Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, August 24, 2025 | 10:30 A.M.

ORDINARY TIME

Gathering

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.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS **REV. ANNE H.K. APPLE**

PRELUDE *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (Cantata 147)*
J.S. Bach

Jesus remains my joy, My heart's comfort and strength,
Jesus protects against all suffering, He is the strength of my life,
My eyes' joy and sun, My soul's treasure and delight;
Therefore I will not let Jesus out of my heart and my sight.

INTROIT *Alleluia (Exultate Jubilate)*
W.A. Mozart

✠**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Responsive)* **DICK OTTS**

In this place, we gather to turn our hearts and minds before God.
We rejoice that God, in three persons, meets us here.
As we worship, we remember,
that we are the family of faith together!

✠**HYMN 13** *The Mighty God with Power Speaks*
KINGSFOLD

✠**CALL TO CONFESSION**

✠**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(Unison)*

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.

Gracious God, we are a people who often do the wrong thing, even when we want to do what is right. We have not cared for others as you have called us to, but we have been focused on ourselves. We are often more divisive than uniting, more unkind than kind, and more rebellious than faithful. Forgive us, we pray, and create in us clean hearts to go forth, glorify, and honor you.

(Silence)

In your gracious name, we pray. **Amen.**

✠**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

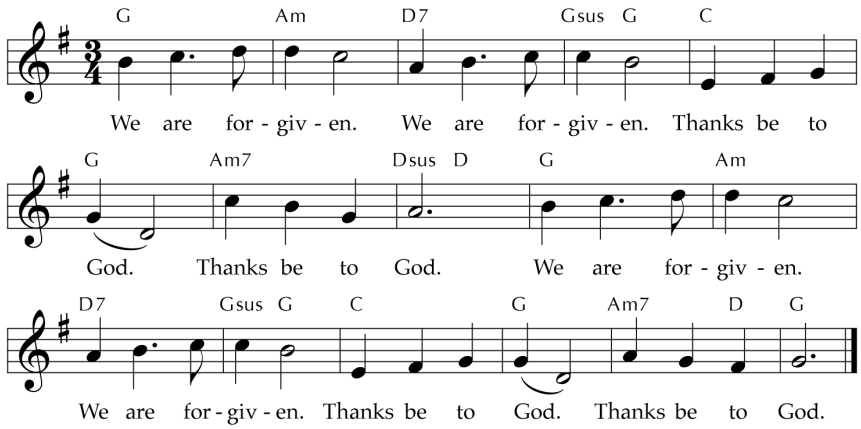
We pass the peace *by greeting one another and saying, "The peace of Christ be with you," to which one replies, "And also with you." The ancient ritual of the church reminds us that Christ offers us peace that passes understanding.*

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.*

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.*

✠Response | Hymn 447 *We Are Forgiven*
WE ARE FORGIVEN



✠Passing of the Peace

Proclaiming the Word

Sung Prayer for Illumination

✠Hymn 291 *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*
SPIRIT

Refrain, verse 4 and refrain

First Reading: Luke 13:10-17 **Dick Otts**

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon **Rev. Anne H.K. Apple**
Wee Worship Leaders: Emily Watson and Toots Weaver

Second Reading: Isaiah 58:9b-14

Sermon: "To Be Set Free" **Rev. Apple**

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 626 *As the Deer*
The hymn will be sung twice. ST. AGNE

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.*

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.*

Sunday, August 31: *Join us next Sunday as the Rev. Anne H.K. Apple preaches on "Who Do We Invite," utilizing scripture from Jeremiah 2:4-13 and Luke 14:1, 7-14. Music includes two choral settings of the well-known text "Day by day, dear Lord of thee three things I pray," by L.J. White and Martin How.*

Do you have news to share in the electronic newsletter and bulletin? Please use this QR code to access the Announcement Form. You may also email your news to Sally Ericson at sallyericson23@gmail.com.

✠Affirmation of Faith (*Unison; adapted from A Brief Statement of Faith, 11.3*)

We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female,
of every race and people, to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.

We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.

Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
Like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.

✠Response *Seven-fold Amen*
John Rutter

Call to Offering
and Presentation of Gifts, Tithes, and Offerings
Offertory *In This Very Room*
Ron Harris

The Sanctuary Choir

In this very room there's quite enough love for one like me, and in this very room there's quite enough joy for one like me. And there's quite enough hope and quite enough power to chase away any gloom, for Jesus, Lord Jesus, is in this very room. And in this very room there's quite enough love for all of us. And in this very room there's quite enough love for all the world.

✠Response | Hymn 606 *Doxology*
OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God, above ye heavenly hosts; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

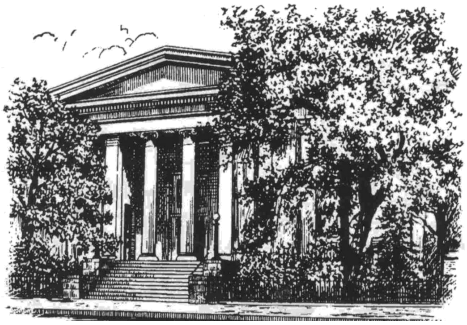
✠Prayer of Thanksgiving
Prayer of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer

Sending

✠Hymn 738 *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*
MARYTON

✠Benediction **Rev. Apple**

Postlude *Te Deum (We Praise Thee, O God)*
Marc-Antoine Charpentier



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
Sabbatical: June 16-September 15
rebekah@gspcmobile.org

Rev. Anne H.K. Apple
Temporary Pastor
anne@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 loving memory of
Mr. and Mrs. Marion Adams, Sr.
by their Adams and Oswalt grandchildren,
great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

GSPC News

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

GSPC Book Club: 5:30 p.m. in the parlor and via Zoom. The selection is "Fairhope, 1894–1954: The Story of a Single Tax Colony" by Paul and Blanche Alyea. RSVP to mwjohnston@crimson.ua.edu or 251-323-5954.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6-7:30 p.m. in the choir room.

NEWS AND NOTES

Call for Musicians: The Bell Choir and Sanctuary Choir currently have openings. The Bell Choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 5:15 to 5:45 p.m., starting September 3. The Sanctuary Choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. For details, contact Chris Nemec at chris@gspcmobile.org.

Back-to-School Uniform Drive: The congregation is invited to provide assistance to students who need school uniforms. GSPC supports the uniform closet at Barton Academy. If you would like to assist these families, please submit a check to the church office, or through the offering, and put "Uniform Assistance" in the memo line.

Status Update on the Elevator: The elevator repair project has begun, and the sanctuary will soon have a chair lift as well. If you need help to access the sanctuary, please call the church office, or notify a Sunday Assistant.

Seeking a 12-Step Program Host: The Mission Committee is searching for a volunteer with AA-12 step program history to host a new program at GSPC. This will be a weekly commitment. The committee will help with providing books and meeting space. If you have the knowledge and interest, please contact Neal Horner or Lynn McDaniel.

McKemie Place Lunches: Volunteers are needed once a month to bring lunch to McKemie Place, a residence program where homeless women receive not only shelter, food and counseling but also assistance in various ways to get their life back to "normal." If you can assist with this rewarding ministry on September 11, October 10 or November 14, please call Lisa deShazo at 251-591-1077 or Mary DeWitt Dukes at 504-920-1918.

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.