Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, September 24, 2023 | 10:30 A.M.

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Gathering

Welcome to worship! *We are glad you are here. If you need any assistance, please notify an usher. Please take a moment to register your attendance by using the friendship register located in each pew. We welcome the opportunity to learn more about you.*

Please silence *all cellular devices for the duration of the service.*

Congregational responses *are in* ***bold*** *text.* ✠ *is an indication to rise in body or in spirit as you are able.*

PRELUDE *Avinu Malkeinu*
Max Janowski; arr. Nemec

This morning's prelude is a traditional prayer recited or sung between Rosh Hashanah (Day of Remembrance) and Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) in Jewish traditions. The translation is "Our Father, our King, pardon and forgive all iniquities; blot out and remove our transgressions from before your eyes."

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

MINUTE FOR MISSION: STEWARDSHIP 2023 **JULIE OTTS**

INTROIT *Awake My Heart*
Jane Marshall

The Sanctuary Choir

Awake my heart and render to God thy sure defender, Thy Maker, thy preserver, a song of love and fervor. Confirm my deed and guide me: My day, with thee beside me, beginning, middle, ending, will all be upward tending. My heart shall be thy dwelling, with joy and gladness swelling Thy word my nurture, giv'n, to bring me on toward heaven. (Paulus Gerhardt, 1647)

✠**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Adapted from Psalm 119)* **JAMES LAMAR**

Blessed are those who walk steadily on the road revealed by God.
Blessed are those who follow the Lord's directions, doing their best to find God each day.
Blessed are those who don't go off on their own path,
Blessed are those who follow commandments of God.
We praise the Lord and seek to know God's ways.
May our steps be steady, O Lord. Shine a light on our path. Guide us in your holy way.
Let us worship God.

✠**HYMN 307** *God of Grace and God of Glory*
CWM RHONDDA

Despite our best efforts, *we continue to sin against God and others. We begin our worship with corporate and individual prayers of confession, trusting that God will grant forgiveness as promised in scripture.*

We pass the peace *by greeting one another and saying, "The peace of Christ be with you," to which one replies, "And also with you." The ancient ritual of the church reminds us that Christ offers us peace that passes understanding.*

Children ages three *and older are invited to the front for the Children's Sermon. Children ages 3-K may go to Wee Worship following the Children's Sermon. They may be picked up from the Sunday School classroom following worship. Children under 3 are welcome in the nursery. Older children may return to sit with their parents. Children's worship packets are available at the front of the sanctuary.*

Reformed theologian John Calvin implemented the practice of singing the Law in worship. *The lyrics of this hymn were written by Rev. Dr. Buz Wilcoxon, former pastor at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church. Stanza 1 is drawn from Calvin's Institutes of the Christian Religion. Stanzas 2 and 3 sing the Ten Commandments. Stanza 4 is from Luke's version of the Two Great Commandments (Luke 10: 25-28).*

✠Prayer Of Confession

Holy God, You have shown us the way to live, but we fail to follow your commandments. We consider your law a burden and ignore the ways you instruct us to live. We do not love you with our whole heart, and we put our own needs above those of our neighbors. We pray for your mercy as we offer our silent prayers of confession.

(silence)

In your mercy, forgive us, Lord. Help us to treat the gift of your law with gratitude. Guide us as we seek to love you with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. Through Christ we pray, Amen.

✠Assurance of Pardon

✠Passing of the Peace

✠Response: Hymn 581 *Glory Be to the Father*
GLORIA PATRI

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer For Illumination **John Browning**

Scripture Reading: Matthew 22: 34-40

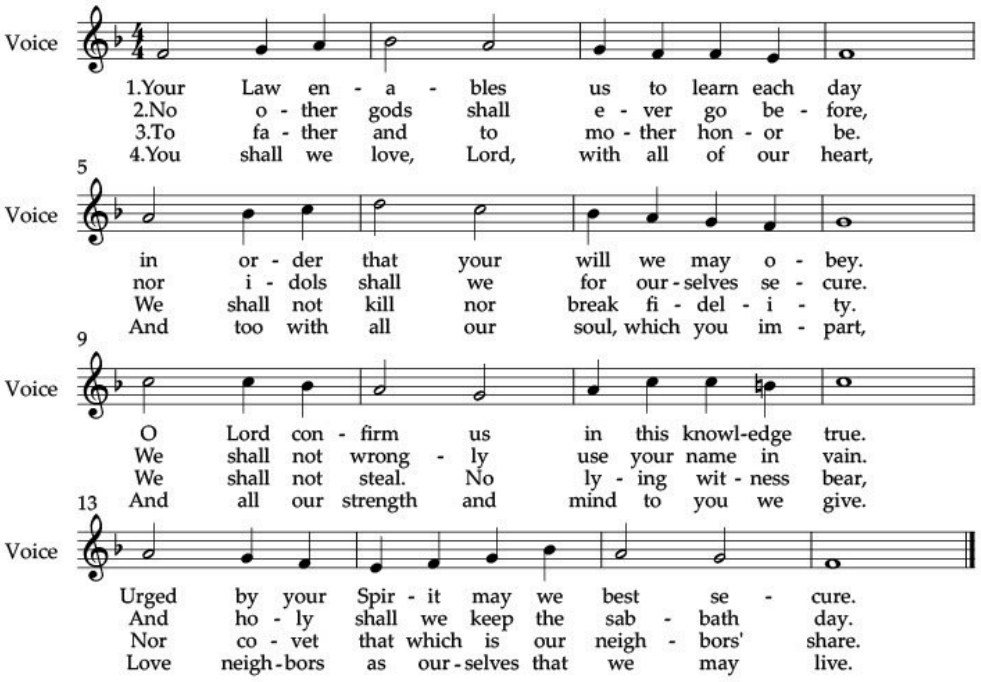
Children's Sermon **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 6: 1-9

