

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday September 11, 2022 | 10:30 A.M.

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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.*

PRELUDE *Slane*

IRISH TRADITION

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

✠**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(adapted from Deuteronomy 6)*

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Keep these words in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

When your children ask you in time to come, "What is the meaning of the decrees and the statutes and the ordinances that the Lord our God has commanded you?"

Then you shall say to your children, "The Lord has been kind and gracious to us and has commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our lasting good."

We praise the Lord for our God is mighty and full of compassion.

Incline your ear to us, Lord, as we offer our worship and praise today.

Let us worship the Lord our God!

✠**HYMN 1** *Holy, Holy, Holy*

NICAEA

✠**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *unison*

Holy and loving God, we want to follow you, but we struggle to live by Christ's example. We are selfish and ignore the needs of others. We are ashamed and refuse to seek your mercy. We are afraid and

lack the courage to live faithfully. We know we need your forgiveness. Hear our silent prayers;

(silence)

Forgive us, Lord. Give us the faith to act as your disciples and to serve in your name.

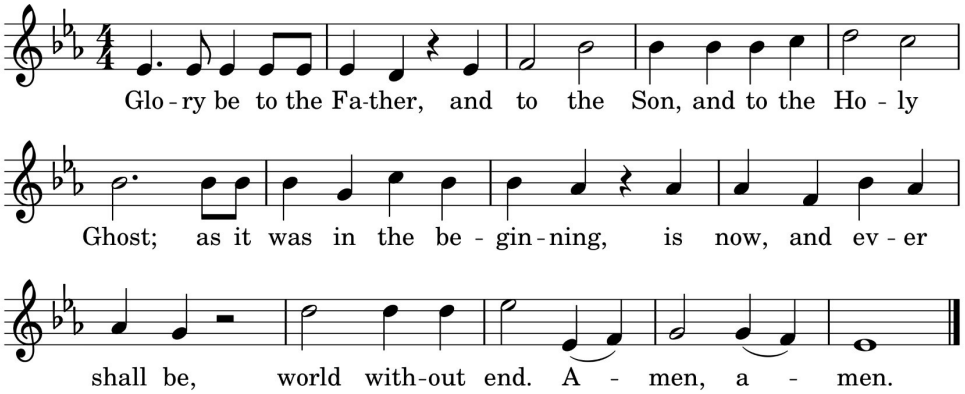
Through Christ we pray.

Amen

✠Assurance of Pardon **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

✠Response | Hymn 581 *Glory Be To The Father*

GLORIA PATRI



***Following the Children's Sermon, children ages 3-Kindergarten** are invited to leave the sanctuary with two volunteers for Wee Worship. Wee Worship is a special time designed for young children to have a space to learn about God through bible stories, crafts and play. Sign-binder is located in the first pew of the middle section of the sanctuary.*

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination **Meg Heusser**

First Reading 1 Timothy 1: 12-17

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

Children's Sermon and Teacher Commissioning

Rev. Alexandra Hutson and Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar

3's– K - Hunter Oswalt , Margaret Sue Browning, Carly Akers

Grades 1-2–Bonnie Mobley, Corinne Lorge, Marlene Jones

Grades 3-5 – Shawn Walker, Missy Jones, Jennifer Steed

Grades 6-12—Sally Ericson, Harley Jones

Leader:

God of Creation, you have called these servant leaders to the task of teaching. You have gifted them with teaching skills, creativity and curiosity. We pray that you would fill them with the power and compassion of your Holy Spirit. Fill them with energy and insight into your Word.

Teachers:

You have not called us to be perfect. You have called us to be faithful. You have not called us to be all-knowing. You have called us to believe. We dedicate ourselves to the call and task of teaching. Grant us wisdom, patience and joy in our preparation and teaching of your Word.

Students:

Thank you for our teachers who help us to learn about you.

Congregation:

God of hope, guide these teachers as they study your Word. Strengthen the gifts you have given them, and energize their compassion. Remind us to find ways to support and encourage them throughout the year.

All:

We commit ourselves, each to our part, in this joyful task. May your love guide all that we do. Amen.

