

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 1, 2024 | 10:30 A.M.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gathering

"When You Pass Through the Waters" by Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art | sanctifiedart.org

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 with us 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.

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.

During the **Passing of the Peace**, please turn to your neighbors and say, "The peace of Christ be with you." Respond with, "And also with you," when others greet you. The Passing of the Peace is a Christian ritual in which we remind each other of the peace that we know only in Christ, the Prince of Peace, and which draws us together as disciples.

PRELUDE

I Will Magnify Thee
Julius Kaufamm/J.S. Bach

WELCOME

REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR

¶CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *responsive*

CLINT, CARLY AND HENLEY AKERS

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start? Let us begin with the good news! Let us begin by trusting that we are a blessing, loved by a gracious God. Let us begin with music and singing! Let us begin with warmth and welcome. Let us begin with hope.

Yes, let us begin with hope. Today we light the candle of hope to shine a light in a worn and weary world.

May this be our foundation. May this be our fresh start. May this be our new beginning.

May hope flow forth from here. Amen!

¶HYMN 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
HYFRYDOL

¶PRAYER OF CONFESSION *unison*

REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR

God of grace and truth, Your first words to creation were words of love. You looked at this earth and said, "It is good." You sent prophets to remind humankind of your care. You spoke blessings over Mary. You made us children of God through Christ. At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing, made in your image, held in your love. Forgive us for forgetting this truth. Forgive us for measuring our worth by society's standards instead of yours. Forgive us for not seeing the image of God in those around us. Hear our silent prayers of confession.

(Silence)

Have mercy on us, Lord. We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

¶ASSURANCE OF PARDON

¶PASSING OF THE PEACE

Children ages three and older are invited to the front for the Children's Sermon. Children ages 3 through kindergarten 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.

Wee Worship sign-in slips are available next to the bulletins at the front and back of the church as well as in the children's worship totes. Children may bring these filled out slips with them when they go to Wee Worship.

New children's worship totes are available for children in the sanctuary. These totes include children's bulletins and other items to help children engage in the worship service.

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.

✖**RESPONSE | HYMN 88** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (refrain only)*

VENI EMMANUEL

Proclaiming the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

CARLY AKERS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

BRADLEY DAUGHERTY

SECOND READING: Luke 1:26-38

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

SERMON: "You Are A Blessing"

REV. LAMAR

Thanksgiving

✖**HYMN 516**

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

KINGDOM

✖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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

A New Song
Allen Pote

The Sanctuary Choir

Sing to the Lord all the earth, sing a new song full of praises, a song full of joy and gladness, and bless God's holy name forever. Sing to the Lord a new song. Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that lies therein. Let the field exult and everything in it! Then shall all trees of the wood sing for joy. Sing to the Lord, sing a new song. The God of Jacob has spoken to you: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name, you are mine. When you walk through waters, I will be with you, and through rivers, they shall not overwhelm you. When you walk through fire you shall not be burned. And the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your savior and redeemer. (Psalm 96, Isaiah 43:1b-3a)

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.

When we gather for Communion, the Spirit draws us into Christ's presence and unites us with Christians in every time and space. We join with the baptized faithful in heaven and on earth in offering thanksgiving to the triune God. We affirm the promises of our baptism and recommit ourselves to love and serve God, one another, and our neighbors in the world.

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.

✖RESPONSE | HYMN 606

Doxology
OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host; Praise, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

✖PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR

GREAT THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION MEDITATION

Prelude Solennel (Veni Emmanuel)

Richard Purvis

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sending

✖HYMN 92

While We Are Waiting, Come
WAITING

✖BENEDICTION

REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"
arr. C. Nemec

Sunday, December 8

Join us next Sunday as Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar continues her sermon series "Words from the Beginning." The sermon is titled "You Can't Go Alone" with scripture from Ecclesiastes 4:8-12 and Ruth 1. Art, devotions, and much of our liturgy is from A Sanctified Art. Music will include the Bell Choir playing arrangements of "O Come, Emmanuel" and "O Come, All Ye Faithful," the Children's Choir singing an arrangement of "Angels We Have Heard on High," and Charlotte Naylor singing a setting of Ruth 1:16, "Wherever You Go I Will Go."

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.



300 Government Street
Mobile, Alabama 36602
251-432-1749 | gspcmobile.org
Member PC (USA)

CHURCH STAFF

REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR
Pastor & Head of Staff
rebekah@gspcmobile.org

CHRIS NEMEC
Director of Music and Organist
chris@gspcmobile.org

BRADLEY DAUGHERTY
Director of Christian Education
bradley@gspcmobile.org

MEREDITH JOHNSTON
Office Manager
meredith@gspcmobile.org

DAWN HEARN
Bookkeeper
dawn@gspcmobile.org

BARBARA WILLIAMS
Property Manager & Hostess
barbara@gspcmobile.org

SALLY ERICSON
Communications
sallyericson23@gmail.com

WILLIE MAE KING
Director of Food Services

MARILYN MILLS
ARTHUR LEWIS
Sexton(s)

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the pulpit are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Stewart Ashbee
by his family.

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

Advent Wreath Workshop: The congregation is invited to make Advent Wreaths together in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship. Lunch will be provided.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

Crismon Tree: The Presbyterian Women will decorate the Crismon Tree in the Jackson Street foyer at 10 a.m. All are welcome to assist!

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 9 a.m. at the home of Ann Adams. The group is studying the Gospel of Matthew with the Rev. George Sinclair. Everyone is welcome.

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

Choir Rehearsals: Handbells, 5:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary; Choir, 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the choir room.

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

Happy Birthday, Jesus! (and Parents' Night Out): Children are invited to a fun night of pizza, Bible stories, games and birthday cake from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the church. Please RSVP to Bradley Daugherty.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

Christmas Luncheon: Dinner Clubs' members are invited to the annual Christmas luncheon in the Guesnard House immediately after worship. Please bring your favorite dish to share; meat and beverage will be provided. New Dinner Clubs for January-May 2025 will be created later in December. If you would like to join a Dinner Club, contact Blanche Parsons (251) 348-7037 or Linda Reynolds (251) 510-6913.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Flower Dedications: If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary in memory of or in honor of a loved one, please contact Ann Adams at Adams-marion@att.net or 251-591-8586.

December Birthdays

December 1: Coleman Callaway	December 19: Bradley Daugherty
December 2: McCain Walker	December 20: Margaret Browning,
December 3: William Heisterhagen	Beth Majure
December 4: David Trent	December 21: Jay Roberds
December 5: Travis Goodloe,	December 23: Clint Akers
Sonny Otts	December 27: Glenn Adams
December 8: Guy Helmsing	December 29: Marthabelle Blanton
December 12: Mark Wyatt	December 30: Sallye Irvine,
December 13: Becky Baumhauer	Sarah Otts
December 14: Ann Thomas Lamar	
December 15: Brooke Baker,	
Beth Walmsley	