

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 Call to Worship *is adapted from Psalm 118.*

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, April 2, 2023 | 10:30 A.M.

PALM/ PASSION SUNDAY

Gathering

PRELUDE *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*
arr. Chris Nemec

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

INTROIT *Hosanna to the Son*
Jody Lindh

The Children of the Church

Hosanna to the son of David. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Glory, glory be to God on high! The people heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem; riding on a donkey's colt, he came, palm branches spread before him. The disciples didn't understand what was happening at first. But when Jesus the king was glorified, then they remembered, it had all been written!

✠CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

We bless you from the house of the LORD. The LORD is God, and he has given us light.

Lead the procession with branches!

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you. You are my God, I will praise your name.

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Let us worship God.

✠HYMN 196 *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*
VALET WILL ICH DER GEBEN

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God,

Sure of your faithfulness even in your dying and comforted by your compassion toward your people, we beg your mercy for our imperfect gratitude. We have looked to you for paltry favors, when you have given everything. We have withheld from your people, our neighbors, and from your creation, the care and tending they deserve. We have sung praises on Sunday and rejected you with sinful words and actions throughout the week. Hear our silent prayers of confession.
(silence)
Forgive our failings. Heal what we have broken, nurture what we have neglected, and lead us to your vision for our lives and our world. We pray in Jesus' name. 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.*

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.*

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.

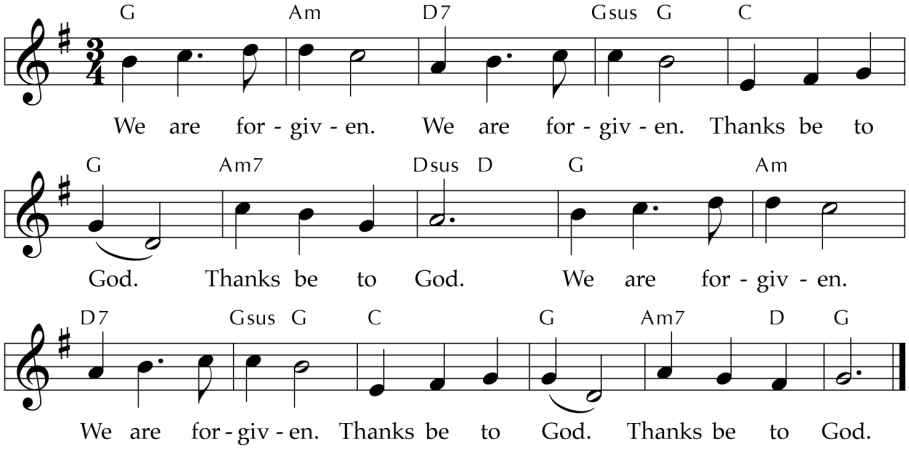
Children's worship packets *are available at the front of the sanctuary.*

✠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

Prayer For Illumination — **Bligh Jones**

Scripture Reading: Matthew 21: 1-11

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

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

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26: 14-30

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

Sermon: "Blessing and Betrayal" — **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 501 *Feed Us, Lord*
FEED US

Offering

Offertory *Ride On, King Jesus*
Spiritual; arr. Howard Helvey

The Sanctuary Choir

Ride on, King Jesus, no man can a-hinder me. He is King of Kings, He is Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ, the First and Last; no man a-works like Him. King Jesus rides a milk-white horse; no man a-works like Him. The river of Jordan He did cross; Jesus rides in the middle of the air; He calls the saints from ev'rywhere. Ride on!

✠Response | Hymn 607 *Doxology*
OLD HUNDREDTH

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

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

Great Prayer of 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.

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Communion Meditation *Meditation*

Claude Debussy

Prayer After Communion **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Holy God,

Let the same mind be in us that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death —

even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name

that is above every name,

so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

(from Philippians 2:5-11)

✠**Hymn 221** *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

PASSION CHORALE

Sending

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

✠**Benediction** **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Postlude *Improvisation on "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"*

Chris Nemec

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 6 p.m. The Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar will preach from the text John 13:1-17, 31-35. Hymns and choral music this evening will reflect Holy Communion, Buryl Red's "In Remembrance of Me" and Wolfgang Mozart's "Ave Verum Corpus." Also included is the stripping of the chancel.

