Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

RALLY DAY

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.*

Gathering

PRELUDE *Shine, Jesus, Shine*
arr. Chris Nemec

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

INTROIT *Jesus Loves Me*
arr. Michael T. Smith

Carter Hale Jr., ***boy soprano***

Jesus loves me, this I know; for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to Him belong: they are weak, but He is strong. Jesus loves me, He will stay close beside me all the way. If I love Him when I die, He will lead me home on high. Ah! The Bible tells me so.

✠**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*responsive)* **LILLIAN GRACE HALE**

Who are you?
I am a child of God.
Who are we?
We are the children of God, the family of faith.
What does it mean to be children of God?
That we belong to God, who loves us and calls us God's own.
Because God loves us,
Because God calls us,
Because we are the family of faith,
Let us worship God.

✠**HYMN 265** *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun*
DUKE STREET

✠**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)

Lord, you are a God who keeps promises. In our prayers and songs, we say that we want to be Christians, but then we forget our promises. Our actions do not match up with our words. We say mean things to other people. We hurt their feelings. We think of ourselves first. Worst of all, we ignore you. Hear our silent prayers of confession.

(silence)

Lord, forgive us. Help us to remember your promises and act with kindness and care in all that we do. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

✠**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

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.

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.

✠Passing of the Peace

✠Response | Hymn 634 *To God Be the Glory (refrain)*
TO GOD BE THE GLORY

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice! O come to the Father through Jesus the Son, and give him the glory: great things he has done!

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer For Illumination **Travis Goodloe**

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 7:10-17

A Family Blessing

Children's Sermon **Bradley Daugherty**

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:17-2:15

Sermon: "How Firm a Foundation: Birth" **Rev. Lamar**

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 175 *Seek Ye First*
LAFFERTY

✠Affirmation of Faith: (*from "Belonging to God: Catechism Resources for Worship")*

I am a child of God.
I belong to God, who loved me even before the creation of all that is.
Even though all of us have turned away from God and fallen into sin, God never stops loving us.
In the fullness of time, God sent Jesus to be our Messiah – the anointed one – who rescues us from sin and death.
Jesus called disciples to follow him.
He fed the hungry, healed the sick, blessed children, befriended outcasts, required people to repent, and forgave their sins.
He taught people not to fear but to trust always in God.
He preached the good news of God's love and gave everyone hope for new life.
As a result of his life and death and resurrection and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are the church.
We are people who believe the good news about Jesus, who are baptized and who share in the Lord's supper. Through these means of grace, the Spirit renews us so that we may serve God in love.
I am a child of God.
Thanks be to God!

✠Response *Amen*
Marty Haugen; arr. Nemec

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.*

Offering

Offertory *The Gift of Love*

arr. Hal Hopson

The Sanctuary Choir
Text: No. 693 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 host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

✠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 418 *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*

SOFTLY AND TENDERLY

Sending

✠Benediction **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Postlude *Trumpet Tune*

David German

This week's memory verse:
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
John 1:1

Sunday, September 15

Next Sunday, the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar's sermon is from Mark 1:1-20 and is titled "How Firm a Foundation: Son of God." Music includes the Handbell Choir playing Anna Laura Page's arrangement of "Praise the Father," and the Sanctuary Choir singing Allen Pote's setting of "A Jubilant Song," based on Psalm 90 and 96.



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CHURCH STAFF

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Send news for the e-newsletter or bulletin to Sally Ericson at sallyericson23@gmail.com.

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the pulpit are given to the glory of God
and in memory of Emily Townsend Miller
by her family.

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
Second Sunday Monthly Luncheon: The congregation is invited to a luncheon in Fellowship Hall immediately after worship today to celebrate Rally Day and the beginning of Sunday School. We will also gather for Second Sunday Lunches on Oct. 13 and Nov. 10.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 9 a.m. at the home of Ann Adams. The group will study the Gospel of Matthew with the Rev. George Sinclair as discussion leader. Everyone is welcome.

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

Tuesday Lunch and Learn: Come to lunch! Our guest speaker will be **Brendan Kirby**, an investigative reporter with Fox10 News. Lunch is served at noon and the presentation begins at 12:30 p.m. Lunch is $12 and includes dessert. Here is the schedule of September speakers:
Sept. 17: Kayla Byrne, Economic Development, Mobile Chamber of Commerce
Sept. 24: Merceria Ludgood, Mobile County Commissioner, District 1

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
Choir Rehearsals: Handbells, 5:15 to 5:45 p.m. in the sanctuary; Choir, 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the choir room. If you're interested in participating in GSPC's music ministries, please contact Chris Nemec.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Volunteers Needed: The church office would welcome volunteers during the week, especially between the hours of 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Volunteers assist with monitoring the Jackson Street entrance and answering the phone. They may also assist with special projects. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Meredith Johnston at the church office.

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.

Worship has continued on this site since 1836, when the sanctuary, now a National Historic landmark, was completed.