Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, January 4, 2026 | 10:30 A.M.

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Preparation for Worship

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.*

The congregation of Government Street Presbyterian Church*, as the people of God called to worship and work in downtown Mobile, pursue our mission to use our unique resources and opportunities to love, to honor, and to glorify God and to give hope, comfort, instruction and inspiration to all persons that they may become joyful disciples of Jesus Christ.*

Government Street Presbyterian Church, *founded in 1831, is known as the mother of Presbyterianism in southern Alabama. We are a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and participate in the work of the Presbytery of South Alabama.*

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.

PRELUDE *Fantasia*
Johann Pachelbel

WELCOME **THE REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

INTROIT *Holy Is the Lord (German Mass, 1827)*
Franz Schubert

The Sanctuary Choir
Holy, holy, holy. Holy is the Lord! Holy is our God. He who always liveth evermore the same. Heav'n and earth He ruleth; Come and praise His name.

✠**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Responsive; based on Isaiah 60:1)* **LYNN MCDANIEL**
Arise! Shine! For your light has come.
God's light has come to reveal the way in this new year.
Arise! Shine! For your light has come.
The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.
Arise! Shine! For your light has come.
God's light penetrates the darkness that covers the world.
Arise! Shine! For your light has come.
Nations shall come to God's light, and kings shall come to the brightness of God's dawn.
Arise! Shine! For the Glory of the Lord has risen upon us.
Light of God, we welcome you in this place.
Let us worship God.

✠**HYMN 150** *As With Gladness Men of Old*
DIX

✠**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(Unison)*
God of all people,
You set a star in the sky, and yet we lose sight. You give us what we need for the journey, and yet we stand still. You sent Christ to a weary world, and yet we imagine we are alone. Forgive us, Lord, when we stand in darkness and refuse your light. Open our eyes to see your glory and follow the star you set before us, knowing that you are always with us and give us companions for the journey. Hear our silent prayers.

(Silence)

Have mercy on us, Lord, and give us the faith to follow your light wherever it may lead. Give us all we need for this journey of discipleship and provide us companions on the way. 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 581 *Glory Be to the Father*
GLORIA PATRI

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination **Lynn McDaniel**
First Reading: John 14:15-18

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon **Rev. Lamar**
Wee Worship Leader: Emily Watson

Celebration of the Baptism

Ann Murray Oswalt
Daughter of George and Katie Oswalt
Born August 28, 2025
Baptized November 2, 2025, at St. Ignatius Catholic Church

✠Hymn 486 *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*
KINGDOM

Second Reading: Psalm 139: 1-18
Sermon: "Lies We Tell Ourselves: I Am Alone" **Rev. Lamar**

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 159 *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem*
KINGSFOLD

✠Affirmation of Faith *(The Apostles' Creed; unison)* **Lynn McDaniel**

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.

Choral Response *Three-Fold Amen*
DANISH AMEN

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.*

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.

Visiting? Welcome to GSPC, *where we hope you'll find our worship meaningful, our fellowship warm and our ministry exciting. Come again! If you are considering membership, we'd love to have you. You may join us through transfer of letter, re-affirmation of faith or profession of faith.*

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Offering

Offertory *O Worship the King*

The Sanctuary Choir LYONS; arr. Cornell/Nemec

Text: No. 41 in The Hymnal (Stanzas 1, 2, 4 & 5)

✠Response | Hymn 609 *Doxology*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

✠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 Meditation *Prière (Suite Gothique)*

Léon Boëllmann

Prayer After Communion

Sending

✠Hymn 702 *Christ Be Beside Me*

BUNESSAN

✠Benediction **Rev. Lamar**

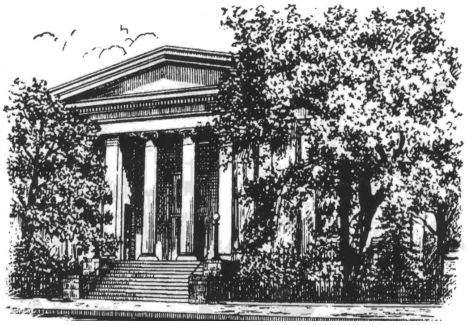
Postlude *Rondeau*

Jean Joseph Mouret

Sunday, January 11

Join us next Sunday, January 11. The Rev. Lamar will preach from Isaiah 43:1-5a and Romans 5:1-11 with a sermon titled "Lies We Tell Ourselves: I Am Not Worthy." Music includes Mark Patterson's arrangement of the spiritual "Witness."

We will ordain and install the elders and deacons for the Class of 2028.



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

CHURCH STAFF

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

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

Paula Spath
Office Manager
paula@gspcmobile.org

Dawn Hearn
Bookkeeper
dawn@gspcmobile.org

Barbara Williams
Property Manager and Hostess
barbara@gspcmobile.org

Sally Ericson
Communications
sallyericson23@gmail.com

Willie Mae King
Director of Food Services
williemae@gspcmobile.org

Marilyn Mills
Arthur Lewis
Sexton(s)

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 gratitude for the staff of GSPC.

Calendar of Events

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6
Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 9 a.m. at the home of Ann Adams.
Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Library. Contact: Mary Elizabeth Perry.
Theology on Tap: Join us for Bible study and fellowship in the Guesnard House at 5:30 p.m. The facilitators are Casi and Jarrett Callaway. All are welcome.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7
Music Rehearsals: Handbells, 5:15-5:45 p.m.; choir, 6-7:30 p.m.
Men's Bible Study: 6 p.m. in the Library. Contact: Bo Perry.

MONDAY, JANUARY 12
Circles of Hope and Joy: The Circles of Hope and Joy will gather for Bible study and fellowship in the Guesnard House at 5:30 p.m. If you are able, please bring a snack or beverage to share. All are welcome.

OTHER NEWS AND NOTES

Lunch and Learn series: The Tuesday Lunch and Learn series will resume on Tuesday, February 3, with our own Tom McGehee as the first speaker of the winter-spring series.

McKemie Place: Each month on the second Friday, volunteers provide a light lunch for about 24 residents at McKemie Place, a shelter for homeless women. Volunteers are needed on January 9, February 13 and March 13. Please call Lisa DeShazo at 251-591-1077 or Mary DeWitt Dukes at 504-920-1918 if you are able to help with this mission at GSPC.

GSPC Book Club: The Book Club will meet on January 27 at 5:30 p.m. in the library and via Zoom. The group will view a presentation, "Iconographic Disjunction in the Rushkin Psalter." Please RSVP to Meredith Johnston at mwjohnston@crimson.ua.edu.

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.

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.

Online Directory: GSPC members are encouraged to download the Realm app and use it to connect with the congregation. Those who did not already have a Realm account should have received an email invitation to create one. If you did not receive an invitation, please call the church office at 251-432-1749 for assistance.

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.