



South Aiken Presbyterian Church
1711 Whiskey Rd.
Aiken, SC 29803

Welcome!

Welcome to God-Encountered worship at South Aiken Presbyterian Church! We are thankful that you have been called to worship with us this morning. We believe all people are children of God. We believe that the redeeming grace of God can transform our lives by the power of the Holy Spirit. We believe all people are loved with a love that has no end in Jesus Christ.

Today, may you encounter Jesus Christ through Spirit-inspired worship including dynamic preaching, specific prayers, and beautiful music. May the blessings of the triune God give you joy and hope that can only come from God with us. Let us worship God!

(Please stand, if able, when indicated by an *)

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Anita Self (Pulpit Assistant, PA)

The Chiming (*Handbell is rung three times, for God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.*)

Introit

“Angels, From the Realms of Glory”

James Montgomery

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

***Call to Worship** (*Psalm 148*) (*Read responsively*):

One: Praise the LORD from heaven! Praise God on the heights!

ALL: Praise God, all of you who are God’s messengers! Praise God, all of you who comprise God’s heavenly forces!

One: Sun and moon, praise God! All of you bright stars, praise God!

ALL: You highest heaven, praise God! Do the same, you waters that are above the sky!

One: Let all of these praise the LORD’s name because God gave the command and they were created!

ALL: God set them in place always and forever. God made a law that will not be broken.

One: Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all you ocean depths!

ALL: Let all of these praise the LORD’s name because only God’s name is high overall. Only God’s majesty is over earth and heaven.

***Hymn #611**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Prayer of Confession (*Unison*): **Mighty and merciful God, you have called us to be your people and claimed us for the service of Jesus Christ. We confess that we have not lived up to our calling. We have been timid and frightened disciples, forgetful of your powerful presence and the strength of your Spirit among us. O God, forgive our foolish and sinful ways. As you have chosen us and claimed us in our baptism, strengthen us anew to choose Christ’s way in this world. Give us the Holy Spirit that each one in ministry may be provided with all the gifts of grace needed to fulfill our common calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.**

(Pause and confess your personal sin in silence to God)

PA: Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness *(Responsively):*

One: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

Many: We declare God’s promises, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

One: May the God of mercy, who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness,

ALL: And by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

PA *(Responsively):* As we hear and see the water poured into the baptismal font, let us embrace our forgiveness in Jesus Christ which sheds the light of Christ.

The Font *(Water is poured as a visual sign of the washing away of sin and the bonding to Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit.)*

***Responsive Hymn #581**

“Glory Be to the Father”

**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.**

***Passing the Peace**

PA: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you. *(share fist bumps, high fives, hugs, and other signs of forgiveness and peace to each other.)*

ENCOUNTERING THE WORD OF GOD

Children’s Moment

Michelle Lorio

Anthem

“Guide Us to the Perfect Light”

George Merrill

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons:

Old Testament Lesson: **Isaiah 63: 7-9** *(page 693 of the Old Testament in the Pew Bible)*

Epistle Lesson: **Hebrews 2: 10-18** *(page 219 of the New Testament in the Pew Bible)*

Gospel Lesson: **Matthew 2: 13-23** *(page 2 of the New Testament in the Pew Bible)*
(fill-in the blanks on page 7)

One: Hear what the Spirit of God says to the Church!

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Two steps forward...”

Rev. Jason Hammersley

*Hymn #121

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

*Affirmation of Faith (*Unison*):

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.

LIVING OUT GOD’S MESSAGE

Prayer of Intercession (*prayers for the Church, the world, the nation, the community and our loved ones.*)

Offertory

***Doxology: Hymn #606 “Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”**

**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**

***Prayer of Thanksgiving (with 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**

SENDING DISCIPLES INTO THE WORLD WITH THE GOOD NEWS TO SHARE

***Hymn #136**

“Go, Tell It On the Mountain”

***Charge and Benediction**

***Postlude:**

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

**Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.
I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I’ll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we’ve seen this journey through.**

Sermon Scripture Activity (New Revised Standard Version):

As Pastor Jason reads Matthew 2: 13-23, fill in the blank with the word you hear.

The Escape to Egypt

¹³ Now after they had left, an _____ of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to _____, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to _____ for the child, to destroy him.' ¹⁴ Then Joseph^[a] got up, took the child and his mother by _____, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of _____. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of _____ I have called my son.'

