*Welcome to Worship*

# GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, September 14, 2025 | 10:30 A.M.

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 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.*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** — **REV. ANNE H.K. APPLE**

**PRELUDE** — *Nearer, My God, to Thee*
arr. Diane Bish

**INTROIT** — *The Gift of Love*
Hal Hopson

The Sanctuary Choir
Text: No. 693 in The Hymnal

✠**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Responsive)* — **BLIGH JONES**

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good!
**The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.**
We gather to worship with joy and praise, seeking to follow Christ.
**The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.**
We joyfully rejoice with Christ when what has been lost is found.
**The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.**
May the Spirit guide us as we worship our risen Lord.
**The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.**

✠**HYMN 687** — *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*
ST. ANNE

✠**CALL TO CONFESSION**

✠**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(Responsive)*

Lord, **have mercy on me, sinner that I am.**
(silence)
Lord, **have mercy on me, sinner that I am.**
(silence)
Lord, **have mercy on me, sinner that I am.**
(silence)
Christ, **have mercy on us, sinners that we are.**
(silence)
Christ, **have mercy on us, sinners that we are.**
(silence)
Christ, **have mercy on us, sinners that we are.**
(silence)

***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 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.*

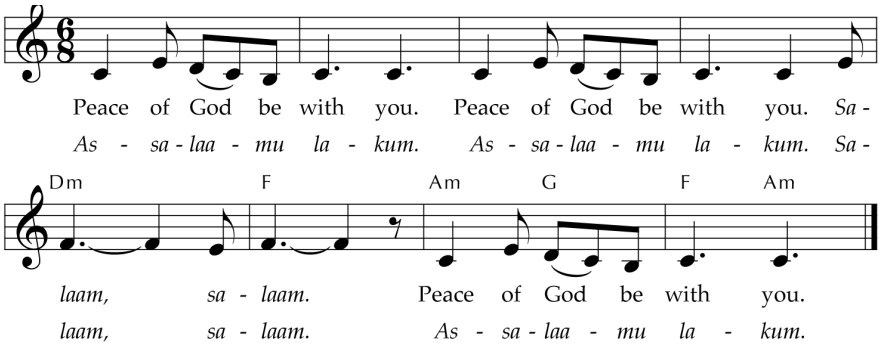
***Wee Worship sign-in slips*** *are available next to the bulletins at the front and back of the church as well as in the children's worship totes. Children may bring these filled out slips with them when they go to Wee Worship.*

***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.*

**✠Assurance of Pardon**

**✠Response | Hymn 448** *Peace of God Be With You*

The Hymn will be sung twice. AL-SALAAMU LAKUM




**✠Passing of the Peace**

## *Proclaiming the Word*

**Prayer for Illumination** **Bligh Jones**

**First Reading:** Psalm 16

The Word of the Lord.
**Thanks be to God.**

**Children's Sermon** **Rev. Anne H.K. Apple**

Wee Worship Leaders: Emily Watson and Katherine Ogburn

**Second Reading:** Luke 15:1-10

**Sermon:** "Therefore … My Heart is Glad" **Rev. Apple**

## *Thanksgiving*

**✠Hymn 55** *Come like Driving Wind, O God*

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

**✠Affirmation of Faith** **Bligh Jones**

(*Unison; adapted from A Brief Statement of Faith*)
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.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***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.*

***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** *Amen!*
Haugen; arr. Chris Nemec

**Call to Offering**
**and Presentation of Gifts, Tithes, and Offerings**
**Offertory** *I'll Walk with God*
Nicholas Brodsky

The Sanctuary Choir; Gabrielle Mohr, *soprano*; Jacob Mohr, *tenor*

I'll walk with God from this day on, His helping hand I'll lean upon. This is my prayer, my humble plea, May the Lord be ever with me. There is no death when eyes grow dim, there is no fear when I'm near to Him. I'll lean on Him forever, and He'll forsake me never. He will not fail me as long as my faith is strong. Whatever road I may walk along. I'll walk with God, I'll take His hand, I'll talk with God, He'll understand; I'll pray to Him, each day to Him, and He'll hear the words that I say. His grace reveals the path I've trod, now I'll never walk alone while I walk with God.

