

Service for the Lord's Day

ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Believe (Doubting Thomas touches Jesus' Hands)
Melani Pyke

Second Sunday of Easter
April 16, 2023 | 10:30 am Worship Service

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 the Lord
Chancel Choir

Wagner

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Laurie Bentley

THREE CHIMES

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

PRELUDE

He is Exalted
Amy Bishop, Organist

arr. Bock

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Anne Marie Stirewalt

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

ALL: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

One: We have not seen the risen Christ,

**ALL: But we see him in the lives of those transformed
by grace.**

One: We have not seen Jesus face-to-face,

**ALL: But we have seen him in the faces of everyone
whose love encourages us.**

One: We have not touched the wounds from the cross,

**ALL: But we have been called to bring healing
to the world.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE 240

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

ALLELUIA NO. 1

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Steve Goyer

The church is not an
institution but the gathered
community of faith.
"Wherever two or more
are gathered in my name,"
Jesus said, "there am I in the
midst of them."

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (ALL)

One: When we keep our faults and failures locked safely away, we have no need to confess. But God comes into our hearts when we least expect, so we can be filled with forgiveness, with hope, with peace. Please join me as we pray together, saying,

ALL: God of empty tombs and emptier people: when we hesitate to speak of your hope, forgive us, and give us a voice. When we find it difficult to love one another, forgive us, and give us fresh compassion. When we want to stand with the high and mighty, forgive us, and seat us next to the poor and oppressed. When we stay locked behind our fears and doubts, forgive us, and send us out to share your grace. When we cannot believe your Word of new life, forgive us, and fill us with your joy.

Silence for Personal Confession

One: Christ comes into every shadowed corner of our lives with the light of Easter. Christ comes into the locked rooms of our faults and gifts us with grace and hope. Christ comes to fill us with peace, so we may proclaim the good news of mercy and forgiveness for all. Thanks be to God. **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.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (ALL)

We believe that: We dwell in the one who raised Christ from the dead; though our bodies shall die, in Christ, we shall rise through the Spirit who brings us to life. We believe that: All who are led by the Spirit shall live as children of God, and heirs with Christ Jesus, God's adopted and chosen and loved. We believe that: All of the suffering we now must endure is nothing to the glory so soon to be revealed when creation itself is set free. We believe that: All of creation awaits the new birth, the fullness of redemption, through labor pains of love, and so we wait in patience and hope. We believe that: Neither death nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor trials in the present, nor any trial to come, neither height, nor depth, nor all of creation can ever separate us from the love of God poured out in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Every journey begins with a time of figuring out what to take along and what to leave behind. Similarly, the confession of sin is an opportunity to reflect on those things we're carrying around with us (anxiety, guilt, shame) that, with God's grace, we can safely leave behind.

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.*

FIRST READING

1 Peter 1:3-9
pg 1886 NT

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

All in the April Evening
Chancel Choir

Roberton

SECOND READING

John 20:19-29
pg 1686 NT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

"But What If You Could?"

Rev. Laurie Bentley

The preached Word or sermon is to be based upon the written Word. It is a proclamation of Scripture in the conviction that through the Holy Spirit Jesus Christ is present to the gathered people offering grace and calling for obedience.
-PCUSA Directory for Worship

WE SHARE OUR LIFE & GIFTS

OFFERTORY

Morning Has Broken
Amy Bishop, Organist

arr. Ashdown

*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.*

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 GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 634

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

To God Be the Glory

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata in G
Amy Bishop, Organist

Dubois

Prayer List as of April 7

Hospital

Mary Katherine Arens

Members

Mike Fixx

Nancy Fixx

Harlan Hambright

Catherine McCrary

Evan Nicholson

Karlene Thompson

Deryl Warner

Friends and Family

Addie Hamm

Wendy Stephens

Catherine Turner

Long-term Care

Joann Bobb

Kathy Chapman

Lynn Forsythe

Doris Hewell

Gail Kroeze

Bob Stanford

Hospice

Nancy Thrun

Lois Vogelmann



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, 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 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-F from 9A-4P (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.

