

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.*

The congregation of Government Street Presbyterian Church*, as the people of God called to worship and work in downtown Mobile, pursue our mission to use our unique resources and opportunities to love, to honor, and to glorify God and to give hope, comfort, instruction and inspiration to all persons that they may become joyful disciples of Jesus Christ.*

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.

Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 7, 2025 | 10:30 A.M.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Preparation for Worship

PRELUDE *Improvisation on "What Child Is This?"*
GREENSLEEVES

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

INTROIT *The First Nowell*
English Carol

The Children's Choir; Lillian Hale, soloist
Text: No. 147 in The Hymnal

✠CALL TO WORSHIP AND THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *(Responsive)*
NICK, SAGE, LIZZIE, AND HENRY ARNOLD

We gather today longing for quiet in the chaos, for a calm that settles our spirits and steadies our steps.
We come to hear again the promise of the Prince of Peace.
In a world so often shaped by fear, noise, and hurry, God whispers, "Be still, and know that I am God."
We open our hearts to that stillness, trusting that God's peace can enter even here, even now.
On this second Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of Peace – As this flame flickers, may it kindle in us a peace that passes understanding – not the absence of struggle, but the presence of God in the midst of it.
Come, Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace. Quiet our hearts. Calm our chaos.
Make us ready for your coming.
Let us worship God.

✠HYMN 83 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*
STUTTGART

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Unison)*
Holy God,

We confess that we do not find peace easily. We hurry through our days, filling our lives with noise, distraction, and worry. We cling to control, resisting the quiet places where you meet us. We allow anxiety to shape our choices more than your promise of peace. Forgive us, Lord. Calm our restless hearts, and hear our silent prayers.

(Silence)

Have mercy on us, Lord. Turn us again toward the Prince of Peace, who enters our chaos with gentleness and truth, and who offers us stillness that cannot be shaken. Make us instruments of your peace in a world longing for calm. Through Christ, our Lord, 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 581 *Glory Be to the Father*
GLORIA PATRI

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination **Bo Perry**
First Reading: Isaiah 43:1-2

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon **Carly Akers**
Wee Worship Leaders: Emily Watson and Shawn Walker

Second Reading: Mark 4:35-41
Homily: "PEACE: Quiet in the Chaos" **Rev. Lamar**

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 92 *While We Are Waiting, Come*
WAITING

✠Affirmation of Faith *(From A Declaration of Faith; unison)* **Bo Perry**
We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended. The world appears to be dominated by people and systems that do not acknowledge his rule. But his lordship is real. It demands our loyalty and sets us free from the fear of all lesser lords who threaten us. We maintain that ultimate sovereignty now belongs to Jesus Christ in every sphere of life.
Jesus is Lord. He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord.

Offering
Offertory *Every Valley*
John Ness Beck

The Sanctuary Choir

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain made low; and the crooked made straight, and the rough places plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed. And all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. Amen. (Isaiah 40:4, 5)

✠Response | Hymn 143 *Angels, From the Realms of Glory (Verse 4)*
REGENT SQUARE

All creation join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
ever more your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

Visiting? Welcome to GSPC, *where we hope you'll find our worship meaningful, our fellowship warm and our ministry exciting. Come again! If you are considering membership, we'd love to have you. You may join us through transfer of letter, re-affirmation of faith or profession of faith.*

Next week at GSPC: *Join us next Sunday as the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar continues her sermon series "Come, Emmanuel" with a sermon titled "JOY: Faith Like a Child" using the texts Isaiah 11:6-9 and Mark 10:13-15. The children will present the Christmas Story during worship. Rehearsal will be during Sunday School. Music includes the Advent Hymn "Comfort, Comfort All My People," sung by the Sanctuary Choir. Nancy Graham is guest pianist-conductor.*

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table — **Rev. 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 Voluntary — *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*
arr. Roy T. Scoggins

The Handbell Choir

Prayer After Communion

Sending

✠Hymn 819 — *Be Still, My Soul*
FINLANDIA

✠Benediction — **Rev. Lamar**

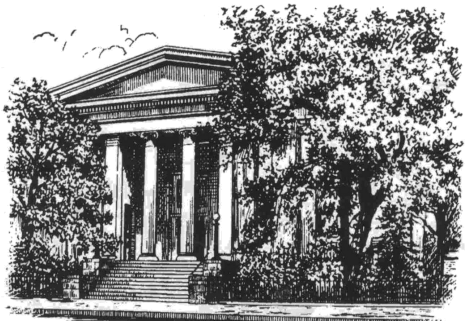
Postlude — *O Come, All Ye Faithful*
arr. Barbara Kinyon

The Handbell Choir

Holiday Giving

The congregation is invited to purchase Christmas gifts for 40 children on the Angel Tree in the Jackson Street foyer. Please deliver your unwrapped gifts to the church before December 9.





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CHURCH STAFF

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Send news for the e-newsletter or bulletin 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 Stewart Ashbee
by his family.

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7
Christmas Sunday Luncheon: All of the Dinner Clubs are invited to the annual Christmas luncheon in the Guesnard House following worship today.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8
Circles of Hope and Joy, 5:30 p.m.: The Circles of Hope and Joy will gather for Bible study and fellowship in the Guesnard House. If you are able, please bring a snack or beverage to share. All are welcome.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9
Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 9 a.m. at the home of Ann Adams.
Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Library. Contact: Mary Elizabeth Perry.
Note: The church office will close at 12:30 p.m. for the staff Christmas lunch.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10
Advent Wednesday Service, noon: Join us in the sanctuary for the first Advent mid-week service. The final Advent Wednesday Service will be at noon on December 17.
Music Rehearsals: Handbells, 5:15-5:45 p.m.; choir, 6-7:30 p.m.
Men's Bible Study: 6 p.m. in the Library. Contact: Bo Perry.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14
Children's Christmas Pageant: The children will present the Christmas Story during worship. Rehearsal will be held during Sunday School.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21
Service of Lessons and Carols:10:30 a.m.

OTHER NEWS AND NOTES
McKemie Place: Each month on the second Friday, volunteers provide a light lunch for about 24 residents at McKemie Place, a shelter for homeless women. Volunteers are needed in January and February. Please call Lisa DeShazo at 251-591-1077 or Mary DeWitt Dukes at 504-920-1918 if you are able to help with this 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.

A NOTE FROM THE STAFF COMMITTEE
As the Advent season begins, please consider the tremendous efforts of our rather small staff here at GSPC. Please consider a contribution to the Staff Christmas Love Gift, which will be divided up among our church employees. Checks should be payable to GSPC and marked "For Staff gift" and directed to Dawn Hearn, our financial secretary, by December 15.

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.