Service for the Lord's Day

St. Simons Presbyterian Church



"We are Clay, You are the Potter"
Isaiah 64:8

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026 | 10:30 am Worship Service

Ushers
Anne Aspinwall
Buddy Hendrick
Bettye Russell

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 88 — *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* — VENI EMMANUEL
Chancel Choir

GATHERING WORDS

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

ALL: And also with you.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — Rev. Dr. Rachel Rhodes

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

Welcome to worship this first Sunday of Advent. Throughout this season, we prepare our hearts for the arrival of Jesus Christ into the world on Christmas, and we celebrate in faith that Christ is here and Christ will come again. During this season of Advent, we'll anticipate Christ's coming by seeking out the glimmers of light that shines in the darkness.

PRELUDE — *Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People* — arr. Louis Bourgeois
Amy Bishop, Organist

*CALL TO WORSHIP: — Tom Alexander

One: Let us rejoice in the house of the Lord!

All: Let us seek the goodness of God!

One: We stand on the cusp of the incarnation;
the promise fulfilled in Jesus the Christ.

All: While we wait, may there be hope within these walls;

One: While we wait, may we carry hope beyond these walls;

All: We will trust in the waiting, we will hope in the Lord!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH
The Blenkinsop Family
Mary, Elle, and Weezie

* Please stand if able.

*OPENING HYMN 93 — *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* — TRURO

Call to Confession — Rev. Dr. Rachel Rhodes

Prayer of Confession (All)

Holy One, in this season of anticipation, we feel your heartbeat growing stronger in us as you draw near, as your story begins anew in our hearts, as we find our place on the hillside with the shepherds to wait for the sign that you are here. Yet, we sometimes forget that you are always here, always near. Help us, Lord, become not just Advent people, but resurrection people, and ordinary day people. Help us find the holy in the dry seasons and the times when would rather fold our arms and turn our backs on your call to live wholly for you. In you, may we become a holy people, Lord, in these Advent days and all the days to follow.

Silence for Personal Confession

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

*Assurance of God's Grace

The Assurance of God's Grace proclaims God's faithfulness. Our lives are redeemed by the saving grace of God— the Gospel in miniature. God does for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

*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 List

Sorrows

Death of Betty Lou Schonecker

Death of Barbara Powers

Members

Hunter Callaway

Jane Day

Doug French

Bob Harper

Rodger Schoneker

Lisa, Santo, Min, & Parker Silva

John Thompson

Friends and Family

Tofik Beshir

Lamar and Beverly Booth

Allyson Jackson

Bobbi Kettelkamp

Toddy M

Family & friends of Barbara Powers

Sharon Richmond

Ken Trobaugh

Long-term Care

Rich Armstrong

Sue Chambless

Claudette French

Marcia Kester

Mary Lewis

Joyce Ledingham

Alison Schueneman

David Stewart

Frances Teel

Mary Tipton

Carrington Wilson

Rev.s Jann Briscoe and Page Shelton

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING **Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19**
pg 919 OT

One: This is the Word of the Lord.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* M. Praetorius
Chancel Choir

SECOND READING **Isaiah 64: 1-9**
pg 1161 OT

SERMON *"Pottery Lessons"* Rev. Nadine Ellsworth-Moran

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (ALL) adapted from the Confession of 1967

We believe that God expressed love for all humankind through Israel, whom God chose to be a covenant people and to serve him in love and faithfulness. When Israel was unfaithful, God disciplined the people and maintained the covenant through prophets, priests, teachers and true believers. These witnesses called all Israelites to a destiny in which they would serve God faithfully and become a light to the nations. The same witnesses proclaimed the coming of a new age, and a true servant of God in whom God's purpose would be realized. Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the fulfillment of the promise to Israel and the one sufficient revelation of God, the Word of God incarnate, to whom the Holy Spirit bears unique and authoritative witness. We believe Christ was in the beginning with God and is the beginning of the new creation and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

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 — *People, Look East* — arr. Mary McDonald
Amy Bishop, Organist

*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 83 — STUTTGART
Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE — *Prepare the Way, O Zion* — Paul Manz
Amy Bishop, Organist

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

2027 Generosity Campaign

OPERATING BUDGET
$1,900,000

Update as of November 20, 2026

Amount Pledged: $728,940.28 or **38%** of our Operating Budget.

