



Comfort and Joy

REID MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

2261 Walton Way, Augusta, Georgia 30904

SOUNDING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Brandi Casto-Waters

Please sign and pass the friendship pad to your neighbor.

PRELUDE

Chorale and Fughetta on GENEVAN 42

David Lasky
(b. 1957)

INTROIT

We Light the Advent Candle

Henry V. Gerike

We light the Advent candle and thank the Lord for rest;
With peace, we know our Jesus has come to be our guest.
This peace beyond all knowing within our hearts is glowing.
We wait with growing light till God makes all things right.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Kim Capers

*CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, her sin has been paid for.

A voice says, "Cry out." And I say, "What shall I cry?"

You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!"

He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart.

Let us worship the Lord who brings us comfort and peace!

*HYMN 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Nadine Ellsworth-Moran

Preparing God, you pave the way for us to walk in straight paths, yet we are a crooked people with crooked hearts and our ways meander through darkness. John once called out, "you brood of vipers" to Pharisees and Sadducees but we, too, recoil at his words because they sting us as well. Come to our assistance, Lord, to prepare us for your coming in glory, even as we remember how you came incarnate long ago. Remind us as we approach your table that we are also in need of redemption.

*SILENCE

*DECLARATION OF PARDON

John the Baptist declared the coming of the Lord who would baptize us with the Holy Spirit. We rejoice that his words were true and Christ's redemptive action in the world has brought us into new life.

We celebrate our baptism and rejoice in the light of Christ who broke through the darkness and changed the world with his love. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Ms. Joy Maple

(K-2nd graders are now invited to participate in Young Musicians Choir and Children's Church)

Bulletin—The flowers in the Narthex are given by Helen and George McCall, to the glory of God and in celebration of their marriage on Saturday, December 6, 2025.

Music—Music is reprinted by permission through OneLicense.net #A-721337

Communion—Communion today is by intinction. Exit your pew via the center aisle and come forward to the front, receiving the bread from the server and dipping it in the cup. Alternatively, individual elements are available. After you have been served, return to your seat via the outside aisle. If you wish to be served in your seat, lift a hand and the servers will bring the elements to you. Individual allergy friendly elements available at the door.

OFFERTORY

*Comfort, Comfort Ye*John Bell
(b. 1949)

Comfort, comfort now my people; speak of peace—so says your God. Comfort those who sit in darkness burdened by a heavy load. To Jerusalem proclaim: God shall take away your shame; Now get ready to recover, guilt and suffering are over.

Hear the herald's proclamation in the desert far and near, calling all to true repentance, telling that the Lord is near. Oh, that warning cry, obey! For your Lord prepare a way. Let the valleys rise to greet him and the hills bow down to meet him,

Straighten out what has been crooked; make the roughest place plain; Let your hearts be true and humble; live as fits God's holy reign. Soon the glory of the Lord shall on earth be shed abroad. Human flesh shall surely see it; God is ready to decree it.

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dr. Casto-Waters

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 3:1-12

SERMON

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Ellsworth-Moran

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.

*HYMN 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

GOD REST YE MERRY

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas all other doth deface.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy. O tidings of comfort and joy.

*POSTLUDE

*Wake! Awake, the Night is Flying*Charles Callahan
(1951—2023)

*All who are able please stand

¹ from Isaiah 40:1-2, 6, 9, 11

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Participating in Worship

Preaching

Dr. Brandi Casto-Waters

Worship Leaders

Rev. Nadine Ellsworth-Moran

Rev. Boyd Lien Ms. Joy Maple

Musicians

Dr. Wayne Lord

Chancel Choir

Xea Maddox, flute

Friendship Pad

David Freeman

Acolyte and Chimer

Forrest Allgood and Finn Usry

Advent Wreath & Candle Lighters:

Kim Capers

Ushers

Reab Berry

Brannon Sell

Harrison Harper

William Harper

Reab Berry, Jr

Harry Welsh

Richard Welsh

Michael Harper

Bert Gary

Audio/Visual Team

Tyler Cashin

Max Vallotton

Blake Chambers

Jeff Futrelle

STAFF

Reverend Dr. Brandi Casto-Waters, **Pastor**, ext. 303

Reverend Nadine Ellsworth-Moran, **Associate Pastor**, ext. 301

Reverend Boyd Lien, **Parish Associate**, ext. 314

Reverend Rosy Robson McCreary, **Parish Associate**

Dr. Wayne Lord, **Organist/Choirmaster**, ext. 315

Mrs. Pam McCorkle, **Music Associate**

Mrs. Jenny Davison, **Children's Music Assistant**

Ms. Joy Maple, **Director of Christian Education**, ext. 305

Mr. Nathan Foks, **Director of Children and Youth Ministry**, ext. 304

Miss Riley Taylor, **Children and Youth Ministry Assistant**

Mrs. Anna Sanders, **Director of Mother's Day Out and Preschool**, ext. 309

Mrs. Molly Davis, **Assistant Director of Mother's Day Out and Preschool**, ext. 309

Mrs. Lisa Smith, **Nursery Coordinator**

Mrs. Dawn McCraith, **Director of Operations**, ext. 302

Mrs. Becky Godbee, **Communications Liaison**, ext. 300

Mrs. Jenn Harrison, **Financial Assistant**, ext. 307

Mr. Leonard Jones, **Facilities Manager**

Ms. Helen Moss, **Custodian**

Ms. Ramona Ballard, **Custodian**

Administrative Office 706-733-2275



**stephen
MINISTRY.**

SESSION (ELDERS)

Denise Rosenzweig, Clerk

Class of 2025

Bill Davison
David Freeman
Jean McKnight
Amanda Mills
Richard Morgan

Class of 2026

Shell Berry
Indee Few
John Franklin
Jed Howington
Cheryl Wilson
Bennett Yort

Class of 2027

Dana Cook-Cheape
Benton Johnson
Richard Sasnett
Charlene Sizemore
Bob Speaks
Marc Wilson, III

ACTIVE STEPHEN LEADERS

Myra Naglich
Mandy Boland
Jones Miller
Paul Luthman

Text Myra for confidential
inquiry / support:
706-631-0879

ACTIVE STEPHEN MINISTERS

Jamie Driver	Indee Few
Becky Godbee	Carol Turner
Joy Maple	Kathryn McLeod
Barbara Miller	Ann Overstreet
Sonny Reece	Clay Stallworth

BOARD OF DEACONS

Linda Boyd, Moderator

Class of 2025

Linda Boyd
Hubert Cooke
Judy Brigham
Jan Markle
Carla Owen
Gail Owens
Harry Snowdy

Class of 2026

Jamie Driver
Jerry Howington
Sumner Markwalter
Jones Miller
Mary-Meghan Olmo
Brannon Sell
Sandra Wade
Susan Wilson

Class of 2027

Alice Bielewicz
Mary Anne Franklin
Tommy Jones
Lillian Magruder
Myra Naglich
Patty Reece
Patrick Wells
Bette Wright



Hearing assistance. Hearing aid wearers with a "T" (telecoil) setting can now hear the service broadcast directly through their hearing aids. Others desiring hearing assistance may check out a portable receiver / headset.