Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, September 10, 2023 | 10:30 A.M.

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

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 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.*

Gathering

PRELUDE *Elegy*
Raymond H. Haan

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

INTROIT *Dona Nobis Pacem*
Trad. 16th century; arr. Hal Hopson

The Sanctuary Choir

Translation: Grant us peace.

✠**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Adapted from Genesis 1:1—2:3)

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was a formless void when a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that it was good.

God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

God created sky and seas, plants and trees. And God saw that it was good.

God created sun and moon, stars and seasons. And God saw that it was good.

God created fish and birds and animals of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God created humankind in God's own image and blessed them.

And then God saw all he had made and it was very good.

On the seventh day, God rested from the work of creation. And so we do also.

On this Sabbath day of new beginnings, let us worship God.

✠**HYMN 664** *Morning Has Broken*
BUNESSAN

✠**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Creating God, the earth and all that is in it belong to you. We confess that we sometimes forget to treat this earth with care, taking for granted the goodness of the world around us. Your Spirit continues to create even today, and we admit that we forget that you are always doing a new thing. Forgive us, Lord, and redirect us to your way as we offer our silent prayers of confession.

(silence)

Have mercy on us, O Lord. Guide us to be active in your creative work. Lead us to the new beginnings you have planned, and show us our place and purpose. 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.*

✠Assurance of Pardon

✠Passing of the Peace

✠Response: Hymn 581 *Glory Be to the Father*
GLORIA PATRI

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer For Illumination **Emerson Hale**

Scripture Reading: John 1: 1-5

Children ages three *and older are invited to the front for the Children's Sermon. Children ages 3-K 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.*

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

Children's Sermon and Teacher Commissioning **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

3s-1st: Hunter Oswalt, Margaret Sue Browning, Bonnie Mobley, Carolyn Jones
2nd-5th Grade: Corinne Lorge, Marlene Jones, Shawn Walker, Missy Jones
6th-12th Grade: Travis Goodloe, Buzzy Riis

Scripture Reading: Genesis 12: 1-9

Sermon: "Beginnings" **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Thanksgiving

For more than 1,000 years, *the church has used the Apostles' Creed to affirm its faith in Jesus Christ. When we say this creed together, we are joined with generations of Christians who have come before us in declaring foundational doctrines of our faith in Christ.*

✠Hymn 463 *How Firm a Foundation*
FOUNDATION

✠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.

✠Response *Seven-fold Amen*
Peter Lutkin

Offering

Offertory *Dona Nobis Pacem*
Giulio Caccini

The Sanctuary Choir

✠Response | Hymn 607 *Doxology*

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.*

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer

✠Hymn 39 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*
FAITHFULNESS

Sending

✠Benediction **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Postlude *Lead on, O King Eternal*
arr. Owens/Nemec

Copies of this week's memory verse may be picked up at any entrance to the sanctuary.

The congregation is invited to lunch following the service.

Sunday, September 17

In preparation for next week, worshipers may read pages 11-23 of "A Guide to Bible Basics" by Tyler Mayfield, or view the following videos at bibleproject.com: Genesis 1-11, Genesis 12-50.
Join us in worship next Sunday, September 17, as the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar continues her sermon series "How Firm a Foundation." Music will include The Lord's Prayer sung by Carter Hale, Jr., Gordon Young's jubilant "Now Sing We Joyfully Unto God" and two piano selections by Frédéric Chopin.



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CHURCH STAFF

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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 Sanctuary flowers are dedicated to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Emily Townsend Miller
by her family.

Calendar of Events

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Interfaith Bible Study: 5:30 to 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 806 Government Street. All are welcome.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

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.

Tuesday Lunch and Learn at GSPC: Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson will be the guest speaker at the first luncheon of this fall series. Lunch is served at noon and Mayor Stimpson will speak at 12:30 p.m. The cost is $12. All are welcome.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Mid-week Bible Study: Noon to 1 p.m. in the Library and via Zoom. This study is led by the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar.

Choir rehearsals: Handbells, 5:15-5:45 p.m.; choir, 6-7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

PW Fall Gathering: 5:30 p.m. in the Guesnard House. Join us for Bible study and fellowship! If you are able, please bring food or a beverage to share.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

20s/30s Women's Bible Study: 6 p.m. in the Guesnard House. Contact: Mary Herndon Nordmann.

ADDITIONAL NEWS AND NOTES

Sanctuary and Handbell Choirs: The GSPC choirs welcome all participants! Email Chris Nemec, Director of Music and Organist, at chris@gspcmobile.org.

Attention, Parents! The GSPC Children's Choir has resumed rehearsals on Sundays from 9:30 to 9:45 a.m. The rehearsals will be held in the office of Chris Nemec (2nd floor at the Jackson St. stairwell). The dates for the children to sing are October 15 and December 24 (10:30 a.m.). To assure the children are well-prepared and effective leaders, each child must attend a minimum of three rehearsals in order to sing for Sunday worship. Questions? Contact Chris Nemec, chris@gspcmobile.org.

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.