Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, September 28, 2025 | 10:30 A.M.

ORDINARY TIME

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.

Gathering

Preparation for Worship

"Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike?
May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion?"
John Wesley, "Catholic Spirit" 1750

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

PRELUDE — *Arioso (BWV 146)*
J.S. Bach

INTROIT — *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*
The Handbell Choir — arr. Wagner/Nemec

✠CALL TO WORSHIP *(Responsive)* — **SCOTT WELDON**

We gather as the people of God to worship the One who calls us to love, to serve, and to walk in the way of Christ.
We come with open hearts to praise the Lord our God.
We come with gratitude, seeking to serve the risen Christ.
We come to be transformed by the Spirit so that we may live as a witness to God's amazing grace.
The Lord has called us to bear fruit for the Kingdom. Let us reflect the light of Christ in all that we do.
May the fruit of the Spirit grow in us, producing love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
Let us worship God.

✠HYMN 396 — *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*
HOLY MANNA

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Unison)*

God of love,
You have shown us what true love looks like in Jesus Christ, yet we confess that our love often falls short. We have spoken in ways that lacked grace, withheld compassion, and chosen resentment over forgiveness. We have failed to love You with our whole hearts and have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, Lord, and hear our silent prayers of confession.

(Silence)

Have mercy on us, O God. May your Spirit shape us into people who love not only in word or speech, but in truth and action. Empower us to reflect your heart of love each day. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

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.*

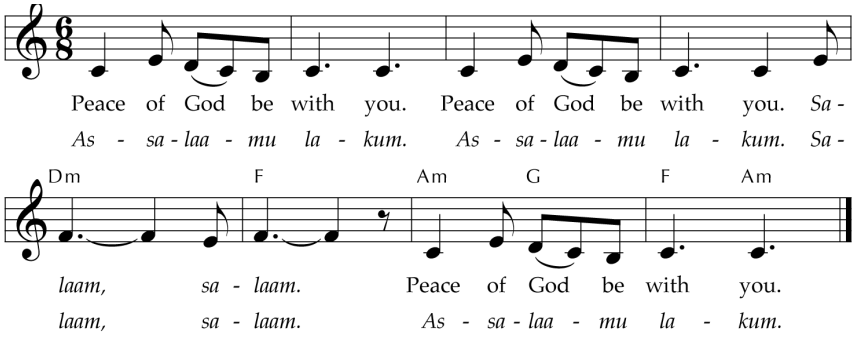
Wee Worship sign-in slips *are available next to the bulletins at the front and back of the church as well as in the children's worship totes. Children may bring these filled out slips with them when they go to Wee Worship.*

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

AL-SALAAMU LAKUM

The Hymn will be sung twice.



Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination **Scott Weldon**

First Reading: John 4:7-12

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Wee Worship Leaders: Emily Watson and Lisa Goodloe

Second Reading: I Corinthians 13

Sermon: "The Greatest of These Is Love" **Rev. Lamar**

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 300 *We Are One in the Spirit*

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

✠Affirmation of Faith *(The Apostles' Creed)*

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.

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.*

✠Response *Thanks Be to God, Alleluia!*
Swahili Folk Song/arr. Nemec

"Grace Upon Grace:" A Stewardship Moment **Bo Perry**

Offering
Offertory *Be Thou My Vision*
John Rutter

The Sanctuary Choir
Text: No. 450 in The Hymnal

✠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 **Bo Perry**

Prayer of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

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 693 *Though I May Speak*
GIFT OF LOVE

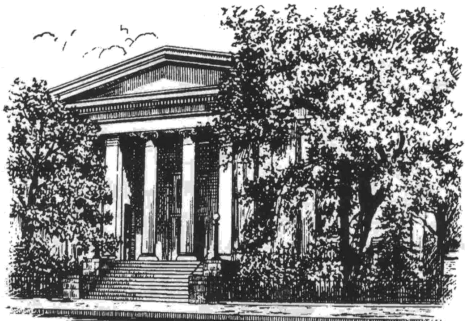
Congregational Meeting to Elect Officers for the Class of 2028

✠Benediction **Rev. Lamar**

Postlude *Lead On, O King Eternal (Improvisation)*
LANCASHIRE

Sunday, October 5

Join us next Sunday, October 5, as we celebrate Lord's Supper on World Communion Sunday. The Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar continues our sermon series on the Fruit of the Spirit with a sermon titled "Joy," using texts from Psalm 30 and John 15:1-11. Each week of the series follows a chapter from Eugenia Gamble's book, "Tending the Wild Garden: Growing in the Fruit of the Spirit." Music includes Allen Pote's exciting "Break Forth Into Song," and, in observance of World Communion Sunday, Buryl Red's "In Remembrance."



300 Government Street
Mobile, Alabama 36602
251-432-1749 | gspcmobile.org
Member PC (USA)

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar
Pastor and Head of Staff
rebekah@gspcmobile.org

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

Paula Spath
Office Manager
paula@gspcmobile.org

Dawn Hearn
Bookkeeper
dawn@gspcmobile.org

Barbara Williams
Property Manager and Hostess
barbara@gspcmobile.org

Sally Ericson
Communications
sallyericson23@gmail.com

Willie Mae King
Director of Food Services
williemae@gspcmobile.org

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 loving memory
of Elizabeth and Austill Pharr
by their family.

GSPC News

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
Lunch and Learn, noon: Come to lunch! Our guest speakers are Dr. William White and Claire Minto of the Mobile County Public Schools Career/Technical Instruction Department and Kellie Snodgrass, Director of Workforce Development at the Mobile Chamber. They will talk about how the Chamber and community leaders work with the school system to develop a workforce that meets the needs of local business and industry. The cost is $10 and includes drinks and dessert. Lunch is served at noon and the presentation begins at 12:30 p.m.

GSPC Book Club, 5:30 p.m.: The GSPC Book Club will meet in the GSPC Library and via Zoom. The reading selection is "Between Two Worlds: Jewish War Brides After the Holocaust," by Robin Judd. Please RSVP to Meredith Johnston at mwjohnston@crimson.ua.edu or 251-323-5954.

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. The book is available on amazon.com, and there will be a few copies available at the Bible study. All are invited to come, bring friends, and enjoy community and a chance to grow in our faith. The facilitators are Nicole Riis and Beth Majure.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1
Music Rehearsals: Handbells, 5:15-5:45 p.m. in the sanctuary; choir, 6-7:30 p.m. in the choir room.

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.

Sanctuary Chair Lift: A new chair lift has been installed in the stairwell next to the elevator. If you would like to use it, please ask a staff member or a Sunday Assistant to help.

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.