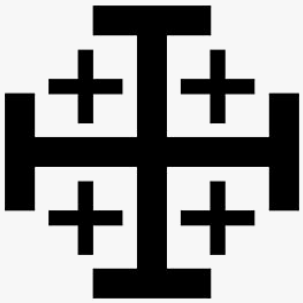


Welcome to worship! *We are glad you are here. If you need any assistance, please notify an usher. Please take a moment to register your attendance by using the friendship register located in each pew. We welcome the opportunity to learn more about you.*

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.*

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 13, 2023 | 10:30 A.M.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Gathering

PRELUDE *Think On Me*
Alicia Ann Scott

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

✠CALL TO WORSHIP

Holy God, quiet our hearts so that we may give our attention wholly to you.
Merciful God, remove the sins that separate us from you.
Loving God, nurture in us a love of Christ and all humankind.
Almighty God, give us the strength to stand strong in faith.
Redeeming God, guard our minds so that we might worship you in spirit and truth.
Faithful God, give us eyes to see, ears to hear, hearts to listen, and strength to follow.
Let us worship God!

✠HYMN 838 *Standing on the Promises*
PROMISES

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, you created the world from nothing. You parted the Red Sea to bring your people to freedom. You resurrected Jesus from the grave. In spite of knowing your power, we keep our vision small. We refuse to dream of a world governed by grace. We are often paralyzed by fear and bound by our feelings of scarcity. We rely on our own wisdom rather than the wisdom of your Holy Spirit. Forgive us, Lord, and hear our silent prayers of confession.

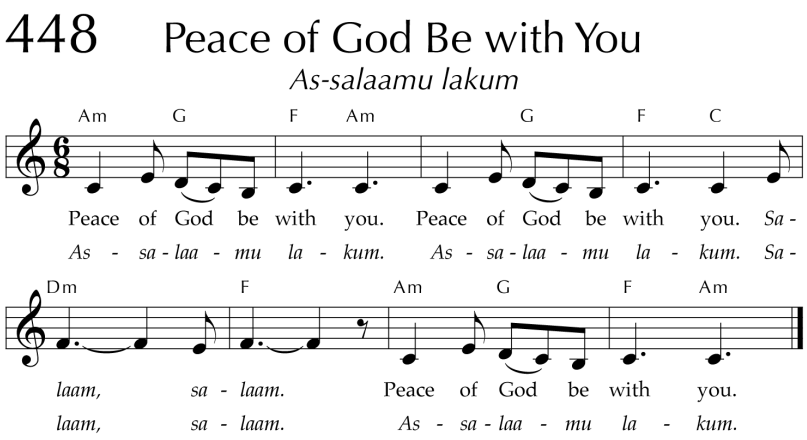
(silence)

Have mercy on us, Lord. Grant us a vision of the world as you intend it to be. Show us our place in your kingdom, and give us the courage to live as people who serve a powerful and living Lord. Through Christ our Savior, we pray. Amen.

✠ASSURANCE OF PARDON

✠Passing of the Peace

✠Response: Hymn 448 *Peace of God Be with You*
AS-SALAAMU LAKUM



Proclaiming the Word

Prayer For Illumination **Henry Morrissette**

Scripture Reading: Psalm 24

Children's Sermon and Blessing of the Backpacks **Rev. Alexandra Hutson**

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.*

Scripture Reading: Matthew 25: 14-30

Sermon: "Sailboat Church: Imagination" **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 459 *O Word of God Incarnate*
MUNICH

✠Affirmation of Faith (From A Brief Statement of Faith)
Rev. Alexandra Hutson

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.*

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.

Response *Amen!*
Eugene Butler

Offering

Offertory *The Gift of Love*
Hal Hopson

The Sanctuary Choir

Text: Hymn No. 693

✠Response | Hymn 607 *Doxology*

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer of Intercession and 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.

Hymn 372: *Everything longed for in this text is a reminder of how far our present world is from what God wants. Yet this is not just wishful thinking; it is a call to action, a summons to participate in the fulfillment of God's desire for all earth's people to live in radical shalom.*

✠Hymn 372 *O for a World*
AZMON

Sending

✠Benediction **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Postlude *Grand Processional on Lobe Den Herren*
Martin Shaw/arr. Dale Wood

A Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, August 27, for the purposes of electing the Nominating Committee and for dissolving the pastoral relationship between GSPC and the Rev. Alexandra Hutson.

Sunday, August 20

Join us in worship next Sunday, August 20, as Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar continues her summer sermon series "Sailboat Church: Storms" with corresponding scripture of Psalm 27 and Mark 4: 35-41. The Sanctuary Choir will sing the beautiful "Prayer of St. Richard" by L.J. White and Everett Titcomb's "Behold Now, Praise the Lord."



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CHURCH STAFF

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Sally Ericson
Communications
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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

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.

Calendar of Events

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15

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 16

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

Congregational Luncheon: Join us in Fellowship Hall immediately after the worship service to hear a report from the Property Task Force.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22

Diaconate Meeting: 6 p.m. at the church. Dinner is served at 5:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Lisa Goodloe at lgoodloe@comcast.net if you are not able to attend.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23

20s/30s Women's Bible Study: 6 p.m. in the Guesnard House. The study is led by the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar.

ADDITIONAL NEWS AND NOTES

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

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 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.