Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, November 16, 2025 | 10:30 A.M.

ORDINARY TIME

Gathering

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP — **HENLEY AKERS**

"Practice gentleness. The world has enough of everything else."
Cleo Wade (American poet, artist, and activist)

PRELUDE — *Passacaglia*
G. Martin

WELCOME — **EVELYN AND DOTTIE REEDER**

INTROIT — *By the Waters of Babylon*
Traditional Jewish Melody

The Sanctuary Choir
Text: No. 784 in The Hymnal

✠**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Responsive)* — **LIZZIE ARNOLD**

Jesus says, "Come to me."
We come together to serve Christ.
Jesus says, "Come to me."
We gather seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
Jesus says, "Come to me."
Let us worship God with gladness.

✠**HYMN 346** — *For the Healing of the Nations*
ST. THOMAS

✠**CALL TO CONFESSION** — **GINNY JONES**
✠**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(Unison)* — **SHEP OLIVER**

God, we come to you, because we need your gentleness.
We are often harsh with others. Our words hurt those we love. Our actions hurt those who need your love. Forgive us, Lord, and hear our silent prayers.

(Silence)

Help us to be gentle like Jesus. Help us to carry your peace, to live with love and patience. Teach us to be kind in all we do. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

✠**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** — **HOWELL OSWALT**
✠**PASSING OF THE PEACE** — **JAMES HEUSSER**

✠**RESPONSE | HYMN 581** — *Glory Be to the Father*
GLORIA PATRI

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.*

The congregation of Government Street Presbyterian Church*, as the people of God called to worship and work in downtown Mobile, pursue our mission to use our unique resources and opportunities to love, to honor, and to glorify God and to give hope, comfort, instruction and inspiration to all persons that they may become joyful disciples of Jesus Christ.*

Government Street Presbyterian Church, *founded in 1831, is known as the mother of Presbyterianism in southern Alabama. We are a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and participate in the work of the Presbytery of South Alabama.*

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.

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.*

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination — **George Bennett**

First Reading: Ephesians 4:1-5 — **Eleanor Oswalt**

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon — **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**
Wee Worship Leaders: Katherine Ogburn and Linda Reynolds

Second Reading: Matthew 11:28-30

Sermon: "Gentleness" — **Rev. Lamar**

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 378 — *We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom*
MERLE'S TUNE

✠Affirmation of Faith *(The Apostles' Creed)* — **Harris Oswalt**

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.

Choral Response — *Three-Fold Amen*
DANISH AMEN

Offering — **Robert Weaver**

Offertory — *Beautiful Savior*
CRUSADER'S HYMN; arr. Mack Wilberg

The Sanctuary Choir

Fair is the sunshine, fairer the moonlight, and all the stars in heav'n above; Jesus shines brighter, purer and brings to all the world His love. Fair are the meadows, fairer the woodlands, robed in the flow'rs of blooming springs; Jesus is fairer, purer, He makes the sorrowing spirit sing, Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations! Son of God and Son of Man! Thee will I honour, praise and give glory evermore!

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.*

Visiting? Welcome to GSPC, *where we hope you'll find our worship meaningful, our fellowship warm and our ministry exciting. Come again! If you are considering membership, we'd love to have you. You may join us through transfer of letter, re-affirmation of faith or profession of faith.*

Sunday, November 23

Join us next Sunday, November 23, when the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar concludes her sermon series on the Fruit of the Spirit with a sermon titled "Self-control," referencing Matthew 5:13-16, 43-48 and 2 Peter 1:3-11. Music includes the anthem "Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place" and Michael Rosewall's setting of the Thanksgiving hymn "Now Thank We All Our God."

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✠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 **Mac Bennett**

Prayer of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer **Lillian Grace Hale**

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.

Sending

✠Hymn 828 *More Love to Thee, O Christ*

MORE LOVE TO THEE

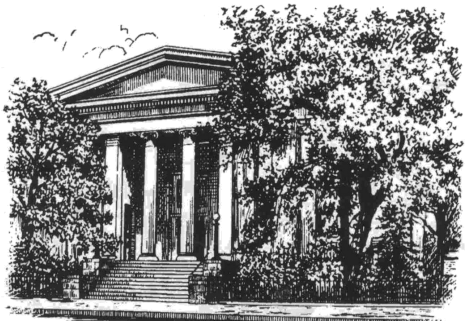
✠Benediction **Rev. Lamar**

Postlude *Chaconne*

Auguste Durand

The congregation is invited to order Christmas poinsettias in memory of or in honor of a loved one. Please use the form below. You may also call the church office to place an order. Please make checks to GSPC.





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Member PC (USA)

CHURCH STAFF

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Willie Mae King
Director of Food Services
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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.

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the pulpit are given to the glory of God, and in celebration of Sally Heltzel Pearsall's 85th birthday, by her family.

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16
GSPC Perdido Queen Cruise, 4 p.m. It's not too late to join this special afternoon voyage to view the USS United States! The cruise is from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18
Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 9 a.m. at the home of Ann Adams.
Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Library. Contact: Mary Elizabeth Perry.
Lunch and Learn, noon: Come to lunch! Our guest speaker is our own Michon Trent, Executive Director of the Gulf Coast Family Center. The cost is $10 and includes drinks and dessert. Lunch is served at noon and the presentation begins at 12:30 p.m.
Interfaith Thanksgiving Service: 6:30 p.m. at Springhill Avenue Temple.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19
Young Women's Bible Study, 6 p.m. in the Guesnard House: All 20s/30s women are invited to join this weekly Bible study series based on "Tending the Wild Garden: Growing in the Fruit of the Spirit" by the Rev. Eugenia Gamble.
Music 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.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20
GSPC Book Club, 5:30 p.m. in the Library and via Zoom: This meeting will focus on GSPC cookbooks from the 1890s and the early 2000s. We will share holiday recipes. RSVP to Meredith Johnston at mwjohnston@crimson.ua.edu or 251-323-5954.

A NOTE FROM THE STAFF COMMITTEE
Thanksgiving is a good time to pause and, well, give thanks. As such, please consider the tremendous efforts of our rather small staff here at GSPC. Their dedication and devotion each week throughout the year are truly a blessing, so please consider a contribution to the Staff Christmas Love Gift, which will be divided up among our church employees. Checks should be payable to GSPC and marked "For Staff gift" and directed to Dawn Hearn, our financial secretary, by December 15.

Thank you – GSPC Staff Committee; Harris Oswalt, Chair

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.