

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.*

The first five lines of the ***Call to Worship*** *are from Ann Weems' poem, "The Disciples," found in her book* Kneeling in Jerusalem.

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.*

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, March 26, 2023 | 10:30 A.M.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Gathering

PRELUDE *Cantilena (Flute Sonata)*
Francis Poulenc

Dr. Andra Bohnet, *flute soloist*

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

INTROIT *Siciliano (Sonata No. 2 for Flute, BWV 1031)*
J.S. Bach

Dr. Andra Bohnet, *flute soloist*

✠CALL TO WORSHIP

Hurting, they came to him.

Healed, they followed him.

Grateful, they gave him what they had and what they were.

Blessed, they became a blessing and went out to all the world in his name.

Those who are hurt and healed, grateful and blessed still move among us in his name.

May we be disciples for our own time, living and serving in the name of Christ.

Let us worship God.

✠HYMN 361 *O Christ, the Great Foundation*
AURELIA

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God,

We confess that our words do not always match our actions. We follow our own plans, afraid to put too much faith in what appears to be impossible. We say that you claimed victory over the grave, but we continue to live in the grip of sin and death. Hear our silent prayers of confession.

(silence)

Remind us, Lord, that you are the one who created the earth from nothing, who parted the Red Sea, who rose Jesus from the grave. Restore our faith in your impossibly good news, so that we may serve you in freedom and joy. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

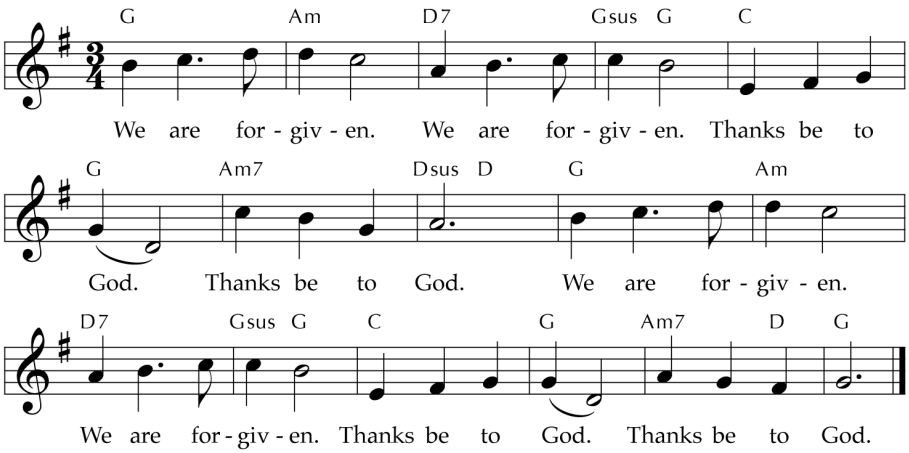
We pass the peace *by greeting one another and saying, "The peace of Christ be with you," to which one replies, "And also with you." The ancient ritual of the church reminds us that Christ offers us peace that passes understanding.*

✠Assurance of Pardon

✠Passing of the Peace

✠Response

We Are Forgiven
WE ARE FORGIVEN



To sing, rather than simply say, a response to the Declaration of Forgiveness has the effect of making the moment both more affirmative and more corporate. The musical repetition of the two sentences also strengthens awareness of what it means to be assured of God's pardon.

Proclaiming the Word

In the ***Prayer for Illumination****, we ask for the word of God to be revealed to us so that we can lead more faithful lives.*

Prayer For Illumination — **Lynn McDaniel**

Scripture Reading: Psalm 130

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

Children ages three *and older are invited to the front for the Children's Sermon. Children ages three through kindergarten may leave with volunteers for Wee Worship for the remainder of the service. The sign-in sheet for parents of Wee Worship children is on the front row.*

The nursery is available for ages infant through kindergarten.