**✠Response | Hymn 606** *Doxology*
OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God, above ye heavenly hosts; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**✠Prayer of Thanksgiving**
**Prayer of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer**

## *Sending*

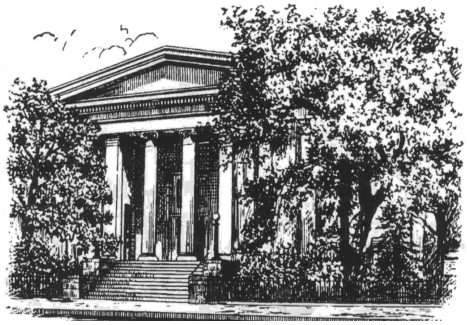
**✠Hymn 697** *Take My Life*
HENDON

**✠Benediction** **Rev. Apple**

**Postlude** *Trumpet Tune*
Jeremiah Clarke

## *Sunday, September 21*

*Join us next Sunday, September 21, as we begin our fall series, "The Fruit of the Spirit," and welcome back the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar from sabbatical. Scripture references will include Luke 15: 1-10, Ezekiel 37:1-14, and Galatians 5:13-26. Music will include Jonathan Willcocks' "O Holy Jesus," with a setting of the text of St. Richard of Chichester and "Jubilate Deo" by Michael Praetorius.*



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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 Sally Ericson at sallyericson23@gmail.com, or use the QR code below to access the online form.*

## Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the pulpit are given
to the glory of God and in celebration of
and gratitude for the marriage
of E.B. and Geraldine Hill Peebles
by their family.

# *GSPC News*

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**
**"Planting the Seeds" and Second Sunday Luncheon:** The congregation is invited to Second Sunday Luncheon in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship today. We will have a program and Bible study on "Planting the Seeds" from noon to 1 p.m., and the Children's Choir will rehearse from noon to 12:15 p.m. with Chris Nemec.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**
**Fall Gathering:** The Presbyterian Women will have their Fall Gathering at 5:30 p.m. in the Guesnard House. All are welcome to join us for an evening of fellowship and Bible study. If you are able, please bring a snack or beverage to share. The new study guides, "Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ," will be available for purchase. We look forward to seeing you!

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**
**Lunch and Learn:** Come to lunch! Our guest speaker is Mark Berte, Executive Director of the Alabama Coastal Foundation. The cost is $10 and includes drinks and dessert. Lunch is served at noon and the presentation begins at 12:30 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**
**Music Rehearsals:** Handbells, 5:15-5:45 p.m. in the sanctuary; choir, 6-7:30 p.m. in the choir room.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**
**Interfaith Bible Study:** 5:30-7 p.m. at First Baptist Church. All are welcome.

**NEWS AND NOTES**

**Call for Musicians:** The Bell Choir and Sanctuary Choir currently have openings. The Bell Choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 5:15 to 5:45 p.m., and the Sanctuary Choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. For details, contact Chris Nemec at chris@gspcmobile.org.

**Chair Lift Up and Running:** A new chair lift has been installed in the West stairwell. If you need assistance in using it, please ask a staff member or a Sunday Assistant to help you.

**Seeking a 12-Step Program Host:** The Mission Committee is searching for a volunteer with AA-12 step program history to host a new program at GSPC. If you have the knowledge and interest, please contact Neal Horner or Lynn McDaniel.

**McKemie Place:** Each month on the second Friday, 2-3 volunteers provide a light lunch for about 24 residents at McKemie Place, a shelter for homeless women. Volunteers are needed for Dec. 12. Please call Lisa DeShazo at 251-591-1077 or Mary DeWitt Dukes at 504-920-1918 if you are able to help with this meaningful, longtime mission at GSPC.

**Flower Dedications:** 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.

## 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.