Second Reading **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

John 18-1-11

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

Sermon "Who Are You Looking For? **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Thanksgiving

✠ **Hymn 451** *Open My Eyes, That I May See*
Open My Eyes

✠ **Affirmation of Faith** *unison* **Rev. Alexandra Hutson**

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty; maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; trough whom all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered

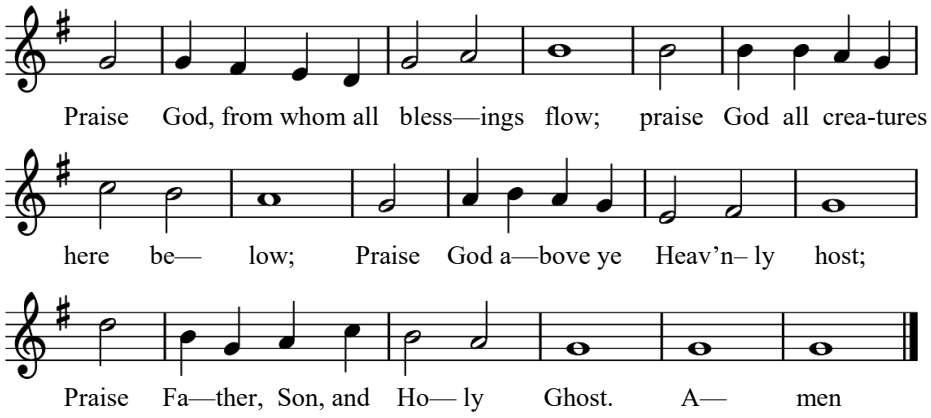
The Nicene Creed was written in 325 in order to unify the church. *It affirms that the divinity of Christ, the Son, is of the same substance as the divinity of God, the Father. It is an ecumenical creed used by Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant Christians with slight variations.*

death and was buried and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

Offering

Meditation *Interlude on RESIGNATION*
CARL SCHALK

✠**Response | Hymn 607** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*
OLD HUNDREDTH



✠ **Prayer Of Thanksgiving**

Prayer of Intercession **Rev. Alexandra Hutson**

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 forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
But deliver us from evil,
For thine is the kingdom,
And the power,
And the glory
Forever, Amen.

Sending

The benediction begins with a charge, or a challenge, to the faithful *as they prepare to leave and is concluded with a blessing and assurance of God's presence as they go from the sanctuary into their lives of discipleship.*

✠**Hymn 450** *Be Thou My Vision*

SLANE

✠**Benediction** **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Postlude *Voluntary in B flat*

CHARLES LOUD

Thank You to Dr. Nancy Graham for serving as our guest organist today.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

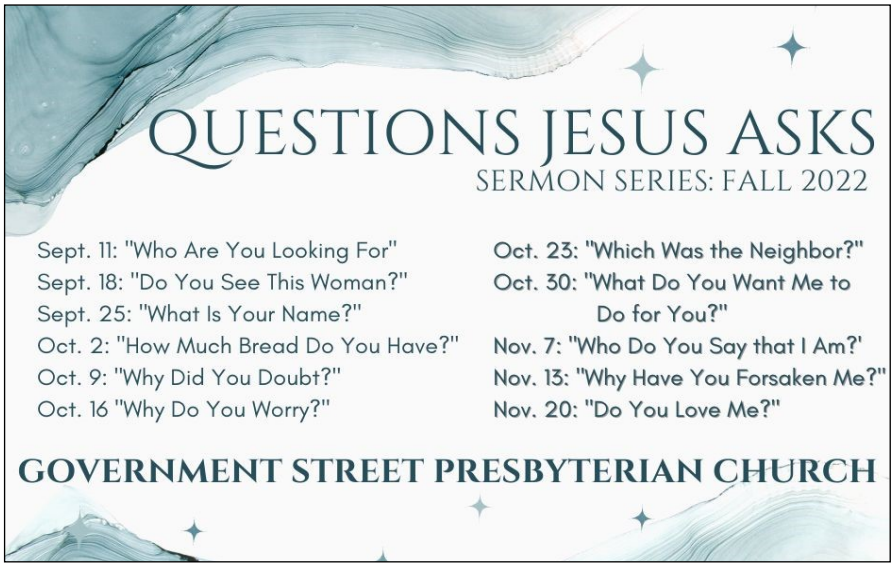
I Timothy 1: 12-17

12 I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, 13 even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, 14 and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me[a] with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 15 The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. 16 But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. 17 To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible,[b] the only God, be honor and glory forever

John 18:1-11 After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. 2 Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place because Jesus often met there with his disciples. 3 So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. 4 Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" 5 They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth."[a] Jesus replied, "I am he."[b] Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. 6 When Jesus[c] said to them, "I am he,"[d] they stepped back and fell to the ground. 7 Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."[e] 8 Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he.[f] So if you are looking for me, let these people go." 9 This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." 10 Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. 11 Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

GSPC NEWS







Rally Day: Please join us for refreshments in the courtyard to celebrate Rally Day!

New Sermon Series: The Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar begins a new sermon series this fall, "Questions Jesus Asks," with today's subject: "Who are you Looking For?"