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

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

Scripture Reading: John 11: 1-45

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

Sermon: "Grief" — **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Thanksgiving

Although not written by apostles, *the Apostles' Creed reflects the theological formulations of the first century church. The creed's structure may be based on Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In a time when most Christians were illiterate, oral repetition of the Apostles' Creed helped preserve and transmit the faith..*

✠Hymn 809 *Why Has God Forsaken Me?*
SHIMPI

✠Affirmation of Faith **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

The Apostles' Creed

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 *Amen!*
Marty Haugen

Offering

Offertory *O Dearest Lord, Thy Sacred Head*
arr. David N. Johnson

Meredith Wilson, *mezzo-soprano soloist*; Dr. Andra Bohnet, *flute soloist*; The Sanctuary Choir

O dearest Lord, thy sacred head, With thorns was pierced for me; O pour thy blessing on my head, That I may think for thee. O dearest Lord, thy sacred hands, With nails were pierced for me; O shed thy blessing on my hands, That they may work for thee. O dearest Lord, thy sacred feet, With nails were pierced for me; O pour thy blessing on my feet, That they may follow thee. O dearest Lord, thy sacred heart, With spear was pierced for me; O pour thy spirit in my heart, That I may live for thee. Amen.

✠Response | Hymn 607 *Doxology*
OLD HUNDREDTH

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving

***The benediction** is both a charge with which to leave the worship service and blessing to take into the world and the week ahead.*

Prayer of Intercession and 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.

✠Hymn 442 *Just As I Am, Without One Plea*
WOODWORTH

Sending

✠Benediction **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Postlude *The Rejoicing (Fireworks Music)*
G.F. Handel

Palm Sunday, April 2

Next Sunday, April 2, is Palm Sunday. Join us in worship as we commemorate the triumphal arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem! The Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar's sermon will be from Matthew 21:1-11 and Psalm 118, and is titled "Holy." Music for Palm Sunday includes a children's anthem, "Hosanna to the Son," which tells the story of Jesus riding on a donkey's colt, as well as a festive setting of the Spiritual "Ride On, King Jesus" arranged by Howard Helvey.

Scripture Readings

Psalm 130

A Psalm of Ascents.

[1]Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.
[2]Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!
[3]If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
[4]But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.
[5]I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
[6]my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.
[7]O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.
[8]It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

Scripture Readings

John 11: 1-45

[1]Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. [2]Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. [3]So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." [4]But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." [5]Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, [6]after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

[7]Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." [8]The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" [9]Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. [10]But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." [11]After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." [12]The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." [13]Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. [14]Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. [15]For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." [16]Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

[17]When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. [18]Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and [19]many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. [20]When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. [21]Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. [22]But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." [23]Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." [24]Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." [25]Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, [26]and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" [27]She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

[28]When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." [29]And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. [30]Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. [31]The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. [32]When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." [33]When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. [34]He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." [35]Jesus began to weep. [36]So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" [37]But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

[38]Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. [39]Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days." [40]Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" [41]So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. [42]I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." [43]When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" [44]The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

[45]Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

GSPC News





The Circles of Hope and Joy came together for a joyful gathering and Bible study in the Guesnard House on March 20.

Easter Lilies: It's time to order Easter lilies in honor of or in memory of loved ones. Please use the form printed below, or call the church office during business hours. The deadline is Tuesday, April 4.

Easter Egg Hunt: Mark your calendars for the GSPC Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8, at 10 a.m. in Washington Square. It's going to be an eggs-cellent time of fun and fellowship!

Reminder to Parents: The Children of the Church will sing in worship on Palm Sunday, April 2. Rehearsals are held during the Sunday School hour. Please make sure to bring your children to these rehearsals as we prepare for Holy Week.

First Baptist Church's Inaugural "Baptist Voices" Lecture Series: All are invited to join our friends at First Baptist Church of Mobile tonight at 5 p.m. to hear Jonathan Merritt, a popular writer on issues of faith and culture. He is the author of *Learning to Speak God from Scratch: Why Sacred Words are Vanishing — And How We Can Revive Them.* Child care is provided and the event is free and open to all.

