Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, January 12, 2025 | 10:30 A.M.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD | ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

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.*

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.*

Gathering

PRELUDE *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*
EIN' FESTE BURG; arr. Max Reger

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

✠CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive)*
The voice of the Lord resounds upon the water.
The Spirit of the Lord hovers over the stream.
The Son of God is named, "Beloved."
And all who worship him shout out, "Glory to God!"
The Lord is strong and majestic.
Let us worship God in spirit and truth.

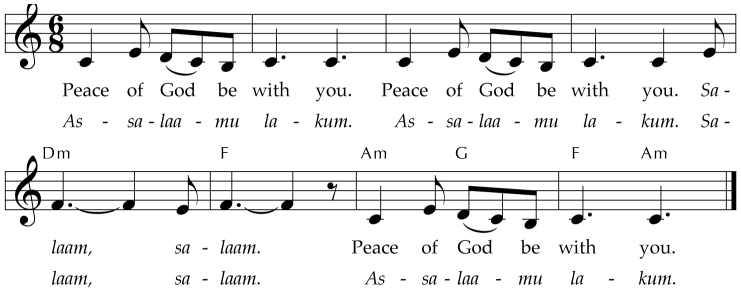
✠HYMN 485 *We Know That Christ Is Raised*
ENGELBERG

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*) **REV. ANNE H.K. APPLE**
Gracious God,
We are precious in your sight, yet we often forget that we are your beloved. We confess that our love is fickle and inconstant. We follow selfish goals and deny that our way of life harms others and hurts your world. We are sorry and we want to change. Forgive us, Lord, and hear our silent prayers of confession.

(Silence)

Create in us a clear heart, strengthen our resolve, reconcile us one to another, and bless us with your peace. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

✠ASSURANCE OF PARDON
✠PASSING OF THE PEACE
✠RESPONSE | HYMN 448 *Peace of God Be with You*
The Response will be sung twice. AS-SALAAMU LAKUM



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.*

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.*

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer For Illumination **Rev. Anne H.K. Apple**

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7

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

Scripture Reading: Luke 3:21-22

Sermon: "Remember Your Baptism" **Rev. Lamar**

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

I do.

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 482 *Baptized in Water*
BUNESSAN

✠Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit; 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*
John Rutter

Offering

Offertory *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*
WESTMINSTER ABBEY; arr. Robert Wexler

The Sanctuary Choir

Text: No. 394, The Hymnal

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.*

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.

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving

Ordination and Installation of Officers

Statement on Ordination and Installation **Rev. Lamar**

Constitutional Questions to Officers

Questions to the Congregation

Do we, the members of the church, accept these members as ruling elders and deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Do we agree to pray for them, encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

We do.

Ordination Prayer and Laying on of Hands

Welcoming of New Officers

Prayer of Intercession and The Lord's Prayer **Rev. Apple**

✠Hymn 475 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*
NETTLETON

Sending

✠Benediction **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Postlude *Crown Imperial*
William Walton

We welcome the Rev. Anne H.K. Apple in worship today. Anne, an ordained PC(USA) minister, has served First Presbyterian Church in Tallahassee, Fla., Idlewild Presbyterian Church in Memphis, Tenn., and Grace Presbyterian Church in Mobile.

Sunday, January 19

Join us next Sunday, January 19, when the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar begins a new sermon series, "Know Who I AM," which will come from Jesus's "I AM" statements in the gospel of John. Next week's sermon will be from John 10:1-10 and titled "I AM the Gate." Music includes Allen Pote's "God Is Our Refuge" and J.H. Maunder's "Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem."



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CHURCH STAFF

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Willie Mae King
Director of Food Services

Marilyn Mills
Arthur Lewis
Sexton(s)

Submit items for the bulletin and newsletter 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 Dr. and Mrs. Theo Middleton by their daughters, Barbara Haas, Mary Knox McMurphy, and Margaret Brown.

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12
Second Sunday Luncheon: The congregation is invited to enjoy lunch together today in Fellowship Hall. Members of the Fuse Project will speak to us about the need for jackets and sweatshirts for students at Howard Elementary and Calloway-Smith Middle School.

MONDAY, JANUARY 13
Circles of Hope and Joy: The Circles of Hope and Joy will meet for fellowship and Bible study at 5:30 p.m. in the Guesnard House. Everyone is welcome. If you are able, please bring a snack or beverage to share with the group.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14
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 speakers Marcus Mitchell and Adrienne McSwain-Dawson of the Mobile Public Library. Lunch is $12 and includes dessert.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15
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.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26
Youth Paint Party: RSVP to Bradley if your Youth plans to attend. We will meet at Dreamland BBQ for lunch and walk next door to Round But Square Studios afterward for a paint party led by an instructor. $10 per youth to participate.

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.