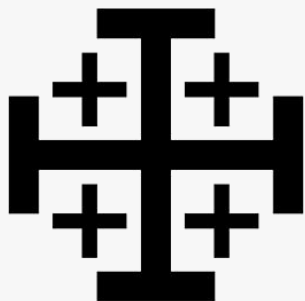




Welcome to worship! We are glad you are here. If you need any assistance, please notify an usher. Please take a moment to register your attendance by using the friendship register located in each pew. We welcome the opportunity to learn more about you.

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.

We welcome Angela Porter as our guest pianist today. She is a graduate of the University of South Alabama with a Master's degree in Piano Pedagogy from the University of Georgia. She is a native Mobilian. She and her husband, Jeremy, have an 8-year-old son, Jude.

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.

Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, August 6, 2023 | 10:30 A.M.

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Gathering

PRELUDE

All Creatures of Our God and King

Anonymous German hymn tune, arr. Olson

WELCOME

REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR

✠CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord is our creator, the one who made us in his own image.

The steadfast love of the Lord endures forever.

The Lord is our shepherd, the one who guides our days.

The steadfast love of the Lord endures forever.

The Lord is our rock and our refuge, the one who gives us rest and strength.

The steadfast love of the Lord endures forever.

The Lord is our hope, the one in whom we place our trust.

The steadfast love of the Lord endures forever.

Let us worship the Lord.

✠HYMN 263

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

CORONATION

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION

REV. ALEXANDRA HUTSON

Holy God, you have promised to meet us in prayer, but we are slow to accept your gracious invitation. We are ashamed and uncertain. We are distracted and discouraged. We do not want to bother you, and we are not sure you want to be bothered by us. Erase our excuses, Lord, as we seek your forgiveness through our silent prayers.

(silence)

Have mercy, O God. Through your unending grace, draw us once again into your presence and grant us the peace that comes only through prayer. We pray in the holy name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

✠ASSURANCE OF PARDON

✠PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

The nursery is available for ages infant through kindergarten.

Children's worship packets are available at the front of the sanctuary.

The Brief Statement of Faith was written in the 1980s when the Presbyterian Church (USA) was formed by the reunion of the northern and southern strands of Presbyterianism that divided before the Civil War. The statement offers one of the fullest descriptions of the Holy Spirit found in our denomination's Book of Confessions, emphasizing the Spirit's work in our present-day world.

✠RESPONSE: HYMN 448

Peace of God Be with You
AS-SALAAMU LAKUM

448 Peace of God Be with You

As-salaamu lakum

Proclaiming the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

MARY HERNDON NORDMANN

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 113

CHILDREN'S SERMON

REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 6: 5-13

SERMON: "Sailboat Church: Prayer"

REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR

Thanksgiving

✠HYMN 20

All Things Bright and Beautiful
ROYAL OAK

✠AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (From A Brief Statement of Faith)

CARRIE ADAMS

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

OFFERING

The Lord's Supper, or communion, is one of two sacraments practiced by Presbyterians (baptism is the other). The practice of communion should have the quality of a joyful feast. It is not intended to be a somber memorial but a true celebration of all that God has done, a glad gathering in the presence of the risen Christ, and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet to come.

OFFERTORY

Give Me Jesus
Spiritual; arr. Fernando Ortega

Jacob Mohr, Tenor

*In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus. Give me Jesus. You can have all this world, but give me Jesus.
And when I am alone, give me Jesus. And when I come to die, give me Jesus.*

✠RESPONSE | HYMN 607

Doxology

✠PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

REV. ALEXANDRA HUTSON

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

Nearer, My God, to Thee

Lowell Mason, arr. Olson

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

REV. ALEXANDRA HUTSON

AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

✠HYMN 300

We Are One in the Spirit

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

Sending

✠BENEDICTION

REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR

POSTLUDE

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Martin Luther, arr. Olson

Sunday, August 13

Next Sunday, August 13, the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar will continue her sermon series with "Sailboat Church: Imagination" with scripture from Psalm 24 and Matthew 25: 14-30. The Sanctuary Choir will return from summer break and will sing a setting of the hymn "Gift of Love." The service will also include a Blessing of the Backpacks for children, youth and college students returning to the classroom.



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CHURCH STAFF

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MARILYN MILLS
ARTHUR LEWIS
Sexton(s)

*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 are dedicated to the glory of God
by John and Jessica Mostellar.

Calendar of Events

MONDAY, AUGUST 7

Interfaith Bible Study: 5:30-7 p.m. at Springhill Avenue Temple, 1769 Springhill Ave. All are welcome.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8

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.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9

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

ADDITIONAL NEWS AND NOTES

Baytreat summer rentals: Baytreat is available for rentals this summer. For information, contact Barbara Williams at barbara@gspcmobile.org.

Sanctuary flowers: 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.

Newsletter and communications: If you would like to receive the weekly electronic GSPC newsletter, please email Heather Hamilton (Heather@gspcmobile.org) or Sally Ericson (sallyericson23@gmail.com). If you are signed up but having trouble with the email coming through, be sure to check your Spam folder. Sometimes our emails are directed to Spam, and when you click on them, you will see a prompt asking if you want to give permission for it to arrive in your main Inbox. Contact us if you have further questions.

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.