

*A Worship Service of Thanksgiving*  
For the Pastoral Ministry of



*Reverend James W. Giddens*

# *The Order of Worship*

Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 3, 2018, at 10:00 am

Let the people be in silent meditation and prayer upon entering the Sanctuary.

## GATHERING

“Arioso”	Johann Sebastian Bach
“Sheep May Safely Graze”	Johann Sebastian Bach
“Méditation” from <i>Thaïs</i>	Jules Massenet
“Largo” from <i>Xerxes</i>	George Frederic Handel

Kerri Sellman, *Violin*, and Paul Chant, *Organ*

## CHIMING OF THE HOUR

### PRELUDE

“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

Franz Joseph Haydn

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

### CHORAL INTROIT

“Surely the Presence of the Lord”  
*Chancel Choir*

WOLFE

### \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“God of the Ages”  
*(The music may be found on page 698 of the hymnal.)*

NATIONAL HYMN

God of the ages, whose almighty hand  
leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,  
our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past;  
in this free land with thee our lot is cast;  
be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay,  
thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

From war’s alarms, from deadly pestilence,  
be thy strong arm our ever sure defense;  
thy true religion in our hearts increase;  
thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh thy people on their toilsome way;  
lead us from night to never-ending day;  
fill all our lives with love and grace divine,  
and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

\* 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 Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;  
the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at 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 Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

\* GLORIA PATRI

MEINEKE

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. Amen.

WORDS OF GREETING

Michelle Johnson

PASTORAL PRAYER AND OUR LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Tom Nichols

PRAYER RESPONSE

"Alleluia, Alleluia"  
Peggy Breese, Conductor

ALLELUIA NO. 1

Alleluia, Alleluia  
Give thanks to the risen Lord!  
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.

CHILDREN'S GATHERING

Susan Donovan

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 9:1-5

HOMILY

"Remembering the Future"

Rev. Jim Giddens

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

RESPONSIVE READING

"A Service of Word and Table"  
(Text may be found on page 12 of the hymnal.)

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Brother James' Air"  
Chancel Choir

arr. Stan Pethel

"Ave Verum"	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
"Panis Angelicus"	César Franck
"He Shall Feed His Flock"	George Frederic Handel
"Siciliano"	Johann Sebastian Bach

Kerri Sellman, *Violin*, and Paul Chant, *Organ*

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

Rev. Tom Nichols

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Look at the World”  
*Chancel Choir*

John Rutter

\* DOXOLOGY

OLD 100TH

**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.**

#### PRESENTATIONS

Maureen Field, *presiding*

Ruth Thorne, *Founding Member*

Mathew Pinson, *Candler School of Theology*

Joe McGowan, *Chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee*

Terry Coker, *Administrative Assistant*

Wayne Dickerson, *Chair of the Stewardship Committee*

Nancy Sheets, *Lay Leader*

#### AN ORDER OF FAREWELL

**Pastor:** I thank you, the members and friends of Skidaway Island United Methodist Church,  
For the love and support you have shown me while I have ministered among you.  
I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted.  
As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

**People:** **We receive your thankfulness,  
and accept that you now leave to retire.  
We express our gratitude for your time among us.  
Your influence on our faith and faithfulness  
will not leave with your departure.**

**Pastor:** I accept your gratitude,  
trusting that our time together and our parting  
are pleasing to God.  
I release you from turning to me and depending on me.  
I encourage your continuing ministry here  
and will pray for you and for your new pastor.

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

**All:** **Eternal God, whose steadfast love for us is from everlasting to everlasting,  
we give you thanks for cherished memories  
and commend one another into your care as we move in new directions.  
Keep us one in your love forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

\* HYMN

“Now Thank We All Our God”  
*(The music may be found on page 102 of the hymnal.)*

NUN DANKET

Now thank we all our God,  
with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done,  
in whom this world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms  
has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us;  
and keep us still in grace,  
and guide us when perplexed;  
and free us from all ills,  
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God  
the Father now be given;  
the Son, and him who reigns  
with them in highest heaven;  
the one eternal God,  
whom earth and heaven adore;  
for thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.

\* BLESSING

Rev. Tom Nichols

\* BENEDICTION

Rev. Jim Giddens

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”  
*Chancel Choir*

John Rutter

\* POSTLUDE

“The Great Fugue in C minor BWV 546”

Johann Sebastian Bach

*\* The congregation standing.*

Please exit the Sanctuary through the Narthex doors.









