTROIT

Praise His Holy Name!
Chancel Choir

Hampton

GATHERING WORDS

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Rachel Rhodes

THREE CHIMES

*The Three Chimes Represent
the Trinity-Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*

PRELUDE

Jubilation
Amy Bishop, Organist

Jason Payne

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Molly Macaulay

One: Blessed are those who do not hide from God,
whose lives are brought into the light of mercy.

**All: We come to the Lord, who forgives and restores,
who lifts the weight we were never meant to carry.**

One: When we are tempted to rely on our own strength,
to grasp for control, comfort, or certainty,

All: God meets us with truth, and shows us a better way.

One: The Lord is our hiding place and our help,
our guide through wilderness and testing.

All: We rejoice in the Lord and are glad.

Let us worship God, who surrounds us with steadfast love.

*OPENING HYMN 775

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me

WALK WITH ME

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Jim Jackson

Christian worship joyfully ascribes all praise and honor, glory and power to the triune God. In worship the people of God acknowledge God present in the world and in their lives. As they respond to God's claim and redemptive action in Jesus Christ, believers are transformed and renewed. In worship the faithful offer themselves to God and are equipped for God's service in the world. -PCUSA Directory for Worship

* Please stand if able.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (ALL)

Gracious and faithful God, we confess that we do not always trust your word. When we are hungry for security, we look for quick answers instead of daily bread from you. When we want power or certainty, we listen to voices that promise control instead of love. When the way is hard, we are tempted to choose what is easy rather than what is faithful. We confess that we sometimes keep silent about our sin, hide our struggles, and pretend we are stronger than we are. Forgive us, O God. Teach us to trust your word. Lead us through our wilderness places, and restore us by your mercy and grace.

Silence for Personal Confession

through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. **Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

*GLORIA PATRI 582

GLORY TO GOD

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. 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 Children's Chapel in the Children's Hallway on the other side of the Social Hall.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Psalm 32

One: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

All: **Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit covered.**

One: While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah

All: **Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

In the Assurance of God's Grace 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!"

One: Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

All: You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

One: I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

All: Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

One: Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

All: Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Precious Lord
Chancel Choir

Dorsey, arr. Sevier

SECOND READING

Matthew 4:1-11
pg 1499 NT

SERMON

“Walking into the Wilderness”

Rev. Rachel Rhodes

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (ALL)

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.

After we hear the good news, we stand to say what we believe in an Affirmation of Faith. Often these words come from the church's creeds and confessions. In these writings, we remember and tell the world who we are, what we believe, and how we hope to live according to God's Way.

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

Shepherd Me, O Lord
Amy Bishop, Organist

David Lasky

*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

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 799

I LOVE THE LORD, arr: Smallwood

I Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Hymn to Joy
Amy Bishop, Organist

Jason Payne

Prayer List

Joys

Kashey Odum

Deaths

Suzanne

Members

Charles Lewis

Becky Livingston

Gwen Mayberry

George Plotner

Ginnie Schroder

Jean Sucher

John Thompson

Nancy Vernon

Friends and Family

Karen Allen

Geraldine Clark

Allyson Jackson

Sarah Perkins

Sarah

Long-term Care

Rich Armstrong

Sue Chambless

Claudette French

Marcia Kester

Mary Lewis

Caroline & Dwight Plyler

Betty Lou Schoneker

Alison Schueneman

Frances Teel



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!



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, by completing a prayer request card and placing it in an offering plate, or by visiting sspres.org/prayer.



Worship Online. A livestream of the 10:30AM 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 envelopes can be found in the pews of 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-4PM (205 Kings Way).

venmo



SPIRITUAL FORMATION AT ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN

Mission

Manna House

*First Monday of Every Month.
1408 G Street, Brunswick, GA*

Help prepare, serve, and cleanup a meal for guests at "Manna House," a local soup kitchen ministry.

Missions

Share God's love with service locally and globally. Missions include Angel Tree Christmas Gifts, Hunger Action Team, and summer mission trips.

*Madelynne Risi at madelynne@sspres.org
or 638-2220.*

Children

Children's Chapel

Sundays: following the "Word for Children" during worship. (Pre K-2nd)

KidZ Crew

Wednesdays: (Preschool to Grade 5)

Faith, fun, and music.

Meet on the playground veranda at 4PM.

