Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, October 5, 2025 | 10:30 A.M.

ORDINARY TIME

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.*

Preparation for Worship

"This is a wonderful day. I've never seen this one before."
Maya Angelou

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

PRELUDE — *Epitaphe (24 Pièces en style libre)*
Louis Vierne

✠CALL TO WORSHIP *(Responsive)* — **DEWEY PARSONS**

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 611 — *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*
HYMN TO JOY

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Unison)* — **REV. LAMAR**

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.

Gracious God, you have created us for joy, not fleeting happiness. We confess how often we trade that joy for lesser things. We let anxiety drown out your promises. We chase distractions instead of your Spirit. We confess that our joy too often depends on our circumstances, rather than your faithfulness. Forgive us, Lord, and hear our silent prayers.

(Silence)

Have mercy on us, and help us to find deep and abiding joy that is rooted in your presence. May your Spirit bear the fruit of joy in our hearts, so that even in sorrow, we may rejoice in you. 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.*

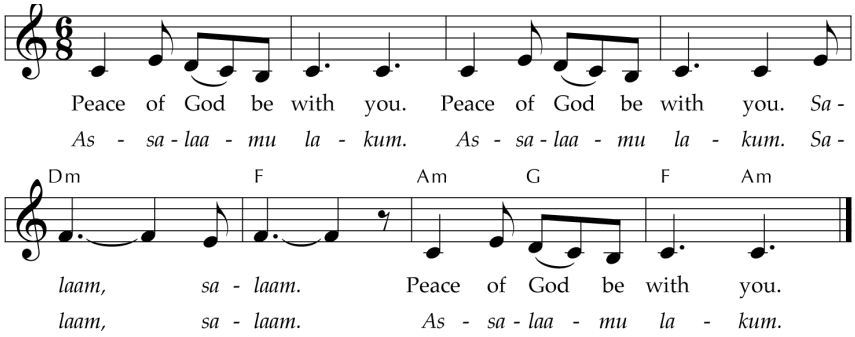
Children ages three *and older are invited to the front for the Children's Sermon. Children ages 3 through kindergarten may go to Wee Worship following the Children's Sermon. They may be picked up from the Sunday School classroom following worship. Children under 3 are welcome in the nursery. Older children 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 **Dewey Parsons**

First Reading: Psalm 30

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon **Caroline Newman**
Wee Worship Leaders: Emily Watson and Katherine Ogburn

Second Reading: John 15: 1-11

Sermon: "Your Joy May Be Complete" **Rev. Lamar**

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 494 *Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts*
QUEBEC

✠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.

"Grace Upon Grace:" A Stewardship Moment **Scott Weldon**

When we gather for Communion, *the Spirit draws us into Christ's presence and unites us with Christians in every time and space. We join with the baptized faithful in heaven and on earth in offering thanksgiving to the triune God. We affirm the promises of our baptism and recommit ourselves to love and serve God, one another, and our neighbors in the world.*

Today, we celebrate ***Communion by intinction.*** *All on the main level of the sanctuary are invited to come forward down a center aisle to one of the stations. You will take a piece of bread and dip the bread into the cup. After eating the dipped bread, you may return to your seat by the outside aisles.*

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.

Offering
Offertory *Break Forth Into Song*
Allen Pote

The Sanctuary Choir
Based upon Psalm 98

✠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

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table **Rev. Lamar**

Great Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

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.

Breaking of the Bread
Communion of the People
Communion Voluntary *In Remembrance of Me*
Buryl Red

The Sanctuary Choir
Text: No. 521 in The Hymnal

Prayer After Communion

Sending

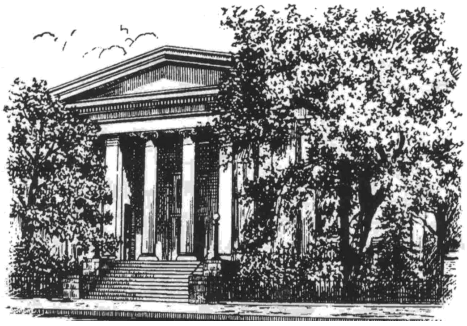
✠Hymn 80 *You Shall Go Out with Joy*
The Hymn will be sung twice. THE TREES OF THE FIELD

✠Benediction **Rev. Lamar**

Postlude *The Rejoicing (Fireworks Music, HWV 351)*
G.F. Handel

Sunday, October 12

Join us on October 12, as the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar continues her sermon series on the Fruit of the Spirit with scripture from John 14:25-27 and Jeremiah 8:4-7, 11 and a sermon titled "Peace." Music includes Hank Beebe's exuberant "Go Out with Joy" and the traditional melodic setting of "Soli Deo Gloria" (To God Alone Be Glory).



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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 Mr. and Mrs. Vernon P. Linhart
by Marilyn and John Moses.

GSPC News

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7
Lunch and Learn, noon: Come to lunch! Our guest speaker is Dr. Susan Ashbee, who will tell us about her mission work in Africa. The cost is $10 and includes drinks and dessert. Lunch is served at noon and the presentation begins at 12:30 p.m.

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. 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 8
Music Rehearsals: Handbells, 5:15-5:45 p.m. in the sanctuary; choir, 6-7:30 p.m. in the choir room.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12
Second Sunday Luncheon (no 9:30 a.m. Sunday School): A reminder that we will have our Sunday School programming and Children's Choir rehearsal after the Second Sunday Luncheon, which will be in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship.

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.