# *Church History*

- 1736** John Wesley, an Episcopal priest who later founded Methodism, visited an English settlement on Skidaway Island and conducted worship services. That same year, Charles Wesley also preached on Skidaway Island.
- 1979** Savannah District Board of Missions purchased 7.9 acres of land for \$47,000 on Skidaway Island to build a Methodist Church. The stipulation was that if the church was not built on the land within ten years the land would be sold back to the Branigar Organization, Inc.
- 1982** Hamp Watson, District Superintendent, formed a committee of members and pastors from five churches to discuss plans for the new congregation.
- 1983** On May 19th, interested persons met at Condo 44 at the Settlement with Dr. Ralph Bailey, who was to be the organizing pastor of the new church. There was great difficulty in finding a place for the services as we were turned down by many groups whom we asked to use their facilities. Ultimately, Branigar gave us the use of Condo 44. Everything needed for worship was loaned to us, including Baptist hymnals.
- 1984** On February 26th, 35 members, distributed among 14 family units, received certificates of charter membership. In October, the United Methodist Conference loaned us a newly built double-wide modular chapel to put on the church property (later the Conference took this building to another site to start a new church). In November the first worship service on our land was held in the modular chapel. We bought 100 chairs at \$35 each.
- 1985** On February 10th, Bishop Ernest Fitzgerald conducted the consecration service for the site as a place of worship. Later that year, a Sunday School program was started with about 10 people attending.
- 1986** Twenty-two family units initiated the first building campaign, and our membership grew to 55 people.
- 1987** In November, groundbreaking services were held for the 140 seat chapel.
- 1988** Rev. Jim Giddens was appointed in June to be our first full time pastor, and a house on Hemingway Circle was rented as a parsonage. On July 17th, Rev. Giddens officiated the first worship service in the new chapel. Union Camp kindly donated office furniture and a typewriter.
- 1990** Membership grew to 210, and a second service was added. The parsonage at 31 Hemingway Circle was purchased and the UMW was organized.
- 1991** With the membership now at 230, it was time to build again. Phase 1 would include a new fellowship hall, additional classrooms, parking facilities, a children's playground, a church library and a Memorial Garden. The UMM was organized.
- 1992** On February 28th, groundbreaking ceremonies were held.
- 1993** In February, the new facilities were consecrated, and the fellowship hall was named Bailey Hall in honor of Dr. Ralph Bailey. Later that year the Memorial Garden, with 96 niches, was consecrated, and a 7:45 am worship service was added.
- 1995** With membership now at 429, Bailey Hall was renovated for Sunday worship.



- 1996** A new organ and stained glass window were dedicated in Bailey Hall.
- 1997** Building plans for a sanctuary and additional offices and classrooms were approved, the Memorial Garden added 48 niches, and a plaque was placed to memorialize those whose ashes were spread in the garden.
- 1999** Membership had reached 750, and on January 10th, a groundbreaking ceremony for the Sanctuary and Education Building additions was held.
- 2000** Dedication of the Sanctuary was held on April 9th with Bishop Richard Looney and over 600 people in attendance.
- 2001** Stained glass windows depicting the life of Christ were added to the Sanctuary.
- 2002** Membership grew to 1000, and there were over 200 volunteers associated with missions and outreach programs.
- 2006** With a membership of over 1200, traditional worship continued to be our mainstay, and summer worship numbers grew significantly.
- 2007** A prayer labyrinth was constructed in memory of one of our members. "Skidaway East" was also constructed in India. A Visioning Committee was formed, and our Purpose and Vision were clearly defined as cornerstones for the "Journey to 2012."
- 2008** The children's playground was expanded, and a church bus was purchased. The Memorial Garden was expanded to include North and South flanks with 45 new niches on either side.
- 2009** In mid-August, we experienced a fire which damaged Bailey Hall and the educational wing. We were challenged, but with a tent, trailer, members' homes, much faith and ingenuity, we continued all programs, and our membership grew to 1238.
- 2011** A Memorial Wall was planned and installed, and fundraising was begun for a new organ.
- 2012** Growth continued in all areas, and we added 62 new members. The new Colby organ was dedicated on October 21st, with Dr. Timothy Albrecht in recital.
- 2013** Membership was at 1345 and a special service was held to celebrate SIUMC's 30 year history and Jim and Linda Giddens' 25 years of ministry.
- 2015** Under the leadership of Jim Giddens, the church participated in the Kingdom Assignment project, resulting in donations of over \$86,000 to ministries and individuals in need.
- 2016** Skidaway Island experienced the effects of a tornado and Hurricane Matthew. The church and community rallied together to support cleanup efforts.
- 2018** Renovation efforts are underway for the nurseries, children's rooms and youth spaces to better serve the increasing number of families attending SIUMC.

We are proud to celebrate the 30 year ministry of Jim Giddens as our senior pastor and celebrate with Jim and Linda as they transition into retirement. Our journey of faith continues...

## *Welcome*

Today we extend a special welcome to those who have been touched by the ministry of Jim Giddens. We are grateful for your presence on this day of celebration. Please join us for a Retirement Reception honoring Jim and Linda in Bailey Hall following the service.

## *Christ Candle*

The Christ Candle burns today in memory of Yolanda Pope who passed away on May 24, 2018. Christian sympathy is extended to her family.

## *Thank You*

Special thanks to all the members and friends of SIUMC who have made contributions to today's celebration. Thank you to the members of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, Transition Team, Reception Committee and the church staff for all their efforts in planning today's service and retirement celebration.

## *Sanctuary Flowers*

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of almighty God and in honor of Jim and Linda Giddens.

## *Music Notes*

Today's music incorporates many of Jim and Linda's favorite hymns that remind us that God has led us through the past, God walks with us now, and God will continue to lead us into the future.