KidZ Ensemble (Grades 3 to 5)

Monthly on Sundays: Before KidZ Fellowship

Meet in the Music Attic at 4PM.

Use the Veranda Door

KidZ Fellowship (Grades 3 to 5)

Monthly on Sundays: Faith and

fun. Meet on the Veranda at 5PM.

Dara Pickren-Davis at dara@sspres.org or

638-2220

Youth

Youth Ensemble

Sunday evenings at 5:00 PM

Meet in the Music Attic -

Use the Veranda Door.

Youth Group

Sunday evenings at 6:00-8:00 PM

Meet on the Veranda.

Breakfast Devotion (Grades 6 to 12)

Tuesdays at 7:00AM at Chick-Fil-A SSI

Transportation to school is available.

Adults

Try Something New Ministry

A group that is all about loving, connecting, serving, learning, and celebrating together.

Nat Scott at Nat@sspres.org or 638-2220.

Discipleship

Sunday School

Begins at 9:30 AM in various locations

Sunday School classes are available for all ages.

Coffee will be served in the Britt Room.

:: Following the Call

Meets in the Upper Room

Nat Scott at Nat@sspres.org or 638-2220.

Men's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 10:00AM in the Upper Room

Men's Bible Study led by Nat Scott every Wednesday. Visitors are always welcome.

John Matthews at jhmatthews7@comcast.net.

Women's Bible Study/Prayer Group

Thursdays at 10:00AM in the John Law Room

Women's Bible Study led by Nat Scott every Thursday.

Gwen Mayberry gwenmayberry@gmail.com or 638-8711.

Presbyterian Women (PW)

All women are invited to join a PW Circle.

Circles meet for Bible Study each month. See

Something for Everyone for more group activities.

Ginny Connors at ginnyconnors1@gmail.com

or (912) 672-1916

Music

Choir

Choirs for all ages are available. See Children and Youth for graded choir schedule. Adults meet in the Sanctuary on Wednesday nights.

Handbells and Other Instrumentation

Handbells, chimes and instruments remain an important part of the ministry of St. Simons Presbyterian. For more information about the music ministry, please contact Rhonda Hambright or Suzanne Morrison.

Rhonda Hambright at rhonda@sspres.org or 638-2220.

Suzanne Morrison at suzanne@sspres.org

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care

To notify the church of illness, hospitalization, births, deaths, or prayer request, contact the church office at 912-638-2220 ext 8, or email pastoralcare@sspres.org. The first available pastor will notify you as soon as possible.

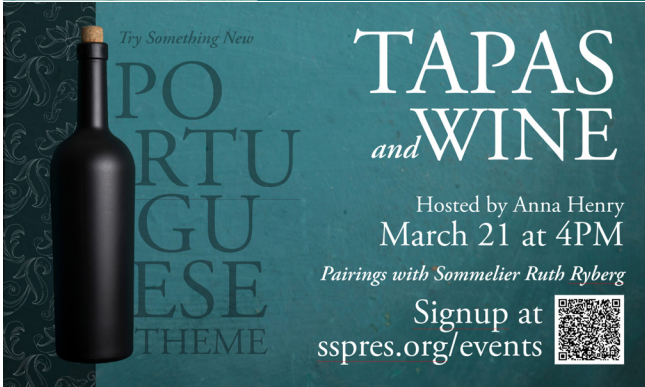


SSPC MISSIONS & OUTREACH
**COFFEE & CONVO
 SAFE HARBOR**

An opportunity to learn more and tour Safe Harbor, a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving vulnerable individuals and families in our community.

**March 16 | 10am
 1526 Norwich St**

signup at sspres.org/events


Try Something New

PORTUGUESE
TAPAS and WINE

Hosted by Anna Henry
 March 21 at 4PM

Pairings with Sommelier Ruth Ryberg

Signup at sspres.org/events




Try Something New

APRIL 7-9

experience
CHARLESTON
Registration Now Open!
 ...Deadline is March 15th...

INFO & SIGNUP AT
[SSPRES.ORG/EVENTS](https://sspres.org/events)




St. Simons Presbyterian

RAINBOW FOREST FALLS
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JUNE 9-11

Exploring the Nature of God

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN TO MEMBERS!
 WILL OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON APRIL 1ST

SSPRES.ORG/VBS




SUMMER CAMP
AT DOGWOOD ACRES

A Summer Camp through the Savannah Presbytery & Dogwood Acres, a PC(USA) Retreat Center, in Chipley, Florida!