Sermon: "Law" **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn *Your Law Enables Us to Learn Each Day*
TOULON



For more than 1,000 years, *the church has used the Apostles' Creed to affirm its faith in Jesus Christ. When we say this creed together, we are joined with generations of Christians who have come before us in declaring foundational doctrines of our faith in Christ.*

✠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.

✠Response *Amen!*
Eugene Butler; arr. Nemec

Offering

Offertory *All Things Bright and Beautiful*
John Rutter

The Sanctuary Choir
Text: No. 20 in The Hymnal

Prayer is a place we bring ourselves fully before God. *In the Prayer of Intercession, we hold the needs of our hearts and of the world before a powerful and loving God. If you have a need for prayer, you may call the church office to speak with a pastor or to have your request passed on to our prayer team.*

✠Response | Hymn 607 *Doxology*

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer

✠Hymn 182 *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*
KINGSFOLD

Sending

✠Benediction **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Postlude *Trumpet Tune (Suite for Organ)*
John Stanley

Memory verse for the week of September 24:
Deuteronomy 6:1-9: Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.
Copies of this week's memory verse may be picked up at any entrance to the sanctuary.

Sunday, October 1

Join us on World Communion Sunday as the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar continues her sermon series with "Promised Land." Scriptures include Matthew 26:26-29 and Joshua 3:14-4:9. In preparation for next week, worshipers may read pages 31-42 of "A Guide to Bible Basics" by Tyler Mayfield, or view the "Biblical Themes: The Law" video at bibleproject.com. Choral Music for Oct. 1 includes the Communion Anthem "In Remembrance" by Buryl Red, and Chris Nemec's setting of "Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place," with Jasaan Roberts providing the baritone solo.



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Send news for the e-newsletter or bulletin to Heather Hamilton at heather@gspcmobile.org, or to Sally Ericson at sallyericson23@gmail.com.

Sanctuary Flowers

The Sanctuary flowers today are dedicated to the glory of God and in loving memory of Elizabeth and Austill Pharr by their family.

The Sanctuary flowers on September 17 were dedicated to the glory of God and in celebration of and gratitude for the wedding of E.B. and Geraldine Hill Peebles by their family.

Calendar of Events

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 8 a.m. at the home of Ann Adams.

Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Library. Contact: Mary Elizabeth Perry.

Tuesday Lunch and Learn at GSPC: Merceria Ludgood, District One Mobile County Commissioner, will be the guest speaker at the September 26 luncheon. Lunch is served at noon and Ms. Ludgood will speak at 12:30 p.m. The cost is $12. All are welcome.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Mid-week Bible Study: Noon to 1 p.m. in the Library and via Zoom. This study is led by the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar.

Choir rehearsals: Handbells, 5:15-5:45 p.m.; choir, 6-7:30 p.m.

Men's Bible Study: 6 p.m. in the Library. Contact: Bo Perry.

ADDITIONAL NEWS AND NOTES

Attention, Parents! The GSPC Children's Choir has resumed rehearsals on Sundays from 9:30 to 9:45 a.m. The rehearsals will be held in the office of Chris Nemec (2nd floor at the Jackson St. stairwell). The dates for the children to sing are October 15 and December 24 (10:30 a.m.). To assure the children are well-prepared and effective leaders, each child must attend a minimum of three rehearsals in order to sing for Sunday worship. Questions? Contact Chris Nemec, chris@gspcmobile.org.

About Government Street Presbyterian Church

Government Street Presbyterian Church, known as the mother of Presbyterianism in Southern Alabama, was founded in 1831. This vibrant congregation has a long tradition of servant leadership and urban mission work in the heart of downtown Mobile. We welcome all to join us in responding to the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ.

Worship has continued on this site since 1836, when the sanctuary, now a National Historic landmark, was completed.