## *Sunday School*

There will be no Sunday School for children, youth or adults today. Sunday School classes will resume next Sunday, June 10th.

## *Children's Church*

Following the children's sermon, children ages 3 years old through first grade will depart for children's church. They will return to the Sanctuary during the singing of the last hymn.

## *Savannah Bananas*

A fellowship night has been planned to cheer on the Savannah Bananas on Thursday, June 21st. Tickets are \$15 and include all you can eat hamburgers, hotdogs, popcorn and soda. The church bus will depart at 5:20 pm. Please sign-up as tickets are limited.

## *Upcoming Worship Services*

There will be one worship service on Sunday, June 10th, and on June 17th. Both services will begin at 10:00 am.

## *Youth Wednesday Nights*

Throughout life we encounter lots of different pressures. Pressures to be cool, be smart, and be popular. Many times these pressures keep us from being the person that Christ has made us to be. 6th - 12th graders are invited to join a weekly group that will discuss these pressures on Wednesdays from 6:00 pm - 7:30pm. Pizza is provided.

## *Summer Blast*

Summer Blast will be an exciting weekly event, Wednesdays in June, for children 3 years through rising 5th grade. Each week, children will participate in age-level fun as they learn about the fruits of the spirit through hands-on activities. Register online.

## *Drama Camp*

Volunteers are needed for our summer Drama Camp ,July 23rd - 27th. Help is needed to shepherd campers through the day to different rotations as they learn the music and drama for the musical to be presented at the end of the week. Please email michelle@siumc.org if you would like more information about volunteering.

## *Lay Participants*

Ushers: Chip Birch, Karl & Sandy Dreisbach, Paul & Cheryl Drwiega, Walter Fisch, Gordon Johnson, Ken & Mary Lee Winnert  
Greeter: Onnie Duffie  
Children's Church: Amanda Wooten & Sarah Franklin  
Acolytes: Grace Loving and Duncan Manning  
Crucifer: Jami Sanders  
Nursery: Priscila Collins, Anna Davis, Hallie McBride, Ashley Meyers, and Ciera Taylor

## *Church Staff*

Jim Giddens, Senior Minister  
Tom Nichols, Associate Minister  
Paul Chant, Director of Music Ministries  
Michelle Johnson, Director of Education  
Luke Hamner, Director of Youth Ministries  
Terry Coker, Administrative Assistant  
Amelia Jamerson, Office Coordinator  
Tom Anderson, Controller

# *Reverend James W. Giddens*

Jim Giddens was born in Valdosta, GA, in 1948, and grew up as a member of the Park Avenue United Methodist Church. He graduated from Valdosta High School in 1966, and from Georgia Southern in 1969. Upon graduation, Jim went to work for Owens-Illinois, Inc. in January of 1970 as a Personnel Trainee in their Valdosta Paper Mill.

Shortly thereafter, Jim met Linda Smart on a blind date, and they were married in October of 1970, just prior to his transfer to O-I's Big Island, VA Paper Mill, where he was named Safety Director. Jim then moved through a series of assignments in Valdosta, Orange, TX, and Chicago, the latter move in 1978.



It was while working in Chicago that Jim first felt called to the ministry. Thinking that he might just be tired of personnel work, he asked to go into sales. He did this for four years, before moving to Houston, TX. Finally, the call was so profound that he resigned from Owens-Illinois, and enrolled in Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta. It was now 1984, and the Giddens had three young boys (Jim, Kyle, and Chris).

While in seminary, he was appointed to a two-church charge (Fincher/Molena Charge), in Meansville, GA. This provided a small stipend and a parsonage for the family. He carpooled back and forth to seminary with three other student pastors. After three years of seminary, Jim graduated and was appointed as the Associate Pastor of Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church in Savannah, GA.

After a year, he felt the desire to serve a congregation of his own. In late 1987, he was encouraged in this calling by Dr. Ralph Bailey, who was the Chaplain at Candler Hospital and the startup minister at Skidaway Island United Methodist Church. Rev. Jimmy Pennell, the Savannah District Superintendent supported Jim's appointment to Skidaway Island United Methodist Church in 1988.

When Jim arrived, construction was just being completed on the Chapel. Jim led the first worship service in the Chapel in July 1988. Under Jim's pastoral leadership, the congregation began to grow exponentially, quickly facilitating the need for additional worship and ministry spaces. Through the years, Jim has led this congregation to a deeper faith through his meaningful sermons, study and teaching of God's word and compassion for those who are hurting.

We, the congregation of Skidaway Island United Methodist Church, give thanks to God for the 30 year ministry of Jim and his wife, Linda. Jim has offered this congregation and community an example of a servant leader with a heart for loving others. Together, they have devoted their lives to furthering God's kingdom here in Savannah, on Skidaway Island, and beyond, and for that, we are eternally grateful. Their hard work and dedication are a testament to the Christian example of servanthood. We pray God's richest blessings on them as they enter into retirement and hope that the years ahead are filled with joy and peace.



*John Nelson*



**SKIDAWAY ISLAND**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

54 Diamond Causeway | Savannah, GA

(912) 598-8460 | [www.siumc.org](http://www.siumc.org)