



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!

March 26, 2023

5th Sunday in Lent

10:00 am

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lyn VanDervort (Pulpit Assistant, PA)

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

Introit

“Change Our Hearts”

Cooney

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

***Call to Worship** (*Psalm 130*) (*Responsively*):

PA: Out of the depths we cry to you, O LORD.

ALL: Lord, hear our voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of our supplications!

PA: If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

ALL: But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

PA: We wait for the LORD; our soul waits, and in the Lord’s word we hope;

ALL: our soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning,

PA: O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with the Lord is great power to redeem.

ALL: It is the Lord who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

***Hymn #613 & #614**

“O Lord, Our Lord” (*sung 2 times*)

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the

Earth. O earth. O Lord, we praise your name. O

Lord, we magnify your name: Prince of Peace, mighty

God; O Lord God Almighty

“Great Are You, Lord” (*sung 2 times*)

Great are you, Lord: you are holy and just; by your power we trust in your

Love. Great are you Lord: you are faithful and true: by your

Mercy you prove you are love. Great are you Lord, and

worth of glory? Great are , Lord and worthy of praise.

Great are you Lord. We lift up our voice; we lift up our voice:

great are you, Lord! Great are you, Lord!

Prayer of Confession (*Unison*): Gracious God, we confess examining our thoughts, actions, and feelings is difficult internal work. We would rather stay the way we are, think the way we do, and be the way we are without changing anything. Forgive us, O God for not wanting or actually doing the work. Help us by your Holy Spirit to approach ourselves with grace, yet reveal things in us that need healing and a different direction through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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

PA: Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

PA: As you see and hear the water being poured into the font, let us remember Christ's forgiveness of all our sins and urges us to living according to the Holy Spirit's leading.

The Font *(The baptismal font is of the grace of God through forgiveness of sin and the giving of the Holy Spirit as one enters what holds the water for baptisms. The font is a symbol in worship of baptism of the sign and sealing he Church. As you see and hear the water poured into the font, remember you are forgiven and given grace. Rejoice and give thanks to God throughout your life.)*

***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
Director of Children and Young Families Ministries**

Anthem

"Man of Sorrows"

Bliss

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons (*New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition, NRSVUE*):

Old Testament Lesson: **Ezekiel 37: 1-14** (*page 806 of the Old Testament in the Pew Bible*)
(*fill-in the blanks on page 7*)

Romans 8: 6-11 (*page 157 of the New Testament in the Pew Bible*)

Gospel Lesson: **John 11: 1-6, 17-27, 32-45** (*page 94 of the New Testament in the Pew Bible*)

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“It is For God’s Glory”

Rev. Jason Hammersley

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

*Responsive Hymn #634

“To God Be The Glory”

*Affirmation of Faith (*Unison*): **The Brief Statement of Faith** *excerpt*

We trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. Amen.

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

Offering of Gifts

***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 INTO THE WORLD WITH GOOD NEWS

***Hymn #688**

“Spirit of God Descent Upon My Heart”

***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 (NRSVUE):

As Pastor Jason reads the Scripture (Ezekiel 37: 1-14), fill in the blank with the word(s) you hear.

The Valley of Dry Bones

37 The hand of the _____ came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a _____; it was full of bones. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very _____. ³ He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the _____ of the LORD. ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath^[a] to _____ you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath^[b] in you, and you shall _____, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been _____, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came _____, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and _____ had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath:^[c] Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the _____ winds, O breath,^[d] and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our _____ is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹² Therefore prophecy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your _____ and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your _____ and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit _____ you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have _____ and will act, says the LORD."

Food for Thought

“Help is Here: Finding Fresh Strength and Purpose in the Power of the Holy Spirit”

By Max Lucado



**Wednesday, March 29, 2023 - Our Gift Giver of Life (covers chapters 8, 12 & 13),
presented by Pastor Jason**

Dinner 5:30-6:00 pm, Program 6:00-7:00pm (Video & Discussion), in the Church Gym

- Dinner (Jimmy Bunch's Chicken, Potato Salad, Coleslaw & Cheese, Dessert) No reservations or payment required and donations can be made at dinner.
- Childcare is available. Please contact Cissy Kelley (cissyksapk@yahoo.com) to sign up.
- Book is available for purchase in the church office for \$10. Rides are available, please let the Church Office know at 803-648-9574.

Online donations available on our website, or by scanning the QR code here.



**Help the
Salvation Army!**



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

Please drop donations off at 322 Gayle Ave.

PRAYER PARTNERS

May 7th is

Youth Sunday!

This year you can support the Youth by pre-ordering your own shirt. See Youth/Anthony after the service for details. Last day to order is April 2nd.

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



Seeking Volunteers

For this years Vacation Bible Study
July 10 - July 14, 2023

For more information, please contact Michelle
Lorio at sapkindergarten@gmail.com.



**Sanctuary flowers for this Sunday's
Service were given by Lisa Lader in
loving memory of her father,
Robert Wayne Taylor**

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 1-3pm

When can I join?

*You can join anytime during the GriefShare
cycle. The current sessions of GriefShare began
on January 2, 2023 and will end March 27th.*

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 Grief- Share?

Visit the GriefShare website at griefshare.org.



