

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.*

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Saturday, December 24, 2022 | 5 P.M.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Gathering

PRELUDE *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*
Arr. Ovid Young
What Child Is This?
Arr. Dorothy Wells
Carol Medley (It Came Upon the Midnight Clear, O Little Town of Bethlehem, Angels We Have Heard on High)
Arr. Anthony & Beard

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

INTROIT *O Holy Night*
Gabrielle Corlette, Soprano — Adolphe Adams

✠CALL TO WORSHIP
AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES *responsive*

COLEMAN OSWALT, LYLE AND LOUISE HUTCHISON

While we wait for Christ's coming, we light the candle of hope.
We place our hope in the light of the world.
While we wait for Christ's coming, we light the candle of peace.
We pray for peace in our hearts, our homes, and our world.
While we wait for Christ's coming, we light the candle of joy.
We pray for the joy of Christ to overwhelm our sorrow.
While we wait for Christ's coming, we light the candle of love.
May the love of God uphold us and guide us.
Knowing God is truly with us, we light the Christ candle.
"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
The light of these candles is our prayer for God's kingdom to come.
"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."
Let us worship God.

✠HYMN 147 *The First Nowell (Stanzas 1,2,3 & 6)*
THE FIRST NOWELL

✠Prayer of Confession *unison* **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Dear God,
We are humbled by the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, who came to live among us and show us your way.
Forgive us when we do not have the courage to serve you as Mary did,
when we do not have the faith to follow you like Joseph,
when we do not have the voice to sing to you as the angels sang,
when we do not have the will to share the good news like the shepherds.
Help us to live each day to serve the Holy Child who came to save us. Amen.

✠Assurance of Pardon

✠Response | Hymn 133 *O Come, Let Us Adore Him (Refrain)*
ADESTE FIDELES

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination **Rev. Alexandra Hutson**

First Reading Isaiah 9: 2-7

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks Be to God!

***All children** are invited to come forward to hear the Christmas story together.*

Children's Sermon and Scripture Reading Luke 2: 1-20 **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Sermon: "News of Great Joy"

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 134 *Joy to the World!*
ANTIOCH

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

(From John 1)
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being through him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave us power to become children of God. The word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Offering

Offertory

On Christmas Night

The Sanctuary Choir

arr. Jody W. Lindh
SUSSEX CAROL

Glory to God! On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring.
News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.
Then why should people be so sad since our Redeemer made us glad.
When from our sin He set us free, all for to gain our liberty.
When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place.
Angels above with joy may sing all for to see the newborn King.
Glory to God!
All out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night.
"Glory to God" we sing again, now and forever more, Amen.

✠Response | Hymn 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High (Stanza 1)*

GLORIA

✠Prayer Of Thanksgiving

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table — **Rev. Alexandra Hutson**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer — **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

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.

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.

Candles *are available at each entrance. An usher will come by to light the candle at the end of your row. As you pass the light, please remember that the lit candle should remain upright. Candles will be collected as you exit the sanctuary.*

Communion Meditation

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming Arr. R.E. Marriott

Pastorale on "Stille Nacht" Roger Wilson

Ashley Lamar, *violin and viola*

Prayer after Communion *unison* **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Thank you, Holy God, for the nourishment of this table.
Thank you, Holy Christ, for the gift of your presence.
Thank you, Holy Spirit, for your work in our lives.
May the grace we find at this table allow us to share grace in a hurting world.
Through Christ we pray, Amen.

Candlelight and Sending

✠Hymn 122 *Silent Night, Holy Night (Stanzas 1,2 & 3)*

STILLE NACHT

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar. Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia.
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face; with the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth. Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing "Alleluia" to our King.
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born.

✠Benediction **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Postlude *Grand Fantasia on "Joy to the World"*

Marc Cheban

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 9: 2-7

2 The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.
3 You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
4 For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
6 For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7 His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Luke 2: 1-20

1 In those days a decree went out from Emperor
Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This
was the first registration and was taken while
Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 All went to their own
towns to be registered. 4 Joseph also went from the
town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of
David called Bethlehem, because he was descended
from the house and family of David. 5 He went to be
registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and
who was expecting a child. 6 While they were there,
the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And she
gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in
bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because
there was no place for them in the inn.

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the
fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then
an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory
of the Lord shone around them, and they were
terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be
afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of
great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in
the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the
Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child
wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."
13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude
of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth
peace among those whom he favors!"

15 When the angels had left them and gone into
heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go
now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken
place, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 So
they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph,
and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw
this, they made known what had been told them
about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed
at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary
treasured all these words and pondered them in her
heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and
praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had
been told them.

Images of Advent 2022















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 Ministry

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 Foyer, or you may order from Amazon and request delivery to the church, marked "Blanket Ministry."

MCKEMIE PLACE

GSPC has agreed to provide lunch for up to 45 residents at McKemie Place on the second Friday of each month. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered for this mission over the last year. We are in need of volunteers to provide, prepare, and serve lunches on January 13, February 10, and March 10, 2023. If you can help with this mission on any of these dates, please contact Lisa deShazo at 251-591-1077.

COLD-WEATHER CLOTHING DONATIONS

GSPC is collecting gently worn cold-weather clothing items for men, women and children, such as coats, sweaters, hats, gloves and scarves. Socks are a much-needed item for those in shelters. These items will be given to various agencies that distribute clothing to those in need. There is a box for these donations in the Jackson Street Foyer.



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

Chris Nemec
Director of Music and Organist
chris@gspcmobile.org

Heather Hamilton
Office Manager
heather@gspcmobile.org

Dawn Hearn
Bookkeeper
dawn@gspcmobile.org

Barbara Williams
Property Manager & Hostess
barbara@gspcmobile.org

Sally Ericson
Communications
sallyericson23@gmail.com

Shelia Smith
Director of Food Services

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 flowers on the pulpit are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Ervin S. Cooper by their family.

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

Worship at 10:30 a.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

Church Office closed.

Note: There are no Bible studies, choir or handbell rehearsals this week.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

Worship at 10:30 a.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 2

Church Office closed.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4

Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the Library. Contact: Bo Perry.

Handbell Choir Rehearsal: 5:15 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Choir Rehearsal: 6 p.m. in the choir room.

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.