

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.

Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, August 20, 2023 | 10:30 A.M.

TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Gathering

PRELUDE

Holy, Holy, Holy

Michael Burkhardt

WELCOME

REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR

INTROIT

Behold Now, Praise the Lord (abridged)

Everett Titcomb

The Sanctuary Choir

Behold now, praise the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord, praise the Lord!

✠CALL TO WORSHIP

We enter this sanctuary with a desire to meet God here.

God says, "Be still and know that I am God."

We come battered by the waves of joy and sorrow, contentment and confusion.

God says, "Be still and know that I am God."

There is chaos beyond these walls, Lord, and in these moments we seek peace and clarity.

God says, "Be still and know that I am God."

We admit that we don't always know where you are or what you want from us, but we want to know and come seeking you.

God says, "Be still and know that I am God."

Quiet us, Lord. Take what we cannot hold and give us back only what we need. Draw us into your holy presence and perfect grace.

Let us worship God.

✠HYMN 33

Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show

LLANFAIR

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, We desire to be steady in our faith, but we confess that the challenges of life can leave us struggling. We confess the times that we have been doubting, angry, or confused. We confess the times when we have stopped seeking you, times when the storms of life stretch our faith beyond its limits. We have not always trusted your presence, and we ask for mercy in our struggle. Hear our silent prayers, O Lord.

(silence)

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.

The nursery is available for ages infant through kindergarten.

Children's worship packets are available at the front of the sanctuary.

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.

Forgive us, Lord, and strengthen us to meet the trials that this life brings. Where our faith falters, support us by your grace. Help us to rely on your steadfast love and send us a circle of support that points us toward our merciful Savior, Jesus Christ. We pray in his name. Amen.

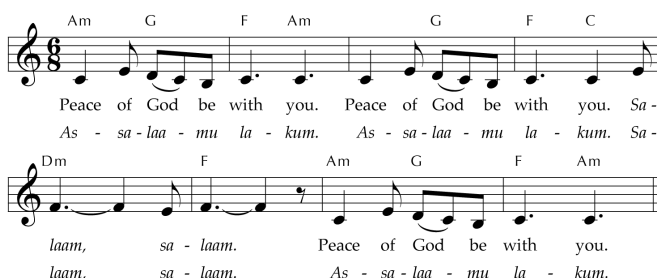
✠ASSURANCE OF PARDON

✠PASSING OF THE PEACE

✠RESPONSE: HYMN 448

Peace of God Be with You
AS-SALAAMU LAKUM

448 Peace of God Be with You *As-salaamu lakum*



Proclaiming the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

JULIE OTTS

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 27

CHILDREN'S SERMON

REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR

SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 4: 35-41

SERMON: "Sailboat Church: Storms"

REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR

Thanksgiving

✠HYMN 819

Be Still, My Soul
FINLANDIA

✠AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (From A Brief Statement of Faith)

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

Seven-fold Amen
Peter Lutkin

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester
L.J. White

The Sanctuary Choir

O holy Jesus, most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly. Amen.

✠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 375: Created as an alternative to gloomy "river of death" hymns, "Shall We Gather at the River" is a celebration of the "pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb" (Revelation 22:1 KJV).

✠HYMN 375

Shall We Gather at the River
HANSON PLACE

Sending

✠BENEDICTION

REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR

POSTLUDE

Sinfonia (BWV 142)
J.S. Bach

Sunday, August 27

Join us in worship next Sunday, August 27, as Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar continues her summer sermon series "Sailboat Church: Sailing" with corresponding scripture of Psalm 31:1-5, 23-24 and Galatians 5:22-26. Music will include a setting of the text "Day by Day" by Martin How, and the Black Gospel piece "I'm Goin' Up a Yonder" by Walter Hawkins.

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. A reception to honor the Rev. Hutson and her family will be held in the Jackson Street Foyer immediately after worship.



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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 Sanctuary Flowers are dedicated to the glory of God
by Jerry and Gary Curran.

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22

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.

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

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

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

Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, an internationally renowned scholar, author and teacher, will speak at Dauphin Way United Methodist Church on Thursday, August 24, at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

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

Sanctuary and Handbell Choirs: The GSPC choirs welcome all participants! If you've ever wanted to learn to play handbells, or if you love to lift a joyful voice in song, please email Chris Nemec, Director of Music and Organist, at chris@gspcmobile.org.

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.

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.