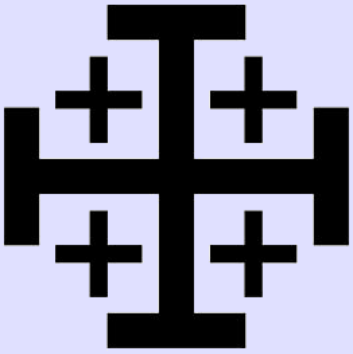


Welcome to worship! *We are glad you are here. If you need any assistance, please notify an usher. Please take a moment to register your attendance with us by using the friendship register located in each pew. We welcome the opportunity to learn more about you.*

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.*

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, January 5, 2025 | 10:30 A.M.

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

Gathering

PRELUDE *The Shepherds' Farewell (L'enfance du Christ, Opus 25)*
Hector Berlioz

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

INTROIT *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*
Mark Patterson

The Sanctuary Choir

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green: the trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive: which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ, the apple tree. His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know but ne'er can tell, the glory which I now can see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree. For happiness I long have sought and pleasure dearly I have bought: I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.

✠CALL TO WORSHIP *(based on Isaiah 60:1)* **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

Arise! Shine! For your light has come.
God's light has come to reveal the way in this new year.
Arise! Shine! For your light has come.
The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.
Arise! Shine! For your light has come.
God's light penetrates the darkness that covers the world.
Arise! Shine! For your light has come.
Nations shall come to God's light, and kings shall come to the brightness of God's dawn.
Arise! Shine! For the Glory of the Lord has risen upon us.
Light of God, illumine the path that leads us to healing, hope and salvation.
Glory of God, fill this sanctuary and expose the darkness that stalks our souls.
Light of God, shine with such brightness that we marvel in awe.
Glory of God, fill each temple of the Holy Spirit present today.
Light of God, Glory of God, we welcome you in this place.

✠HYMN 150 *As with Gladness Men of Old*
DIX

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.

***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.*

***New 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.*

✠Prayer of Confession *unison* **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

God of all people,

You set a star in the sky, and yet we lose sight. You give us what we need for the journey, and yet we stand still. You sent Christ to a weary world, and yet we despair. Forgive us, Lord, when we stand in darkness and refuse your light. Open our eyes to see your glory and follow the star you set before us. Hear our silent prayers.

(Silence)

Have mercy on us, Lord, and give us the faith to follow your light wherever it may lead. Give us all we need for this journey of discipleship and provide us companions on the way. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

✠Assurance of Pardon

✠Passing of the Peace

✠Response | Hymn 151 *We Three Kings of Orient Are (Refrain)*

KINGS OF ORIENT

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination **Jeanie Schottgen**

First Reading Isaiah 60: 1-6

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

Children's Sermon **Bradley Daugherty**

Second Reading: Matthew 2: 1-12

Sermon: "Following the Star" **Rev. Lamar**

✠Hymn 152 *What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright*

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

✠Affirmation Of Faith *(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.

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 *Three-Fold Amen*
Eugene Butler

Offering
Offertory *Ain-a That Good News?*
Spiritual; arr. Mark Patterson

The Tenors and Basses of the Sanctuary Choir
I've got good news, my Lord! I got a crown up in-a that kingdom, ain-a that good news. I'm-a gonna lay down this world, gonna shoulder up-a my cross, gonna take it home-a to my Jesus, ain-a that good news! I got a robe up in-a that kingdom. I got a Savior up in-a that kingdom.

✠Doxology | Hymn 609 *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*
LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God, all creatures fully known: Creator, Word and Spirit One. Alleluia!

✠Prayer Of Thanksgiving

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

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 *Greensleeves*
arr. Richard Purvis

Sending

✠Hymn 159 *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem*
KINGSFOLD

✠Benediction **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Postlude *In Dulci Jubilo*
arr. Max Drishner

Sunday, January 12

Next Sunday, January 12, the Rev. Lamar will preach from Luke 3:21-22 with a sermon titled "Remember Your Baptism." Music includes Robert Wexler's exciting arrangement of "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation" for organ and choir.
We will ordain and install the elders and deacons for the Class of 2027.



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Marilyn Mills
Arthur Lewis
Sexton(s)

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the pulpit are given to the glory of God and in gratitude for the staff of GSPC.

Calendar of Events

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7
Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 9 a.m. at the home of Ann Adams. The group is studying the Gospel of Matthew with the Rev. George Sinclair. Everyone is welcome.
Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Library. Contact: Mary Elizabeth Perry.
Tuesday Lunch and Learn: Noon-1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall with guest speaker Edwin Perry of the Alabama Department of Transportation, who will give us an update on the Mobile Bay Bridge. Lunch is $12 and includes dessert.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8
Choir Rehearsals: Handbells, 5:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary; Choir, 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the choir room.
Men's Bible Study: 6 p.m. in the Library and via Zoom. Contact: Bo Perry.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11
GSPC Book Club: 5:30 p.m. in the GSPC Library. We will watch a video presentation on "The Medieval Nun Bookmakers of Cologne" by Dr. Joshua O'Driscoll, curator of Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts at the Morgan Library. Dr. O'Driscoll may join us via Zoom. There is no reading selection, but this will be an interesting presentation and discussion. Please RSVP to Meredith Johnston.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12
Second Sunday Luncheon: The congregation is invited to enjoy lunch together in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the worship service.

ADDITIONAL NEWS AND NOTES

Cold-weather clothing drive: GSPC is collecting gently worn cold-weather clothing items for men, women and children, such as coats, sweaters, hats, gloves and scarves. Socks are a much-needed item for those in shelters. These items will be given to various agencies that distribute clothing to those in need. There is a box for these donations in the Jackson Street Foyer.

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.

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.