Donation Request! *We are looking
for donations for candy/toy stuffed
Easter Eggs for the Easter Egg
Hunt on Saturday, April 8, 2023.
Donations may be dropped off in the
church or Preschool Office
Thank you!*

Want to get the digital newsletter of announcements each week?

Email media@southaiken.org to join the Spirit Express emailing list!

Sunday School Announcement

Reimagining Sunday School!

The Followers Growing in Christ Team (formerly known as the Christian Education Committee) are re-imagining Childrens and Youth Sunday School for next year to better serve our families. Our goal is to build stronger connections for our children by including more families, promoting a more inter-generational experience, and providing the opportunity for more adult involvement with the Children and Youth. This new vision includes Integrating Children and Youth Sunday School into the current Children's Church and Youth Group Programs along with continued childcare during adult classes on Sunday mornings. This new arrangement will start with the beginning of the new Sunday School year on July 30th .

A planning session will be held on April 10th at 6:00 pm at the beginning of the Followers Growing in Christ Team meeting in the High School Room. Anyone interested in helping plan this integration is invited and encouraged to attend. We welcome your questions, feedback, and suggestions at this meeting or, please contact the elders Angela Clifford (773-895-5807 or angelablclifford@gmail.com), Susan Glenn (susanlgenn@usca.edu), or Greg Burkes (803-645-0693) ahead of time. We look forward to announcing the details of this exciting new plan shortly after this planning session.

March Collection

(Pasta Sauce)



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 donated.

Prayer Requests

Jeannie K. - for comfort

Clay R. (friend of the church) - recovering from surgery

Mary Ann (friend of Emily L) - for health concerns

Kristen P. (daughter of Dave & Pam P.) - for health concerns

Luke D (grand nephew of Scott M) -for health concerns

Court S. (grandchild of Jane J.) - for health concerns

Bill S. - for healing from surgery

Baker 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.

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

Volunteers Today

Pulpit Assistant - Lyn VanDervort

Ushers: Gordon Colburn, Shirley Colburn,
Chuck Abele, Heidi Abele

Sound: Scott Reboul

Video: Anthony Williamson and Sam Jacobs

Volunteers Next Week

Pulpit Assistant - Greg Burkes

Ushers: Jenny Chase, Elaine Barnes, Mary Snyder,
Debbi Reboul

Sound: Robert Glance

Video: Angela Clifford

The Chapter Chat Book Club



Today We Go Home
by Kelli Estes

Thursday, April 6th, at 2 pm.
Meet in the Church Library

*Call Maureen Dunn at
(803) 443-8681 for more info.*

Living in Faith Together (LIFT)

The young ladies small group, LIFT had their March meeting during Food for Thought. They learned from Rebekah that we can be bold, courageous and seek the best for our children but we also need to take a more positive approach for a better outcome. Next month we will study Rebekah's story. The meeting will be on Wednesday, April 12th at 5:30 at the home of Lynn Burkes – 142 Mallard Lake Drive. Bring an appetizer to share and beverages will be provided. Hope to see you there!

The church email address is:

secretary@southaiken.org

SAPC THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 26th

- 9:00a - Daniel Sunday School (Fellowship Hall)
- 9:00a - Presbyterian Cafe (Pastor's Conf. Rm)
- 10:00a - Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 11:00a - Fall Family Retreat Planning (Fellowship Hall)
- 11:00a - Diaconate Meeting (Library)
- 2:00p - Recital (Sanctuary)
- 3:00p - C&F/Youth Bowling (Stars & Strikes)
- 4:00p - Monthly Session Meeting

Monday, March 27th

- 9:30a - Ukulele Fellowship (Music Room)
- 12:00p - Bible Friends (Gym)
- 1:00p - GriefShare (Library)
- 5:30p - Carolina Grizzlies Basketball (Gym)
- 6:00p HOA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, March 28th

- 12:00p - Bible Friends (Gym)
- 4:00p - Mighty Warriors of God (Gym)
- 4:30p - Belles Canto (Music Room)
- 6:00p - Carolina Grizzlies (Gym)
- 7:00p - Scouts Meeting (Upstairs Scouts classroom)

Wednesday, March 29th

- 12:00p - Bible Friends (Gym)
- 5:30p - Food for Thought (Gym)
- 7:00p - Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)

Thursday, March 30th

- 8:50a - SAPK Chapel (Sanctuary)
- 12:00p - Bible Friends (Gym)
- 3:30p - Aiken Kinderchoir (Fellowship Hall)
- 4:00p - Mighty Warriors of God (Gym)
- 6:00p - Carolina Grizzlies (Gym)

Friday, March 31st

- 12:00p - Bible Friends (Gym)
- 5:00p - Carolina Flight Basketball (Gym)

Sunday, April 2nd

- 9:00a - Daniel Sunday School (Fellowship Hall)
- 9:00a - Presbyterian Cafe (Pastor's Conf. Rm)
- 10:00a - Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 6:00p - Youth Group Meeting (Youth Room)

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

Find our SAPC page on Facebook at @SouthAikenPresChurch !

Also with Instagram at: southaikenpc

SAPC STAFF

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

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

Monica Grindle, Secretary: ext. 100, secretary@southaiken.org

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