



**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, April 7, 2024 | 10:30 A.M.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

## Gathering

### PRELUDE

*Awake, Thou Wintry Earth (BWV 129)*

J.S. Bach

Awake, thou wintry earth. Fling off thy sadness. Fair vernal flowers laugh forth  
Your ancient gladness. Christ is risen!

### WELCOME

**HENRY MORRISSETTE**

### INTROIT

*God Be In My Head*

Andrea Ramsey

**The Sopranos and Altos of the Sanctuary Choir**

God be in my head and in my understanding, God be in my eyes and in my looking.  
God be in my head and in my understanding, God be in my mouth and in my speaking.  
God be in my heart. God be at my end and my beginning and all days in between.  
(Adapted from the Book of Hours, Clare College, Cambridge, 1514.)

### ✠CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup. I place my future in the hands of God.

**Christ is risen! Bless the Lord!**

I keep the Lord always before me. Because God is near, I shall not be moved.

**Christ is risen! Bless the Lord!**

My heart is glad, and my soul rejoices. I rest secure in the good news we have received.

**Christ is risen! Bless the Lord!**

Alleluia! Let us worship God.

### ✠HYMN 233

*The Day of Resurrection!*

LANCASHIRE

### ✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Risen Lord,  
You have given us the gift of community to help us love and serve you more faithfully. We confess that we still try to earn your love, not wanting to admit our weakness or failings. We take for granted the great cloud of witnesses that support us, challenge us, nurture us, and walk with us. In spite of your example, we do not always love our neighbors as ourselves. We beg for your mercy and ask you to hear our silent prayers of confession.

(silence)

Forgive us, Lord. Help us lean on one another as we seek to do your will. Give us faith to love and serve in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Savior.  
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.

**For more than 1,000 years**, the church has used the Apostles’ Creed to affirm its faith in Jesus Christ. When we say this creed together, we are joined with generations of Christians who have come before us in declaring foundational doctrines of our faith in Christ.

## ✠ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## ✠PASSING OF THE PEACE

## ✠RESPONSE | HYMN 587

*Alleluia!*  
CELTIC ALLELUIA

# Proclaiming the Word

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

LINDA REYNOLDS

## SCRIPTURE READING: 1 John 1:1-2:2

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

HUNTER OSWALT

## SCRIPTURE READING: John 21:1-19

## SERMON: “Here’s My Heart”

REV. ROBERT E. MADSEN

# Thanksgiving

## ✠HYMN 236

*The Strife Is O’er*  
VICTORY

## ✠AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles’ Creed

SUSAN ASHBEE

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.

## ✠RESPONSE

*Thanks Be to God, Alleluia*  
Swahili Folk Hymn; arr. Nemec

## OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

*The Peace of God*  
John Rutter

### The Sanctuary Choir

The peace of God that passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost be amongst you and remain with you always. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer, 1662, and based on Philippians 4:7.)

**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.

**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.

## ✠RESPONSE | HYMN 607

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

## ✠PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

#### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

REV. ROBERT E. MADSEN

#### 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

*Communion*

Richard Purvis

*Meditation*

Claude Debussy

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

#### ✠HYMN 318

*In Christ There Is No East or West*

ST. PETER

## *Sending*

#### ✠BENEDICTION

REV. ROBERT E. MADSEN

#### POSTLUDE

*Rigaudon*

André Campra

Thank you to the Rev. Robert E. Madsen for serving as our guest Pastor today. Bob is Regional Presbyterian serving the Presbytery of South Alabama and the Presbytery of Mississippi. Prior to embarking on that ministry, Bob served as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Andalusia for slightly more than eight years. He began his ministry serving as associate pastor in East Brunswick, N.J., for five years and then Franklin, Tenn., for seven years. Bob also served as pastor of the Presbyterian Churches in Gulf Shores, Ala. (2002-05) and Bluffton, Ind (2005-13). He and his wife, Linda, live in Saraland.

## *Sunday, April 14*

Next Sunday, April 14, the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar will begin her new sermon series, "Practicing Resurrection," with scripture readings from Psalm 4:1-8 and 1 John 3:1-15. Choral music includes Tom Fettke's "The Majesty and Glory of Your Name," and the Handbell Choir will play a challenging setting of "O Worship the King."



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#### CHURCH STAFF

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*Send news for the e-newsletter or bulletin  
to Sally Ericson at  
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## Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the pulpit are given to the glory of God  
and in loving memory of Buck and Abbie Tamblyn,  
G.B. and Anne Clarke,  
and Lee and Erma Catrett  
by their family.

## Calendar of Events

### TUESDAY, APRIL 9

**Women's Bible Study:** Tuesdays at 8 a.m. at the home of Ann Adams. The group is studying Romans.

**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 Simone Eli, sports director and anchor at WKRG. Lunch is served at noon and the presentation begins at 12:30 p.m. Lunch is \$12 and includes coffee, tea and dessert. Here is the schedule:

April 9: Simone Eli, sports director and anchor, WKRG

April 16: Cam Marston, author and radio personality

April 23: Jon Carfagno, Executive Director, Mobile Museum of Art

April 30: Elizabeth Stevens, President and CEO, Downtown Mobile Alliance

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

**Choir 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.

### COMING UP

### THURSDAY, APRIL 18

**Two Pastors and a Rabbi:** The Interfaith Bible Study will be at 5:30 p.m. at Springhill Avenue Temple, 1769 Springhill Ave.

### TUESDAY, APRIL 23

**Young Women's Bible Study:** The 20s/30s Young Women's Bible Study will meet at 6 p.m. in the Guesnard House. Contact: Mary Herndon Nordmann.

## 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.