



“From the Three” by Hannah Garrity | A Sanctified Art | sanctifiedart.org

This Advent season, we are using resources from *A Sanctified Art*, an online ministry that supports worshiping communities in integrating art and creativity into their spiritual practices.

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.

During the **Passing of the Peace**, please turn to your neighbors and say, “The peace of Christ be with you.” Respond with, “And also with you,” when others greet you. The Passing of the Peace is a Christian ritual in which we remind each other of the peace that we know only in Christ, the Prince of Peace, and which draws us together as disciples.

Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 8, 2024 | 10:30 A.M.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gathering

PRELUDE

Variations on “Veni Emmanuel”

Leslie Betteridge

WELCOME

REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR

INTROIT

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Roy T. Scoggins, Jr.

The Handbell Choir

⌘ CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH responsive **TOBY, CORINNE, MICKIE, SUSAN AND BECCA LORGE**

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start? Let us begin together. Let us begin arm in arm. Let us begin by holding each other up, instead of tearing each other down. Let us begin with words of peace.

Yes, let us begin with peace. Today we light the candles of hope and peace.

May these lights remind us of what could be. May these lights mark a new beginning. May peace flow like a river, and may it start with us.

Arm in arm, hand in hand, side by side. May we begin again. Amen.

⌘ HYMN 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

⌘ PRAYER OF CONFESSION *unison*

REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR

Holy God,

We have tried to make our own way. We have tried to build a life you want, to kindle the faith you want, to walk the path you want. We have insisted again and again that we are fine on our own. We have refused the help of others and even your help. Forgive us, Lord. Remind us that we are not alone as we offer our silent prayers of confession.

(Silence)

Have mercy on us, Lord. Help us to remember that we are never without you by our side. Hold us in your grace so that we remember and come alongside one another on this journey of faith. Through Christ, our companion and friend, we pray. Amen.

⌘ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

⌘ PASSING OF THE PEACE

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.

New 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.

†RESPONSE | HYMN 88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (refrain only)*

VENI EMMANUEL

Proclaiming the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

JULIE OTTS

FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

CHRIS NEMEC

Angels We Have Heard on High

The Children's Choir; Katherine Browning and James Lamar, soloists

SECOND READING: Ruth 1

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

SERMON: "You Can't Go Alone"

REV. LAMAR

Thanksgiving

†HYMN 93

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

WINCHESTER NEW

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, 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 in 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. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 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 power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And 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

Wherever You Go, I Will Go
Weston Priory

Charlotte Naylor, vocalist and guitarist

Wherever you go, I will go, wherever you live, so shall I live. Your people will be my people, and your God shall be my God too. Wherever you die, I shall die. And there shall I be buried beside you. We will be together forever, and your God shall be my God too. (based on Ruth 1:16-17)

†RESPONSE | HYMN 606

Doxology
OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'ly host; Praise, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. 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.

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.

✖PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sending

✖HYMN 110

Love Has Come
BRING A TORCH

✖BENEDICTION

REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR

POSTLUDE

O Come, All Ye Faithful
arr. Barbara Baltzer Kinyon

The Handbell Choir

Sunday, December 15

Join us next Sunday as Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar continues her sermon series "Words from the Beginning" with a sermon title "Do the Good Thing that Is Yours to Do" based on Isaiah 58:9b-12 and Luke 3:7-16. Advent music includes John Ness Beck's "Every Valley" and Buryl Red's "Song of Mary" with soloist mezzo soprano Meredith Wilson.

Christmas Poinsettia Dedications

Poinsettias will be displayed on Sunday, December 22, for Lessons and Carols, and may be collected after the Christmas Eve Service on December 24. Dedications will be printed in the Lessons & Carols program on December 22.

Please turn this form in with the offering, or at the church office by December 15.

Please make checks payable to GSPC.

Given by:

In Honor Of:

In Memory Of:

Number of poinsettias (\$15 each): \$ Total



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Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the pulpit are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dottie and Dixon Meyers, Virginia and Dallas Jones, Sr., and Dallas Jones, Jr., by their family.

Calendar of Events

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

Circles of Hope and Joy: The PW Circles of Hope and Joy will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Guesnard House. All are welcome to join us for an evening of fellowship and Bible study. If you are able, please bring a beverage or a snack to share with the group.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 9 a.m. at the home of Ann Adams. The group is studying the Gospel of Matthew with the Rev. George Sinclair. Everyone is welcome.

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

Men's Bible Study: 6 p.m. in the Library and via Zoom. Contact: Bo Perry.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

Choir Rehearsal: 6 to 7 p.m. in the choir room.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

Happy Birthday, Jesus! (and Parents' Night Out): Children are invited to a fun night of pizza, Bible stories, games and birthday cake from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the church. Please RSVP to Bradley Daugherty.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

Children's Christmas Pageant: The children will present the annual Christmas Pageant during the Sunday School Hour in Fellowship Hall.

Christmas Luncheon: Dinner Club members are invited to the annual Christmas luncheon in the Guesnard House immediately after worship. Please bring your favorite dish to share; meat and beverage will be provided. New Dinner Clubs for January-May 2025 will be created later in December. If you would like to join a Dinner Club, contact Blanche Parsons (251) 348-7037 or Linda Reynolds (251) 510-6913.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

Service of Lessons and Carols: 10:30 a.m.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Flower Dedications: 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.

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.