The Massacre of the Infants

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the _____ men,^[b] he was infuriated, and he sent and _____ all the _____ in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had _____ from the wise men.^[c] ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ 'A voice was _____ in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel _____ for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

The Return from Egypt

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the _____ suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of _____, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' ²¹ Then _____^[d] got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over _____ in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being _____ in a dream, he went away to the district of _____. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the _____ might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'



Help the Salvation Army!

Donate sweat pants, T-shirts, and underwear for men and women.

Please drop donations off at 322 Gayle Ave.

Calling all Knitters and Crocheters!

Our prayer Shawl Ministry started back up on September 8th after taking the summer off. We are meeting every second and fourth Thursday in the library at 1:30 pm. Besides shawls, we also make lap afghans, hats, baby blankets, etc.

If you don't know how to knit or crochet but want to learn, we would love to teach you!

We have both knitting needles and crochet hooks donated to us as well as *LOTS* of yarn and patterns, *so just come!* If you have questions, please contact Mary Bunch at (803) 270-5599.

Seeking Usher Volunteers

The church continues to need volunteers to serve as Ushers.

If you are interested in serving as an Usher, please contact Elsie Worpell at roger-elsie@bellsouth.net



PRAYER PARTNERS

Prayer is a powerful force for those in need of healing, comfort, strength, and encouragement. It is often as much of a blessing for those offering the prayers. If you have a prayer request during office hours (Monday-Friday 9am-1pm) please contact the church office at 648-9574 or at secretary@southaiken.org. After office hours please contact Emily Lockard at 649-0473 or at emilybim@bellsouth.net.

Has your Address Changed?

If so, we kindly ask that you provide us with your updated address and/or phone number so that we can update our Church records. Thank you

Join the Membership and Mission Team Ministry!

Meetings: 2nd Sunday of the month, 11:00am.
For more information, please email
[weimerchrystie@gmail.com!](mailto:weimerchrystie@gmail.com)

The Chapter Chat Book Club The Memory Box by Kathryn Hughes



**Thursday, January 5th,
at 2 pm in the Church
Library**
Call Maureen Dunn
(803) 443-8681 for
more info.



**Sanctuary flowers for this Sunday's
Service were given by Sandy Haines
"Blessed 2023 everyone!"**

Reserve your date by visiting the new
"Sanctuary Flowers" web page found
under the Worship menu tab, or call the
Secretary's office at 803-648-9574.

GriefShare Grief Support Ministry



What is GriefShare?

A weekly faith-based support group for those grieving the death of a loved one.

Where does it take place?

GriefShare meets in the SAPC Library (in the hallway behind the sanctuary).

When does it take place?

Each Monday from 5:30-7:30 PM.

When can I join?

The next cycle of GriefShare will begin on January 2, 2013.

Do I have to be a member of SAPC to participate?

No, all those who are grieving the death of a loved one are welcome.

Where can I find more information about GriefShare?

Visit the GriefShare website at griefshare.org.



January Collection (Mac & Cheese)

ACTS collection baskets are located in the narthex by the church entrance and across from the church office. Monetary donations may be made by placing a check made out to SAPC in the offering plate and noting 'ACTS' on the memo line. Thanks for sharing with others!

Also needed are plastic grocery bags in order for ACTS to bag up food to be do-



Prayer Requests

Weeks Family - for comfort

Parnell Family - in a season of grief

Baker Family - in season of grief.

McCrum & Bielnell Family - in season of grief

Bob R. recovering from open heart surgery

Kari & Roger M. for health concerns.

Mary Louise S. (Mary S.'s granddaughter) for health concerns.

Leslie C. for health concerns.

Doug M. (Linda B.'s nephew) for healing and comfort.

Kelli W. in her season of grief.

Peg M. (sister of Kit M.) successful surgery.

Ray P. (cousin of Sarah Scott) for healing and strength

Lynn S. - for comfort and wisdom after recent diagnosis.

Scott Family - in season of grief.

Dot M. - for comfort.

Gail (friend of Kitt M.) for healing as her treatments have changed.

Joyce & Jeff (Jayne B.'s best friends) mourning the loss of their son, Patrick.

Ethel H., Steve H.'s mother for relief from pain.

Steve & Linda H. for comfort.

Bob A., for comfort and strength

Georgia L. for healing.