Number of Pledges: 119

Thank you to everyone who has already made a commitment for 2027! If you haven't yet pledged, we invite you to read our 2027 Ministry Investment Report and make your pledge online or use a pledge card in your pew. sspres.org/giving

Advent Calendar

NOVEMBER 18 Advent Festival • 5PM

NOVEMBER 26 Thanksgiving Breakfast• 8AM

NOVEMBER 29 First Sunday of Advent

NOVEMBER 29 Angel Tree Gifts Due

DECEMBER 2 PW Christmas Luncheon • 11:30AM
Santa Express Gifts Due

DECEMBER 5 Handel's Messiah • 3PM
Golden Isles Community Messiah Chorus

DECEMBER 6 Second Sunday of Advent
KidZ Singing • 10:30AM
Handel's Messiah • 3PM
Golden Isles Community Messiah Chorus
Caroling Caravan • 5:30PM

DECEMBER 13 Third Sunday of Advent
Christmas Cantata (Choir & Orchestra) • 10:30AM
Please note that there is only one worship service on this day
Christmas Bake Sale • 11:30AM

DECEMBER 17 Lessons & Carols at Marsh's Edge • 4PM

DECEMBER 18 Live Nativity • 6PM & 7PM
Youth Lock-In • 8PM

DECEMBER 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent
Longest Night Service • 7PM

DECEMBER 24 Children & Family (Nativity Tableau) • 4PM
Candles & Carols • 5:30PM
Candlelight & Communion • 9PM

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



DECEMBER 6 • 5:15PM CAR LINE UP AT SSPC
Cookies & cocoa afterward! ALL ARE WELCOME!
SIGNUP AT SSPRES.ORG/EVENTS









This Week | November 29 - December 5

Sunday, November 29
- 8:30 am **Worship Service** - Sanctuary
- 9:30 am **Sunday School** - Various Locations
- 10:30 am **Worship Service** - Sanctuary
- 4:00 pm **High School Youth Ensemble** - Music Attic
- 5:00 pm **Youth Group Jekyll Lights** - Jekyll

Monday, November 30
- 6:30 pm **Al-Anon Meeting** - John Law
- 6:30 pm **Messiah Practice** - Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 1
- 7:00 am **Youth Devotions**- Chick-fil-A SSI
- 9:30 am **Staff Meeting** - Upper Room

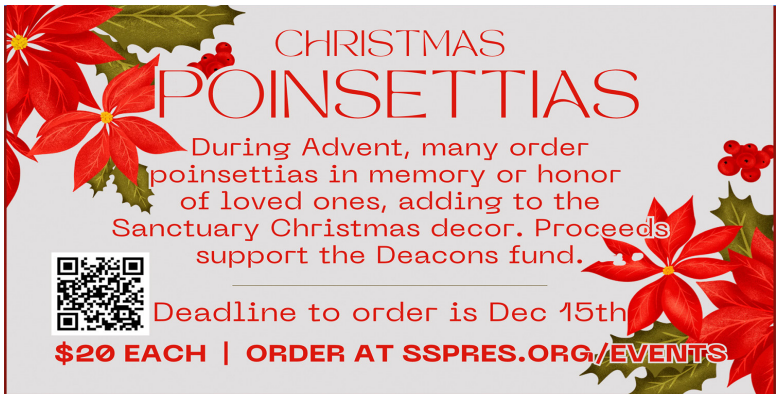
Wednesday, December 2
- 10:00 am **Grief Group**- Parlor
- 10:00 am **Early Music Ensemble**- Rhonda's Office
- 11:30 am **PW Christmas Luncheon**- Social Hall
- 3:00 pm **Chancel Ensemble**- Sanctuary
- 4:00 pm **KidZ Crew**- Veranda
- 5:00 pm **Chancel Hand Bells**- Bell Room
- 6:45 pm **Chancel Choir**- Sanctuary

Thursday, December 3
- 3:00 pm **Buildings and Grounds** -John Law

Friday, December 4
- **Office Closed**

Saturday, December 5
- 3:00 pm **Messiah Performance** -Sanctuary

Christmas Gift Drop-Off Reminder: Please drop off your ***Angel Tree gifts by Monday, November 30***, and your ***Santa Express gifts by Wednesday, December 2***, in the church office. Thank you for sharing Christmas joy!



St. Simons Presbyterian Church

Elders

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

Class of 2029
Tom Alexander
Greer Anderson
Ben Bryson
Bob Duncan
Beth Lemke
Elyse Stackhouse
Becca Turner

Deacons

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

Class of 2029
Lee Arnold
Melanie Barger
Brenda Dohn
Lynn Goldblatt
Alexa Golubski
Woody Sapp
Frank Stackhouse

Staff

Rev. Dr. Rachel Rhodes
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Doug Marshall
Worship Tech Specialist

Becky Livingston
Clerk of Session

Tripper Mansfield
Portia Hendrick
Co -Chair of Deacons

Bob Harper
Treasurer

SAINT SIMONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SAVANNAH PRESBYTERY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

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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