Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, September 21, 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.*

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.

Preparation for Worship

"The Spirit that bids us hope, and strength to hold
The unsearchable deep things of God."
C.S. Lewis, from "Mere Christianity"

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

PRELUDE — *In Heav'nly Love Abiding (Opus 34, No. 2)*
Felix Mendelssohn

In heav'nly love abiding, no change my heart shall fear; and safe is such confiding,
for nothing changes here. The storm may roar without me, my heart may low be laid,
but God is round about me, and can I be dismayed?

INTROIT — *Jubilate Deo*
Michael Praetorius

The Sanctuary Choir
Translation: Sing Joyfully unto God. Alleluia.

✠**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Responsive)* — **REV. APPLE**

For as the earth brings forth its shoots
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations. Let us worship God.

✠**HYMN 1** — *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!*
NICAEA

✠**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(Unison)*

Holy God,
We seek to be the people you created us to be, but we confess that we fall short. We let the concerns and distractions of our everyday life keep us from focusing on what is right and true. We neglect that wild garden of our hearts, where your Spirit is at work, prioritizing lesser things. Forgive us, Lord, and hear our silent prayers.

(Silence)

Have mercy on us, Lord. Help us to follow your Holy Spirit and bear fruit worthy of our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ, in whose name 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.*

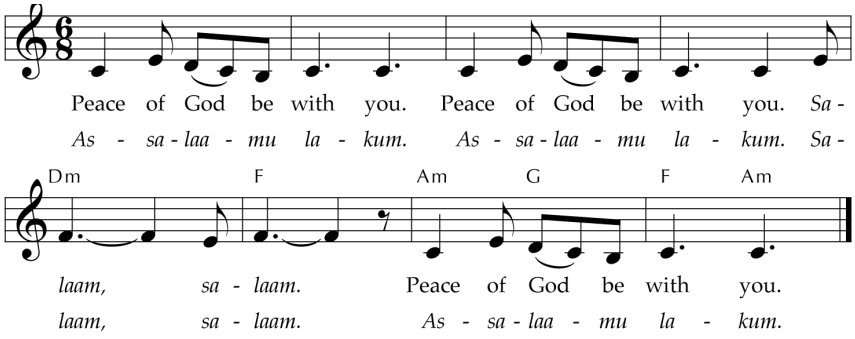
Children ages three *and older are invited to the front for the Children's Sermon. Children ages 3 through kindergarten may go to Wee Worship following the Children's Sermon. They may be picked up from the Sunday School classroom following worship. Children under 3 are welcome in the nursery. Older children 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 448 *Peace of God Be With You*
AL-SALAAMU LAKUM

The Hymn will be sung twice.



Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination **Rev. Anne H.K. Apple**

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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

Wee Worship Leaders: Emily Watson and Charlotte Crockett

Second Reading: Galatians 5:13-26

Sermon: "Led by the Spirit" **Rev. Lamar**

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 288 *Spirit of the Living God*

The Hymn will be sung twice. LIVING GOD

✠Affirmation of Faith *(The Apostles' Creed)* **Rev. Apple**

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 *Three-fold Amen*
DANISH AMEN

"Grace Upon Grace:" A Stewardship Moment **Kendall Dexter**

Offering
Offertory *O Holy Jesus*
Jonathan Willcocks

The Sanctuary Choir

O holy Jesus, most merciful Redeemer, may I know Thee more clearly, love Thee more dearly, and follow Thee more nearly, day by day. Amen. (St. Richard of Chichester)

✠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 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.*

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving **Kendall Dexter**

A Litany of Gratitude **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Leader: …. we say together,
People: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer **Rev. Lamar**

Sending

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

✠Benediction **Rev. Lamar**

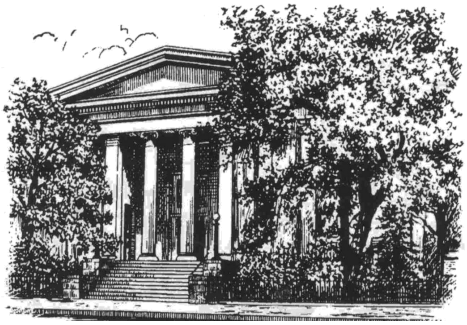
Postlude *Rigaudon*
André Campra

Today, we welcome the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar back from her sabbatical leave, and we say good-bye to the Rev. Anne H.K. Apple with deep gratitude for her service at GSPC. All are invited to a reception in the Jackson Street Foyer following the service to celebrate Anne and Jim and their ministry at GSPC this summer.

Sunday, September 28

Join us next Sunday, September 28, as the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar continues her sermon series on the Fruit of the Spirit with a sermon titled "Love," using texts from I Corinthians 13 and I John 4:7-12. Each week of the series follows a chapter from Eugenia Gamble's book, "Tending the Wild Garden: Growing in the Fruit of the Spirit." Music includes the Bell Choir playing "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks" and the Sanctuary Choir singing a setting of the text "Be Thou My Vision" by John Rutter.

We will also have a congregational meeting to elect elders and deacons for the Class of 2028.



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CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar
Pastor and Head of Staff
Sabbatical: June 16-September 15
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Rev. Anne H.K. Apple
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Marilyn Mills
Arthur Lewis
Sexton(s)

Send news for the e-newsletter or bulletin to Sally Ericson at sallyericson23@gmail.com, or use the QR code below to access the online form.

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the pulpit are given
to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Emily Townsend Miller
by her family.

GSPC News

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
Lunch and Learn, noon: Come to lunch! Our guest speaker is Jessica Fairley, Manager of the Africatown Heritage House. The cost is $10 and includes drinks and dessert. Lunch is served at noon and the presentation begins at 12:30 p.m.

Young Women's Bible Study, 6 p.m. in the Guesnard House: All 20s/30s women are invited to join a 10-week Bible study based on "Tending the Wild Garden: Growing in the Fruit of the Spirit" by the Rev. Eugenia Gamble. The book is available on amazon.com, and there will be a few copies available at the Bible study. All are invited to come, bring friends, and enjoy community and a chance to grow in our faith. The facilitators are Nicole Riis and Beth Majure.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
Music Rehearsals: Handbells, 5:15-5:45 p.m. in the sanctuary; choir, 6-7:30 p.m. in the choir room.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
GSPC Book Club, 5:30 p.m.: The GSPC Book Club will meet in the GSPC Library and via Zoom. The reading selection is "Between Two Worlds: Jewish War Brides After the Holocaust," by Robin Judd. Please RSVP to Meredith Johnston at mwjohnston@crimson.ua.edu or 251-323-5954.

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., and the Sanctuary Choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. For details, contact Chris Nemec at chris@gspcmobile.org.

Sanctuary Chair Lift: A new chair lift has been installed in the stairwell next to the elevator. If you need assistance in using it, please ask a staff member or a Sunday Assistant to help you.

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. If you have the knowledge and interest, please contact Neal Horner or Lynn McDaniel.

McKemie Place: Each month on the second Friday, 2-3 volunteers provide a light lunch for about 24 residents at McKemie Place, a shelter for homeless women. Volunteers are needed for Dec. 12. Please call Lisa DeShazo at 251-591-1077 or Mary DeWitt Dukes at 504-920-1918 if you are able to help with this meaningful, longtime mission at GSPC.

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.

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.