



**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!

April 2, 2023

Palm Sunday

10:00 am

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Greg Burkes (Pulpit Assistant, PA)

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

Processional Introit

“Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord”

Berthier

Congregation Singing (*please join choir as they process*) **“Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord”**

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

***Call to Worship** (*Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-24*) (*Responsively*):

PA: O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good; God’s steadfast love endures forever!

ALL: Let Israel say, “God’s steadfast love endures forever.”

PA: Open to us the gates of righteousness, that we may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

ALL: This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

PA: We thank you that you have answered us and have become our salvation.

ALL: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***Hymn #409 & #412**

“God is Here!” (*stanzas 1 & 4*)

**God is here! As we you people meet to
Offer praise and prayer, may we find in
Fuller measure what it is in the Christ we share
Here, as in the world around us, all our
Varied skills and arts wait the coming
Of the Spirit into open minds and hearts**

**Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an
Age of change and doubt keep us faithful
To the gospel ; help us work your purpose out.
Here, in the day’s dedication, all we
Have to give, receive: we, who cannot
Live without you, we adore you! We believe!**

“God, Reveal Your Presence” (*stanzas 1 & 2*)

**God reveal your presence: gladly we adore you,
And with awe appear before you.
Holy is your temple: all within keep silence,
Humbly bow with deepest reverence.
You alone now we own as our God and Savior:
Praise your name forever!**

**In God’s holy presence, hear the harps resounding;
See the crowds the throne surrounding:
“Holy, holy, holy!” hear the hymn ascending,
Angels, saints, their voices blending.
Turn your ear to us here; hear O Christ the praises
That your church now raises.**

Prayer of Confession (*Unison*): Gracious God, we confess we celebrate Jesus going into Jerusalem, but we shy away from the suffering he will be facing. We confess that faith is great when we are on the mountaintop, yet in the valley our faith falls, our doubt increases, and our face falls down. Forgive us, O God for only acknowledging our faith in the good times and not in the suffering. Strengthen our faith when journey close to death. Train us through your Holy Spirit through 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

“Hosanna, Praise the Lord”

Liebergen

Prayer for Illumination

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

Old Testament Lesson: **Isaiah 50: 4-9** (*page 681 of the Old Testament in the Pew Bible*)

Gospel Lesson: **Matthew 21: 1-11** (*page 16 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 **“Waving Palms, Questioning Crowd, and the King in the Middle”** **Rev. Jason Hammersley**

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

***Responsive Hymn #197**

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

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**

Presentation: On behalf of the session, I present Diane Davies and Deanna Davies, who have been received into membership of this congregation by transfer from First Presbyterian Church of Aiken.

Profession of Faith and Renunciations

1. Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?
2. Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?
3. Will you be Christ’s faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

***Affirmation of Faith:**

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.

Prayer and Welcome (*you are able to greet and welcome new members after the service at the entrance to the sanctuary*)

SENDING INTO THE WORLD WITH GOOD NEWS

***Hymn #743**

“O God, You Are My God” (*sung 2 times*)
Oh God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.
Oh God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.
I will seek you in the morning, and I will learn to walk your ways.
And step by step you'll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days.

***Charge and Benediction**

***Postlude:**

“Guide My Feet”
Guide my feet while I run this race;
Guide my feet while I run this race;
Guide my feet while I run this race;
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

Sermon Scripture Activity (NRSVUE):

As Pastor Jason reads the Scripture (Matthew 21: 1-11), fill in the blank with the word(s) you hear.

Jesus's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

21 When they had come near _____ and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of _____, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a _____ tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately."^[a] ⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the _____:

⁵ "Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble and _____ on a donkey,

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the _____ and the _____ and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd^[b] spread their cloaks on the _____, and others cut _____ from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the _____ of _____!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in _____, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹ The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from _____ in _____."



Do you enjoy sewing?

The church choir is looking for individuals who may be interested in hemming some choir member robes.

If interested, please contact Phil Hare at philliphare@hotmail.com

Trivia Question for the Day

What did they offer Jesus to drink as he was crucified?

- _____ stagnant water
- _____ grape juice
- _____ communion wine
- _____ vinegar mixed with gall



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.



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

Easter Lilies

Let’s celebrate Christ’s resurrection by filling the
sanctuary with lilies this Easter! Easter lilies are
available for purchase through signup sheets in
the Narthex before & after service. The cost of
lilies this year
is \$22.00.

Please submit
payment be-
fore Easter and
indicate on
your check
that it is for an
Easter Lily.
These Easter
Lilies may be
picked up
following the
Easter Service.



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 (Canned Vegetables)



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

Scherman & Kneece. - in season of grief

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 or removal of name.

Volunteers Today

Pulpit Assistant - Greg Burkes

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

Sound: Robert Glance

Video: Angela Clifford

Volunteers Next Week

Pulpit Assistant - Lyn VanDervort

Ushers: Sue Kelly, Jenny Chase, Amy Loftus,
Elsie Worpell

Sound: Larry Hinson

Video: Haley Culp

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, 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)

Monday, April 3rd

9:30a - Ukulele Fellowship (Music Room)
5:30p - Carolina Grizzlies Basketball (Gym)
6:00p - Communications Committee (Pastor's Conference Room)

Tuesday, April 4th

9:00a - Sonshine Circle (Library)
4:00p - Mighty Warriors of God (Gym)
4:30p - Belles Canto (Music Room)
6:00p - Carolina Grizzlies (Gym)
6:30p - Property Committee (Pastor's Conference Room)
7:00p - Scouts Meeting (Upstairs Scouts classroom)

Wednesday, April 5th

7:00p - Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)

Thursday, April 6th

8:50a - SAPK Chapel (Sanctuary)
2:00p - Chapter Chat Book Club (Library)
3:30p - Aiken Kinderchoir (Fellowship Hall)
5:00p - Aiken Coin Club (Fellowship Hall)
6:00p - Maundy Thursday (Gym)

Friday, April 7th

5:00p - Carolina Flight Basketball (Gym)
6:00p - Good Friday (Sanctuary)

Saturday, April 8th

9:00a - Easter Egg Hunt (Gym then Playground)

Sunday, April 9th

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