Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, August 27, 2023 | 10:30 A.M.

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Gathering

PRELUDE *Arioso (BWV 156)*
J.S. Bach

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

MINUTE FOR MISSION **SALLY ERICSON**

INTROIT *Day By Day*
Martin How

The Sanctuary Choir

Day by day, dear Lord of thee three things I pray. To see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

✠CALL TO WORSHIP

God has gathered us to worship together.

God will guide our steps.

God has given us the gift of scripture to shed light on our path.

God will guide our steps.

God has shown us the way to salvation through the life and death of Jesus Christ.

God will guide our steps.

With grateful hearts, let us worship God.

✠HYMN 81 *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*
AUSTRIAN HYMN

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION **CARRIE ADAMS**

Almighty God, we are ready to sail on the grand adventure of faith, but we confess that we are afraid. We like the safety of the shore and the illusion of control. We confess that we don't fully know what it means to follow you, and we are afraid of what we will have to sacrifice. Forgive us, Lord, and hear our silent prayers of confession.

(silence)

Have mercy on us and give us courage. Help us see the new horizons that you have in store for us. Give us the faith we need to follow you and place our lives in your hands. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

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.*

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.*

The nursery is available for ages infant through kindergarten.

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

The Brief Statement of Faith *was written in the 1980s when the Presbyterian Church (USA) was formed by the reunion of the northern and southern strands of Presbyterianism that divided before the Civil War. The statement offers one of the fullest descriptions of the Holy Spirit found in our denomination's Book of Confessions, emphasizing the Spirit's work in our present-day world.*

✠Assurance of Pardon

✠Passing of the Peace

✠Response: Hymn 448 *Peace of God Be with You*
AS-SALAAMU LAKUM

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer For Illumination **Rev. Dr. Anna Fulmer Duke**

Scripture Reading: Psalm 31:1-5, 23-24

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

Scripture Reading: Galatians 5:22-26

Sermon: "Sailboat Church: Sailing" **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 279 *Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove*
ST. AGNES

✠Affirmation of Faith (From A Brief Statement of Faith)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Response *Seven-fold Amen*
Peter Lutkin

Offering

Offertory *I'm Going Up a Yonder*
Walter Hawkins; arr. Sirvatka

The Sanctuary Choir

If anybody asks you where I'm goin', where I'm goin', soon; so if you wanna know where I'm goin', where I'm goin', real soon; I'm goin' up a yonder to be with my Lord. If I can take the pain, the heartache that it brings, there's comfort that in knowing I'll soon be home. If God gives me grace, I'll run this race, and soon I'll see my savior face to face. I'm goin' up a yonder to be with my Lord. Goin' home!

✠Response | Hymn 607 *Doxology*

Statement and Litany of Dissolution: *In the Presbyterian Church (USA), pastors are called to service by a vote of the congregation and are released from service by an act of the congregation. As Rev. Alexandra Hutson leaves her ministry at GSPC, we vote to dissolve the pastoral relationship through a litany that blesses our ministry together and blesses pastor and congregation into the future. Please join us for a reception for Alexandra and her family following the service.*

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✠Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer

✠Hymn 703 *Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me*
ST. CATHERINE

Statement and Litany of Dissolution **Henry Morrissette**
Rev. Dr. Anna Fulmer Duke
Rev. Alexandra Hutson

In your world, in this congregation, and in this community,

Be present, Lord.

In this presbytery, our denomination, and in the whole church,

Be present, Lord.

In the homes and hearts of all your people,

Be present, Lord.

We give thanks for our journey together in this place. For friendships made, for joys celebrated and for times of nurture and growth,

Thanks be to God.

For our fellowship in Jesus Christ, and for the love of God, which has sustained us,

Thanks be to God.

For our trust in God who holds in grace all that we have begun together but not yet completed,
Thanks be to God.

Do you, the members and friends of Government Street Presbyterian Church, vote to dissolve the pastoral relationship and release Alexandra Hutson from service as your pastor?

We do, with thanks to God.

Do you, Alexandra, recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with this congregation?

I do, with thanks to God.

Prayer **Rev. Dr. Anna Fulmer Duke**

Sending

✠Benediction **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Postlude *Psalm 19 (The Heavens Declare the Glory of God)*
Benedetto Marcello

Sunday, September 3

Join us in worship next Sunday, September 3. The Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar will preach on Romans 12:9-21 and Psalm 105:1-6. The Sanctuary Choir will sing J.S. Bach's beloved "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" and Praetorius' 16th century "Jubilate Deo."



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

Rev. Alexandra Hutson
Associate Pastor
alexandra@gspcmobile.org

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

Heather Hamilton
Office Manager
heather@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 Heather Hamilton at heather@gspcmobile.org, or to Sally Ericson at sallyericson23@gmail.com.

Sanctuary Flowers

The Sanctuary Flowers are dedicated 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.

Calendar of Events

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29

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

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30

Choir rehearsals: Handbells, 5:15-5:45 p.m.; choir, 6-7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

ADDITIONAL NEWS AND NOTES

Baytreat summer rentals: Baytreat is available for rentals this summer. For information, contact Barbara Williams at barbara@gspcmobile.org.

Sanctuary and Handbell Choirs: The GSPC choirs welcome all participants! If you've ever wanted to learn to play handbells, or if you love to lift a joyful voice in song, please email Chris Nemec, Director of Music and Organist, at chris@gspcmobile.org.

Sanctuary flowers: 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.

September Birthdays

September 1: Bligh Jones
September 2: Dewey Parsons
September 3: Harley Jones, John Mostellar
September 4: Susan Ashbee
September 5: Jackson Boone
September 8: Vivian Ash
September 10: Barbara Haas, Mac Mostellar
September 12: Brenda Ogburn
September 13: Susan Miller
September 15: Robert Durant, Jeanie Schottgen
September 17: Rudy Nordmann
September 18: Ben Dukes, Henri Schoenvogel
September 20: Lelia Otts, LeAnne Tamblyn
September 21: Carolyne Hess, Harry Ray Jr.
September 22: Jarrett Callaway, Henry Morrissette
September 23: Sims Brown
September 24: James Lamar
September 26: Marie Durant, Dru Oswalt, Georgia Schwarzhauer
September 27: Lindsay Otts, Robert Weaver
September 28: Perrin Tamblyn Bickert
September 29: Toots Weaver
September 30: Eleanor Oswalt