Annie Franklin Arvin at annie@sspres.org

PAL Mentoring Program

Mentor children in Brunswick elementary schools as part of Positive Adult Leadership (PAL) Mentoring.

Richard Hathaway at thehathaways2@comcast.net.

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.

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 Fellowship (Grades 3 to 5)

Monthly on Sundays: Faith and fun. Meet on the Veranda at 5PM.
Frieda Warner at frieda@sspres.org or 638-2220.

Youth

Youth Group

Sunday evenings at 6:00PM.
Meet on the Veranda.

Breakfast Devotion (Grades 6 to 12)

Tuesdays at 7:00AM at Chick-Fil-A
Transportation to school is available for middle schoolers.

Annie Franklin Arvin at annie@sspres.org

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.

TGIF/Crossroads Ministry

Casual social gatherings for the 20s/30s/40s group. Location and dates vary. Kids welcome.

Madelynne Risi at Madelynne@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 made available for all.

:: What's So Amazing About Grace

by Philip Yancey
Led by Rev. Steve and Nat - Upper Room

:: Finding My Way Home

by Henri J.M. Nouwen
Rejoice Class- John Law

:: Cross Roads Video Discussion

Led by Madelynne Risi - Library
Frieda Warner at frieda@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) Circle

All women are invited to join a PW Circle.
Circles meet for Bible Study each month.
Nardis Kellar at nardisk@gmail.com or (912) 230-2254
Ginny Connors at ginnyconnors1@gmail.com or (608) 220-8481

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. If you need pastoral care after hours please contact one of our pastors.

Rev. Steve Goyer 904-718-7777
Rev. Annie Franklin Arvin 828-443-0299
Rev. Laurie Bentley 912-580-7903




COASTAL CHATS
WITH STEPHANIE CHEUNING

Come join us for an educational moment with Onehundredmiles to learn more about our local sea turtles and barrier island dynamics.

SEA TURTLES Wed, Apr 19 | 4:30pm | Upper Rm

BRIDGE
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH




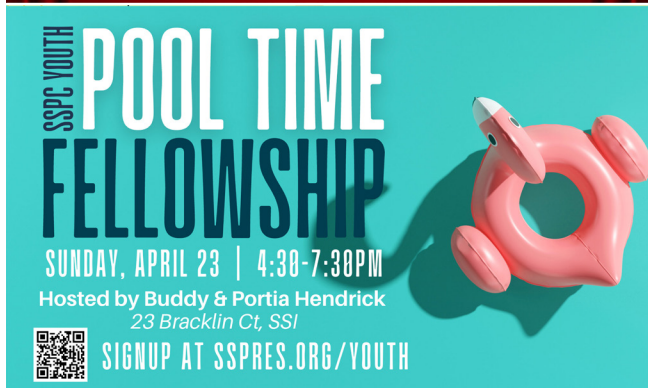
CHURCHWIDE VARIETY SHOW

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26TH

5:30 PM - DOORS OPEN FOR ART EXHIBITS
6 PM - WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER
6:45 PM - STAGE TALENT & VIDEO PRESENTATIONS

Children and Youth are encouraged to bring your talents into light on stage, screen, or display!

INFO & SIGNUP AT SSPRES.ORG/VARIETY

SSPC YOUTH POOL TIME FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAY, APRIL 23 | 4:30-7:30PM

Hosted by Buddy & Portia Hendrick
23 Bracklin Ct, SSI

SIGNUP AT SSPRES.ORG/YOUTH




VERS

STELLAR
SHINE JESUS' LIGHT

JUNE 13-15

Registration Now Open to All

VISIT SSPRES.ORG/VBS TO REGISTER OR VOLUNTEER




REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!!

