

Service for the Lord's Day

ST. SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



We Are All One in Jesus Christ
Soichi Watanabe, 2009

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026 | 10:30 am Worship Service

Ushers

Gail Dingerson
Linda Gilsrud
Tim Gilsrud
Tom Alexander
Iris Ellis
Randy Ellis

Acolyte

Teagan Neill

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

Make a Joyful Noise
Chancel Choir

Wagner

GATHERING WORDS

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

ALL: And also with you.

As we gather in worship, we remember and rejoice that God has appointed one day in seven to be kept holy, set aside as the occasion for the people of God to worship corporately. God has also commended daily worship by the people, whether gathered in assembly or at home. -PCUSA Directory For Worship

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Jim Jackson

THREE CHIMES

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

PRELUDE

Fanfare & Trumpet Tune on "Nettleton"
Amy Bishop, Organist

David Lasky

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Doug Tingle

One: When we look to the rock from which we were cut,
and to the quarry from which we were dug,
we see our ancestors Abraham and Sarah,
who were alone until God blessed them and made many!

**All: When we look to the cornerstone of the church,
we see Christ, the Son of the living God.
Beginning with Peter, God has made us into living stones.
God's house will stand forever.**

* Please stand if able.

*OPENING HYMN 2

Come, Thou Almighty King

ITALIAN HYMN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (ALL)

One: Merciful God, we confess that we have conformed our lives to the ways of the world and not the ways of your kingdom.

All: We think of ourselves too highly and regard others as lowly.

One: We exalt possessions and power, when you alone are to be exalted.

All: We let conflict prevail over grace and divisions over harmony.

One: Have mercy upon us, we pray.

All: Forgive and transform us, that we may be holy and acceptable to you, discerning and doing your will.

Silence for Personal Confession

Through Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE

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!”

*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

Dara Pickren-Davis

*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 100

One: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

**All: Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.**

One: Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

**All: Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;**

One: For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

ANTHEM

And the Father Will Dance
Chancel Choir

Mark Hayes

SECOND READING

Acts 2: 41-47
pg 1694 NT

SERMON

“Essentials of Church Health and Growth”

Rev. Dr. Jim Jackson

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

Chorale
Amy Bishop, Organist

Herbert Colvin

*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 321

AURELIA

The Church's One Foundation

*BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

POSTLUDE

Postludium Festiva
Amy Bishop, Organist

David Lasky



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



Prayer List

Joys

Birth of Lily Katherine
Edenfield daughter of
Abigail & David Edenfield
Confirmations of Youth:
Chase Busby, Hunter
Callaway, Graham Holland,
Liam Holland, Amelia
Macaulay, William Mansfield,
& Mary West Turner

Sorrows

Death of Leslie Carlton
Death of Rev. John Law
Death of Gerry Peck

Members

Tom & Susan Baltzell
Carissa Clark
Deanna Clark
Jerry Spencer
Audrey & David Stewart
John Thompson
Katie Williamson

Friends and Family

Jordan Bond
Tonia Pickren
Allyson Mayberry Jackson
Ben Wallace
Those affected
by drought & fire

Recent Global Conflict

Active deployed military
Anticipated deployment
Civilians & families affected
Worldwide places of unrest

Long-term Care

Rich Armstrong
Sue Chambless
Claudette French
Marcia Kester
Mary Lewis
Dwight Plyler
Betty Lou Schoneker
Alison Schueneman
Frances Teel
Revs. Jann Briscoe & Page Shelton

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.

You're Invited
Grand Opening Celebration
The Village
 Safe Harbor Center's Maternity Group Home
THURSDAY, MAY 7 | 1PM
 1716 Ellis Street
RSVP AT SSPRES.ORG



***GRADUATE SUNDAY**

On May 10, we will be recognizing our graduates **both high school & college.**

Please take a moment to give us some information about this great accomplishment!

PLEASE PROVIDE INFO ONLINE AT SSPRES.ORG/GRADUATE



Try Something New

TAPAS and WINE

Hosted by Anna Henry
 May 16 at 4PM
 Pairings with Sommelier Ruth Ryberg

Signup at sspres.org/events



FAREWELL
pastor **LAURIE**

Please join us for lemonade and petit fours as we celebrate Pastor Laurie on her last day as Parish Pastor at St. Simons Presbyterian Church.

MAY 17 | 11:30AM | SOCIAL HALL

If you would like to contribute toward a love offering for Laurie, please use the QR code or send a check to the church office, memo line: "Laurie Love Offering"

All are Welcome!



DONATIONS
 Supporting displaced families and emergency personnel responding to GA wildfires.

ITEMS NEEDED: NON PARISHABLE FOODS & SNACKS

Drop off in Church Office or Veranda

This Week | April 26 - May 1

Sunday, April 26

- 8:30 am **Worship Service** - Sanctuary
- 9:30 am **Sunday School** - Various Locations
- 10:30 am **Worship Service** - Sanctuary
- 5:00 pm **Youth End of Year Party** - Youth Suite

Monday, April 27

- 10:30 am **Pictorial Directory Committee** - Upper Room
- 6:30 pm **Al-Anon Meeting** - John Law

Tuesday, April 28

- 7:00 am **Youth Devotions** - Chick-fil-A SSI
- 9:30 am **Staff Meeting** - Upper Room
- 9:30 am **PW Leadership Council** - John Law

Wednesday, April 29

- 10:00 am **Hands and Hearts Ministry** - Music Attic
- 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 End of Year Party** - Veranda
- 5:00 pm **Chancel Bells** - Bell Room
- 6:45 pm **Chancel Choir** - Sanctuary

Thursday, April 30

- 10:00 am **Women's Bible Study** - Upper Room

Friday, May 1

Office Closed

Chancel Flowers: Today's flowers are in honor of Mary Ellis Shiver on her 13th birthday. Given by her parents and her brothers.

Christian Celebration: We share in the celebration with Abigail and David Edenfield on the birth of their daughter, Lily Katherine Edenfield, who joined us in this world on Wednesday, April 22. Welcome to the world, Lily!

Children's Ministry

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

ADULT VOLUNTEERS
 Wed, May 6 6-7:30 PM **OR** Sun, May 31 12-1:30 PM

YOUTH VBS VOLUNTEERS
 Sun, June 7, During Youth

Meals Provided
 RSVP at sspres.org/events




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 Hambricht

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)