Good Friday Service: April 7, noon. Our Holy Week journey has reached the darkest of days, and we stand at the foot of the cross. Seven scriptures from the Gospel of John will share the Passion of Christ. Music for this somber service will include Sir John Stainer's "God So Loved the World" from The Crucifixion, and "Behold the Lamb of God," arranged by David Clydesdale.

Easter Sunday, April 9, 10:30 a.m. Celebrate the Risen Christ with your GSPC family and guests. Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar will preach a Resurrection sermon from the texts Acts 10:34-43 and John 20:1-18. A string quartet and timpani will join the Sanctuary Choir in presenting "Festival Canticle: Worthy is Christ" (with congregation), and two selections from Messiah, "Since By Man Came Death" and "Hallelujah Chorus." An extended instrumental prelude will include Mozart's Church Sonata No. 10, the Intermezzo from Mascagni's Cavalleria Rusticana (the Easter scene), and Charpentier's "Te Deum" (We Praise Thee, O God.)

Scripture Readings

Matthew 21: 1-11

[1]When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached
Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples,
[2]saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and
immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with
her; untie them and bring them to me. [3]If anyone says
anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And
he will send them immediately." [4]This took place to fulfill
what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

[5]"Tell the daughter of Zion,

Look, your king is coming to you,

humble, and mounted on a donkey,

and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

[6]The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them;
[7]they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks
on them, and he sat on them. [8]A very large crowd spread
their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the
trees and spread them on the road. [9]The crowds that went
ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

[10]When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in
turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" [11]The crowds were saying,
"This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Matthew 26: 14-30

[14]Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot,
went to the chief priests and said, [15]"What will you give me
if I betray him to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of
silver. [16]And from that moment he began to look for an
opportunity to betray him.

[17]On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came
to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the
preparations for you to eat the Passover?" [18]He said, "Go
into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher
says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your
house with my disciples.' " [19]So the disciples did as Jesus
had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

[20]When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve;
and [21]while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one
of you will betray me." [22]And they became greatly
distressed and began to say to him one after another,
"Surely not I, Lord?" [23]He answered, "The one who has
dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me.
[24]The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to
that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would
have been better for that one not to have been born."
[25]Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He
replied, "You have said so."

[26]While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and
after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and
said, "Take, eat; this is my body." [27]Then he took a cup, and
after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from
it, all of you; [28]for this is my blood of the covenant, which is
poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. [29]I tell you,
I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that
day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

[30]When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the
Mount of Olives.

GSPC News



April 16 Congregational Luncheon: The GSPC "Thriving Congregations" team has recently returned from Montreat and wants to give a report and tell you how you can be involved. Please plan to stay for lunch after worship on April 16. You may RSVP in the church office. Lunch is $5 and $15 per family.

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!

Family Nature Walk: The next walk will be on Sunday, April 23, at Magnolia Cemetery. This will be a history tour led by Tom McGehee.

Easter Lily Dedications

In Memory Of:

_____

_____

_____

In Honor Of:

_____

_____

_____

Number of Lilies ($15 each): Total: _____

April Birthdays

April 1: Reed Gardner, Christy Gustin, Rachael Kramer

April 3: Ashley Ashbee, Dottie Reeder

April 5: Charles Jones, Jasper Reaves

April 6: Sumner Adams, Brent Ericson, Andy McMillan

April 8: Corinne Lorge

April 14: Jessica Mostellar

April 15: Keith King

April 17: Andrew McMillan

April 19: Nick Arnold, Jennifer Weed

April 22: Ruth Schmohl

April 23: Marlene Jones, Frank Schottgen

April 24: Fin Irvine, Mary Herndon Nordmann

April 25: Lynn McDaniel

April 26: Jane Hale, John Holler

April 28: Beth Holbert, Murphy Hollensworth

April 29: Stephens Ashbee

April 29: Linda Dealy

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)

CHURCH STAFF

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Sally Ericson
Communications
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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 celebration of the marriage of
Catherine Price and Daniel Kelly
by Trisha Kelly and Harriett Boster,
Daniel's Mom and Grama.

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

Sunday Book Study Group: Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the library.

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.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

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, APRIL 5

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.

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

Maundy Thursday Service: 6 p.m. The service will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

Good Friday Service: Noon.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

Easter Egg Hunt: 10 a.m. in Washington Square.

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.