

Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 17, 2023 | 10:30 A.M.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Gathering

PRELUDE *Caroling, Caroling*
Alfred Burt; arr. Ovid Young

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

INTROIT *Christmas Prophecy*
Bob Burroughs

Jacob Mohr, *tenor*

✠CALL TO WORSHIP
AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *responsive*

HARLEY, MARLENE, CAROLYN, AND HOUSTON JONES

While we wait for Christ's coming, we light the candle of hope.
We place our hope in the Light of the World.
While we wait for Christ's coming, we light the candle of peace.
We pray for peace in our hearts, our homes, and our world.
While we wait for Christ's coming, we light the candle of joy.
We pray for the joy of Christ to overwhelm our sorrow.
The light of these candles is our prayer for a better world, a prayer for God's kingdom to come.
"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."
Let us worship God.

✠HYMN 133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful (Stanzas 1,3 and 4)*
ADESTE FIDELIS

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Sans Day Carol*
arr. John Rutter

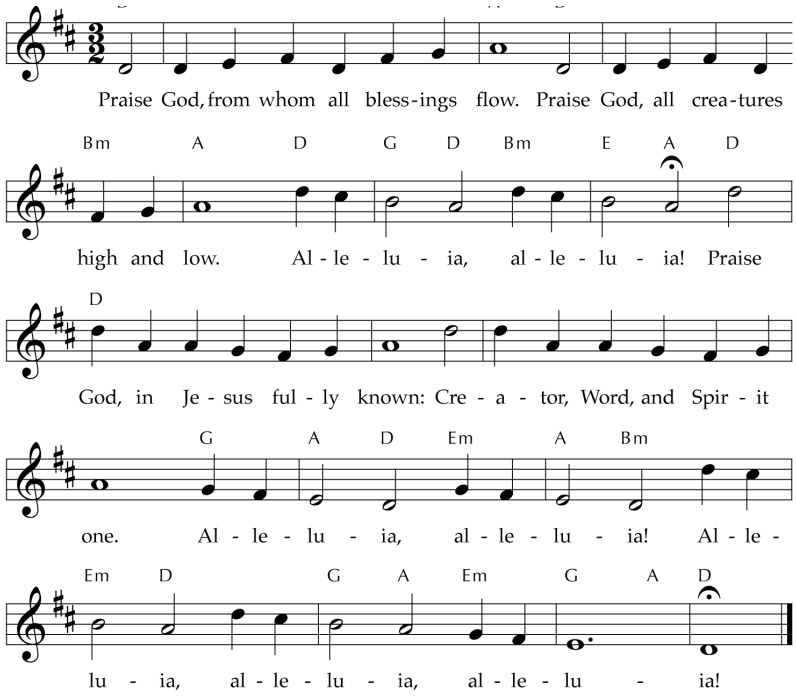
The Sanctuary Choir

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.*

✠Response | Hymn 609 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*
LASST UNS ERFREUEN



Children ages three *and older are invited to the front for the Children's Sermon. Children ages three through kindergarten may leave with volunteers for Wee Worship for the remainder of the service. The sign-in sheet for parents of Wee Worship children is on the front row.*

The nursery is available for ages infant through kindergarten.

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

✠Prayer Of Thanksgiving

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

Service of Lessons and Carols

Bidding Prayer **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

The First Lesson: Isaiah 9: 2-7 **Ava Roberts**

Music: *The Virgin's Slumber Song*
Carter Hale Jr., *Boy Soprano* Max Reger

The Second Lesson: Isaiah 11: 1-9 **David Trent**

Music: Hymn 123 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*
CAROL

The Third Lesson: Luke 1: 26-38 **Nancy Graham**

Music: *Still, Still, Still*
The Sanctuary Choir arr. Mack Wilberg

THE FOURTH LESSON: Luke 2: 1-7 **WILLIAM PEEBLES**

Music: Hymn 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High*
GLORIA

THE FIFTH LESSON: Luke 2: 8-20 **CHARLOTTE CROCKETT**

Music: *Ding, Dong, Merrily on High*
16th Century France; arr. Charles Wood

The Sanctuary Choir

THE SIXTH LESSON: Matthew 2: 1-11 **DAVID ERICSON**

Music: Hymn 147 *The First Nowell (Stanzas 1,5 and 6)*
THE FIRST NOWELL

THE SEVENTH LESSON: John 1: 1-14 **EMERSON HALE**

Music: Hymn 136 *Go, Tell it on the Mountain*
GO TELL IT

✠**BENEDICTION** **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

POSTLUDE *Toccata on "Adeste Fidelis'" (Carol Rhapsody)*
Richard Purvis

Christmas Eve Services

Join us on December 24 at 10:30 a.m. as we celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent and light the Advent Candle of Love. The sermon will reference Isaiah 9:2-7 and Luke 2:1-20. The Children of GSPC will present their Christmas Pageant, and the Children's Choir will sing two pieces: Natalie Sleeth's "Light One Candle" and the Jamaican-influenced "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy." Also, we will sing several beloved congregational Christmas carols.

Our 5 p.m. service will celebrate Christmas Eve, the Birth of Our Lord. The sermon, titled "The Angel's Song," will be drawn from Isaiah 9:2-7 and Luke 2:1-20. Joining the Sanctuary Choir will be violinist Ashley Lamar and timpanist Laura Noah as they present music of Christmas: numerous favorite congregational Christmas carols, "Angels' Carol," "Infant Holy," and "On Christmas Night." Soprano Gabrielle Corlette will sing "O Holy Night," and the service will conclude in candlelight with "Silent Night." Invite your friends to this celebration of Candles, Carols and Holy Communion.



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

CHURCH STAFF

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

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

Meredith Johnston
Office Manager
meredith@gspcmobile.org

Dawn Hearn
Bookkeeper
dawn@gspcmobile.org

Barbara Williams
Property Manager & Hostess
barbara@gspcmobile.org

Sally Ericson
Communications
sallyericson23@gmail.com

Shelia Smith
Director of Food Services

Marilyn Mills
Arthur Lewis
Sexton(s)

Send news for the e-newsletter or bulletin to Meredith Johnston at meredith@gspcmobile.org, or to Sally Ericson at sallyericson23@gmail.com.

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the pulpit are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory
of Mr. and Mrs. Ervin S. Cooper
by their family.

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

Sunday Book Study Group: Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the library.

Talking Heads Sunday School class: This class meets on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Heltzel Room on the second floor.

Sunday School for children and youth: These classes meet at 9:30 a.m.

Wee Worship: Sundays at 10:45 a.m. for ages 3 to kindergarten.

Reminder: Today is the deadline to turn in poinsettia dedications. Please pick up a form in the sanctuary and drop it in the offering plate or by the church office. The poinsettias will be on display at the Christmas Eve services.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 8 a.m. at the home of Ann Adams.

Women's Bible Study: This Bible study has recessed for the holidays and will resume meeting on January 9 at 10 a.m. in the Library. Contact: Mary Elizabeth Perry.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

Advent Wednesday Service: Noon in the Sanctuary, followed by lunch in Fellowship Hall at 12:30 p.m.

Men's Bible Study: This Bible study has recessed for the holidays and will resume meeting after the first of the year. Contact: Bo Perry.

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: 6 p.m. in the Choir Room.

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.