"AMAZING GRACE"

WORSHIP & ART CAMP

July 17-21 :: 9-1PM

Ages: Rising 1st - 6th Graders

SIGN UP AT SSPRES.ORG/EVENTS



This Week | April 16 - April 21

Sunday, April 16

- 8:30 am **Worship Service** - Sanctuary
- 9:30 am **Adult Sunday School** - Upper Room
- 9:30 am **New Members Class** - Social Hall
- 10:30 am **Worship Service** - Sanctuary

Monday, April 17

- 12:00 pm **Music and Worship** - Upper Room
- 4:00 pm **Congregational Life** - Upper Room
- 5:30 pm **Diaconate Meeting** - Upper Room
- 6:30 pm **Al-Anon Meeting** - John Law

Tuesday, April 18

- 7:00 am **Youth Chick-fil-a Breakfast** - SSI Chick-fil-A
- 9:30 am **Staff Meeting** - Upper Room
- 4:00 pm **Session Meeting** - Britt Room

Wednesday, April 19

- 10:00 am **Grief Group** - John Law
- 10:00 am **Men's Bible Study** - Upper Room
- 11:00 am **Early Music Ensemble** - Rhonda's Office
- 1:30 pm **Hands & Heart Quilting Ministry** - Music Attic
- 3:00 pm **Sonshine for the Soul** - John Law
- 4:00 pm **Kidz Crew** - Veranda
- 4:00 pm **Chancel Ensemble** - Sanctuary
- 4:30 pm **Coastal Chats** - Upper Room
- 6:00 pm **Wednesday Night Supper** - Social Hall
- 6:30 pm **Chancel Bell Ringers** - Bell Room
- 7:00 pm **Chancel Choir** - Sanctuary

Thursday, April 20

- 10:00 am **Ladies Bible Study** - Upper Room

Friday, April 21

No Activities Scheduled for Today

Chancel Flowers: Chancel flowers are given today in honor of Mary Ellis Shiver on her 10th birthday by her parents.

Pastors Vacation: Rev. Annie Franklin Arvin will be away April 16-20.

Source: Part's of today's liturgy have been adapted from Thom Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies and Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Hymn 622, Neither Death nor Life.

To Ponder Prayerfully

Believing Thomas

“**B**UT WHAT DID THOMAS BELIEVE, EXACTLY? I WISH I KNEW. HOW COULD YOU BE CERTAIN OF ANYTHING AFTER A WEEK LIKE THAT?”

WHAT HAD BEEN CERTAIN BEFORE WAS WHAT ANYONE COULD SEE: DEAD MEN STAYED DEAD, BODIES STAYED IN TOMBS, CAESAR WAS LORD OF ALL THE EARTH, AND LOVE WAS POWERLESS BEFORE SOLDIERS WITH HAMMERS AND HUGE NAILS.

THEN SUNDAY HAPPENED, AND EVERYTHING WAS UP FOR GRABS. WHAT THE DISCIPLES SAW THAT WEEK AND THE WEEK AFTER WAS BEYOND BELIEF, SO THAT’S WHERE THEY WENT - BEYOND THE SAFE CERTAINTY OF BELIEF INTO THE SUBLIME UNCERTAINTY OF FAITH.”

-BARBRA BROWN TAYLOR : *ALWAYS A GUEST.*

St. Simons Presbyterian Church

Ministers: All members of the church

Rev. Dr. Steve Goyer

Interim Pastor
steve@sspres.org

Nat Scott

Congregational Life
nat@sspres.org

Rhonda Hambright

Music Director
rhonda@sspres.org

Jeannine Torbert

Finance /Administration
jeannine@sspres.org

Madelynne Risi

BRIDGE Director
madelynne@sspres.org

Rev. Annie Franklin Arvin

Assoc. Pastor of Youth & Mission
annie@sspres.org

Frieda Warner

Children's Ministry/CE
frieda@sspres.org

Amy Bishop

Organist
amy@sspres.org

Walter Lynn

Building Coordinator
walter@sspres.org

Judy Cauley

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Ada Owens

Dir. of Communications
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Leslie McCracken

Clerk of Session

Pat Heran

Chair of Deacons

Iris Ellis

Children's Choir Director

Doug Marshall

Worship Tech Specialist

Bob Harper

Treasurer



Savannah Presbyte



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

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



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