Diaconate Meeting: The Diaconate will meet on Monday, Sept. 12, at 5:30 p.m. Please email Heather if you are unable to attend.

Fall Gathering: The Presbyterian Women will hold a Fall Gathering on Monday, Sept. 19, at 6 p.m. in the Guesnard House. Details to come!

"At the River:" Join us for a screening of a feature-length documentary about the Civil Rights era on Monday, Sept. 26, at 6 p.m. The film is directed by Carolyn Crowder.

Blessing of the Pets: On Saturday, Oct. 1, we'll have the Blessing of the Pets in our Jackson Street parking lot. To volunteer to assist with this event, please email Pastor Alexandra at Alexandra@gspcmobile.org.

New Bible Study: Join us on Sunday nights at 5 p.m. in the Guesnard House for "Justified By Faith: A Study of Romans," led by the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar. This new Bible study will begin on Sunday, Oct. 16.

Barton Academy: If you'd like to donate supplies to Barton Academy for Advanced World Studies, here are needed items for the school's Hygiene Closet: Clorox wipes, tissue, deodorant, black socks, paper towels, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

CHURCH OFFICERS

SESSION

Class of 2022

John Browning, Joy Gardner, Dorothy Morrison, Scott Weldon, Marcia Wyatt

Class of 2023

Susan Ashbee, Casi Callaway, Lisa deShazo, John Moses, Henry Morrissette, Bo Perry

Class of 2024

Bobby Headrick, Charles Jones, Mary Herndon Nordmann, Katherine Ogburn, Dick Otts, Beth Rouse

Clerk of Session: John Browning

Assistant Clerk: Henry Morrissette

DIACONATE

Class of 2022

Kym Carroll, Sally Ericson, John Peebles, Jim Van Haneghan, Zack Weaver

Class of 2023

Damon Boone, Jane Hale, Ashley Oswalt, Harris Oswalt Jr., Leigh Schottgen, LeAnne Tamblyn

Class of 2024

Ashley Ashbee, Stella Jackson, Ashford Kettler, Richard Otts, Jasper Reaves

URBAN MINISTRIES

JELLY AND SNACKS FOR MEALS ON WHEELS

Our 45 Meals on Wheels recipients get a sandwich bag each day along with their hot meal. The bag has a sandwich and a snack. Peanut butter and jelly is often on the menu and we are in need of donations of creamy peanut butter (no Jif, please, because of the recent recall) and grape jelly and individually packaged snacks (peanut butter or cheese crackers, chips, cookies, Little Debbies, etc.). There is a donation box in the Jackson Street foyer for these donations.

BLANKET MINISTRY

All are invited to donate items to be delivered to USA Children's & Women's Mother/Baby/At Risk department for full term babies of needy families (not the NICU) and to the Mostellar Clinic. Here are suggested items and sizes:

- Baby blankets (greatest need) approx. 28-36" square/rectangles 30-34"x40-46"
- A few hats and booties
- (USACW only): No-scratch mittens (must be fabric, not yarn)

Inexpensive items of any baby-appropriate washable fabric or yarn are appreciated. No large items, please: The babies we serve usually average 3-5 lbs. Store-bought or handmade items are welcomed. (Please do not donate unmade fabric.)

Donations may be left in the "Baby Box" at the Jackson Street entrance, or you may order from Amazon and request delivery to the church, marked "Blanket Ministry."



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

Rev. Alexandra Hutson
Associate Pastor
alexandra@gspcmobile.org

Barbara Williams
Property Manager & Hostess
barbara@gspcmobile.org

Heather Hamilton
Office Manager
heather@gspcmobile.org

Dawn Hearn
Bookkeeper
dawn@gspcmobile.org

Shelia Smith
Director of Food Services

Marilyn Mills
Arthur Lewis
Sextons

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers today are given to the glory of God
and in honor of our Sunday School teachers
for the 2022-23 school year.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Women's Bible Study
Tuesdays at 8 a.m. at the home of Ann Adams
Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the church Library and via Zoom.
Contact: Mary Elizabeth Perry.

Men's Bible Study
Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the church library and also via Zoom. Contact: Bo Perry.

Sunday Book Study Group
Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the library.

Presbyterian Women
P.W. Circle & Bible Study. Contact: Charlotte Crockett or Mary Elizabeth Perry.

Sunday School
Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Wee Worship
This ministry meets Sunday Mornings at 10:45 immediately following the children's sermon.

If you have news items to share in the e-newsletter or the bulletin, please email the information to Heather Hamilton (heather@gspcmobile.org) and Sally Ericson (sallyericson23@gmail.com).

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.