Glady C. for healing.

Ron D. (Cyndy D's brother-in-law) for healing.

Debbi R. as new health issues emerge.

Phil L. for resolution of health issues.

Lois V., sister of Lyn V., for continuing improvement.

Peg P. for comfort.

The Linda E. Family for continued healing.

Jim and Shirley S. for healing.

Richard E. as he receives treatment.

Jayne B. confronting 2 health issues.

Barbara K. for healing.

Anita & Bob P. for healing.

Homebound Members

Email secretary@southaiken.org to change information or remove of name.

Volunteers Today

Pulpit Assistant - Anita Self

Ushers: Jenny Chase, Linda Blake, Elsie Worpell,
Julie McCrum

Sound: Scott Martin/Larry Hinson

Video: Haley Culp

Volunteers Next Week

Pulpit Assistant - Paul Ebel

Ushers: Mary Snyder, Maureen Dunn, Martin
McCrum, Julie McCrum

Sound: Dale Stephens

Video: TBA



Have you recently (or not so recently) lost something in the church or perhaps in the church Administration building?

If so, we have a "Lost and Found" basket which is located in the church secretary's office.

Please stop by or call (803-648-9574) to see if we may have it.

SAPC THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 1st

9:00a - Ezekiel Sunday School (Fellowship Hall)

9:00a - Presbyterian Cafe (Pastor's Conf. Rm)

10:00a - Worship Service (Sanctuary)

Monday, January 2nd

4:15p - Tall Pines Basketball (Gym)

5:30p - GriefShare (Library)

6:00p - Communications Committee (Pastor's
Conference Rm)

Tuesday, January 3rd

9:30a - The Sonshine Circle (Library)

4:00p - Tall Pines Basketball (Gym)

4:30p - Belles Canto (Music Room)

6:00p - Mighty Warriors of God (Gym)

6:30p - Property Committee Meeting (Pastor's
Conference Room)

7:00p - Scouts Meeting (Upstairs Scouts
classroom)

Wednesday, January 4th

12:00p - Bible Friends (Gym)

4:15p - Tall Pines Basketball (Gym)

7:00p - Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)

Thursday, January 5th

8:50a - SAPK Chapel (Sanctuary)

12:00p - Bible Friends (Gym)

2:00p - Chapter Chat Book Club (Library)

3:30p - Aiken Kinderchoir (Fellowship Hall)

5:30p - Aiken Coin Club (Fellowship Hall)

Friday, January 6th

10:00a - Ukulele Fellowship (Music Room)

12:00p - Bible Friends (Gym)

Sunday, January 8th

9:00a - Ezekiel Sunday School (Fellowship Hall)

9:00a - Presbyterian Cafe (Pastor's Conf. Rm)

10:00a - Worship Service (Sanctuary)

11:00a - Bethel Study (Fellowship Hall)

11:00a - Mission/Membership Meeting (Library)

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office: 803-648-9574

SAPK: 803-648-9895

Fax: 803-648-7972

Web Site: www.southaiken.org

Email: secretary@southaiken.org

Please turn off your phone during the service

Follow SAPC activities on Facebook

<https://m.facebook.com/SouthAikenPresChurch/>

Twitter: @SAPChurch and Instagram: southaikenpresbyterian4

SAPC STAFF

Rev. Jason Hammersley, Pastor: 648-9574: ext. 112

cell: 910-987-7230; pastor@southaiken.org

Secretary: ext. 100, secretary@southaiken.org

Robin Coward, Treasurer: ext. 103, treasurer@southaiken.org

Phillip Hare, Director of Music, philliphare@hotmail.com, cell (803) 221-8613

Scott Chappell, Pianist/Accompanist, scottchappell57@icloud.com, cell (803) 640-5102

Carina McGee, Communications Specialist. media@southaiken.org. cell: (803) 629-1070

Anthony Williamson, Youth Programs Coordinator. youth@southaiken.org

Kirk Callan, Sexton: kirkcallan@gmail.com

SAPC KINDERGARTEN STAFF

Michelle Lorio, Director of Children's Ministry/Kindergarten Director:

648-9895: ext. 107. sapkindergarten@gmail.com

Cissy Kelley, Assistant Kindergarten Director/ Childcare Coordinator:

648-9895 ext.110, cell (803) 270-5808. cissyksapk@yahoo.com