\$275 PER PERSON
 SIBLING DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE!

14-19
JUNE 2026

RISING 2ND-12TH GRADERS
 register online at
[SSPRES.ORG/DOGWOOD](https://sspres.org/dogwood)



This Week | February 22 - 27

Sunday, February 22

- 8:30 am **Worship Service** - Sanctuary
- 9:00 am **Youth Confirmation** - Youth Suite
- 9:30 am **Sunday School** - Various Locations
- 10:30 am **Worship Service** - Sanctuary
- 11:45 am **Membership Committee** - Upper Room
- 5:00 pm **Middle School Youth** - Youth Suite
- 6:00 pm **Youth Dinner** - Britt Room
- 6:30 pm **High School Youth** - Youth Suite
- 6:30 pm **Youth Ensemble** - Music Attic

Monday, February 23

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

Tuesday, February 24

- 7:00 am **Youth Devotions** - Chick-fil-A SSI
- 9:00 am **TSN - Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation**
- 9:30 am **PW Leadership Council** - John Law
- 9:30 am **Staff Meeting** - Upper Room
- 7:00 pm **Island Concert** - Sanctuary

Wednesday, February 25

- 10:00 am **Men's Bible Study** - Upper Room
- 10:00 am **Early Music Ensemble** - Rhonda's Office
- 3:00 pm **Chancel Ensemble** - Sanctuary
- 4:00 pm **KidZ Crew** - Veranda
- 5:00 pm **Chancel Bells** - Bell Room
- 6:45 pm **Chancel Choir** - Sanctuary

Thursday, February 26

- 9:00 am **Congregational Care** - John Law
- 10:00 am **Women's Bible Study** - Upper Room

Friday, February 27

Office Closed

Chancel Flowers: Today's flowers are given Jack, Mary Ellis, Mom and Dad in honor of John on his 11th birthday on February 25th.



YOUTH MISSION TRIP

CROSS MISSIONS
 CHARLOTTE, NC

INFO & SIGNUP
SSPRES.ORG/EVENTS

SUMMER, 2026
JULY 5-10



Elders

Class of 2026

Sandi Goeldner
Kevin Lokey
Lee Malone
Bryan Neill
Bob Prater
Daryl Rabert
Carrie Wessel

Class of 2027

Taylor Brooks
Fred Griffith
Becky Livingston
Molly Macaulay
Bettye Russell
Mary Margaret Shiver
Doug Tingle

Class of 2028

Keith Griffin
Richard Hathaway
Buddy Hendrick
Denise Hidalgo
Ella Kent
Catherine McCrary
Matt Robinson

Deacons

Class of 2026

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

Class of 2027

Pattie Boykin
Randy Ellis
Portia Hendrick
Drew Holland
Bunnie Lynn
Judy Scarlett
Kathy Wade

Class of 2028

Wheeler Bryan, Jr.
Peggy Dean
Sean Hidalgo
Tripper Mansfield
Elizabeth Shewell
Debbie States
Emelie Tingle

Staff

Rev. Rachel Rhodes

Senior Pastor
rachel@sspres.org

Rhonda Hambright

Music Director
rhonda@sspres.org

Dara Pickren-Davis

Children & Family Ministry
dara@sspres.org

Donna Purdy

Administrative Assistant
donna@sspres.org

Doug Marshall

Worship Tech Specialist

Amy Bishop

Organist
amy@sspres.org

Alyssa Lee

Youth Director
alyssa@sspres.org

David Keen

Facility Manager
david@sspres.org

Becky Livingston

Clerk of Session

Rev. Dr. Jim Jackson

Interim Associate Pastor
jim@sspres.org

Suzanne Morrison

Handbells
suzanne@sspres.org

Jeannine Torbert

Finance /Administration
jeannine@sspres.org

Madelynne Risi

Mission & Outreach
madelynne@sspres.org

Tripper Mansfield

Portia Hendrick
Co-Chair of Deacons

Rev. Laurie Bentley

Parish Associate
laurie@sspres.org

Nat Scott

Congregational Life
nat@sspres.org

Ada Owens

Communications
ada@sspres.org

Ashley Biletzskov

Preschool Director
ashley@sspres.org

Bob Harper

Treasurer



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