Easter Lily Dedications

In Memory Of:

_____

_____

_____

In Honor Of:

_____

_____

_____

Number of Lilies ($15 each): Total:



On March 19, members of Club 345 made sandwiches and packed lunch bags for our Meals on Wheels clients.

Church Officers

SESSION

Class of 2023

Susan Ashbee, Casi Callaway, Lisa deShazo, John Moses, Henry Morrissette, Bo Perry

Class of 2024

Bobby Headrick, Charles Jones, Mary Herndon Nordmann, Katherine Ogburn, Dick Otts, Beth Rouse

Class of 2025

Eddy Hawkins, Margaret Vidmer Hutchison, George Irvine, Harris Oswalt, Nicole Riis, Duke Walker

Clerk of Session: Henry Morrissette

DIACONATE

Class of 2023

Damon Boone, Jane Hale, Ashley Oswalt, Harris Oswalt Jr., Leigh Schottgen, LeAnne Tamblyn

Class of 2024

Ashley Ashbee, Stella Jackson, Ashford Kettler, Richard Otts, Jasper Reaves

Class of 2025

Clint Akers, Lisa Goodloe, Meg Heusser, Corinne Lorge, Lynn McDaniel, William Peebles

Chair of the Diaconate: Lisa Goodloe

Urban Ministry

JELLY AND SNACKS FOR MEALS ON WHEELS

Our 45 Meals on Wheels recipients receive a sandwich bag each day along with their hot meal. The bag has a sandwich and a snack. Peanut butter and jelly is often on the menu and we are in need of donations of creamy peanut butter and grape jelly and individually packaged snacks (peanut butter or cheese crackers, chips, cookies, Little Debbies, etc.). There is a donation box in the Jackson Street Foyer for these donations.

MCKEMIE PLACE

GSPC has agreed to provide lunch for up to 45 residents at McKemie Place on the second Friday of each month. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered for this mission over the last year. We are in need of volunteers to provide, prepare, and serve lunches on April 14 and May 12. If you can help with this mission on either of these dates, please contact Lisa deShazo at 251-591-1077.

MOBILE AREA INTERFAITH CONFERENCE

The Mobile Area Interfaith Conference (MAIC) is a non-profit agency that provides services for inmates in Metro Jail and released inmates returning to the community. MAIC has an urgent need for white underwear (see details below) and used glasses. Here is a partial list of items:

- Personal hygiene products for men and women, including full size shampoo and conditioner (must be able to see through the containers), full size deodorant (no roller balls), full size soap, full size toothpaste, white cotton socks (no anklet style);
- Clothing, including men's white cotton briefs or boxers (no snaps), white cotton T-shirts with sleeves (men and women use these, so all sizes welcome), women's white cotton underpants (all sizes), women's white cotton bras (all sizes);
- Reading material, including Bibles (softbound only, large print editions especially needed), magazines with neutral content such as food, decorating, self-improvement, health, shopping, geography, history, etc., and books (soft bound only, with mild non-violent content, non-fiction also appreciated).

BLANKET MINISTRY

All are invited to donate baby blankets to be delivered to the Mostellar Clinic. Donations may be left in the “Baby Box” at the Jackson Street Foyer, or you may order from Amazon and request delivery to the church.



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Member PC (USA)

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Sally Ericson
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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 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 Lynn McClure and William Chase Edmonson.

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

Sunday Book Study Group: Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the library. The group is studying Exodus.

Talking Heads Sunday School class: This class meets in the Heltzel Room.

Sunday School for children and youth: These classes meet at 9:30 a.m.

Wee Worship: Sundays at 10:45 a.m. for ages 3 to kindergarten.

"Baptist Voices" Lecture Series: 5 p.m. at First Baptist Church, with author Jonathan Merritt.

TUESDAY, MARCH 28

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, MARCH 29

Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the Library. Contact: Bo Perry.

Handbell Choir Rehearsal: 5:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: 6 p.m. in the Choir Room.

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.