

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.*

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Wednesday, December 24, 2025 | 5 P.M.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Preparation for Worship

PRELUDE *Christians Be Joyful (Christmas Oratorio)*
J.S. Bach

Carol Medley
(It Came Upon the Midnight Clear, O Little Town of Bethlehem, Angels We Have Heard on High)
arr. Anthony/Beard

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

INTROIT *Gloria in Excelsis*
Anne Cobb Hill

The Sanctuary Choir
Translation: Glory to God in the highest.

✠CALL TO WORSHIP AND THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *(Responsive)*

GARY, MEG, JAMES, AND EDWARD HEUSSER

While we wait for Christ's coming, we light the candle of hope.
We place our hope in the Light of the World.
While we wait for Christ's coming, we light the candle of peace.
We pray for peace in our hearts, our homes, and our world.
While we wait for Christ's coming, we light the candle of joy.
We pray for the joy of Christ to overwhelm our sorrow.
While we wait for Christ's coming, we light the candle of love.
May the love of God uphold us and guide us.
Knowing God is truly with us, we light the Christ candle.
We welcome the Christ Child with thanksgiving and praise.
The light of these candles is our prayer for God's kingdom to come.
"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

✠HYMN 119 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*
MENDELSSOHN

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Unison)*

Loving Christ, when the shepherds heard that you were born, they dropped everything and ran to find you. They trusted the angels' invitation. They believed that your love existed for them and for the whole world. Forgive us when we lose our way somewhere between the angels' song and the manger. Forgive us, when we forget that your birth is truly good news for all people. Hear our silent prayers.

(Silence)

Have mercy on us, Lord. Fill us with the awe and wonder of that first Christmas, and help us to share the joy of your birth. In the name of Jesus Christ, the newborn king, we pray. Amen.

***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

✠Response | Hymn 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High (Stanza 1)*
GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains. And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination **William Peebles**

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**
and Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-20

Sermon: "Good News for All People" **Rev. Lamar**

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 134 *Joy to the World*
ANTIOCH

✠Affirmation of Faith *(From A Declaration of Faith; unison)*
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 *On Christmas Night*
SUSSEX CAROL; arr. Jody Lindh

The Sanctuary Choir
Text: The Hymnal, No. 112

✠Response | Hymn 143 *Angels, From the Realms of Glory (Stanza 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.*

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

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

Great Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread
Communion of the People
Communion Meditation *O Holy Night (sung in French and English)*
Gabrielle Mohr, *soprano* Adolphe Adam

Still, Still, Still
The Sanctuary Choir arr. Mack Wilberg

Still, still, still, the child's eyes softly close. And Mary, breathless, draws Him, weeping, To her heart made pure for keeping. Still, still, still, His bright eyes softly close. Sing, sing, sing, He hears and sweetly smiles. And kneeling, Joseph joins in chorus with the angels bending o'er us. Sleep, sleep, sleep. He breathes a tender sigh, For soon He'll wake the world from slumber, Bringing life and endless wonder.

Prayer After Communion *(responsive)*
You came to us, O Lord, as a lantern in our darkness.
Now illumine our way.
You came to us as a song in the midst of our sorrow.
Now kindle our hope.
You came to us as a balm for our suffering.
Now be our peace.
You came to us as good news for all people.
Now be our joy.
You came to us as the bread of life to feed our weary souls.
Now be our love so that we may serve in your name.
Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

Sending

✠Candle Lighting and Hymn 122 *Silent Night, Holy Night!*
STILLE NACHT

1. Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar.
Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born."

3. Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

✠Benediction **Rev. Lamar**
Postlude *In dulci Jubilo*
arr. Max Drischner

Poinsettia Dedications

Honorariums

Given by:	***In honor of:***
Neal and Sherrie Horner	Lauren, Coley, and Faith, and their families
Henry, Beth, Elizabeth, and Henry Morrissette	Charlotte Crockett
Sally Pearsall	My children and grandchildren
Betsy and Dick Otts	Our children and grandchildren
Stella and Charlie Jackson	The Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar and Family
Peggy and Dave Glascoff	Ann Adams Mary Elizabeth and Bo Perry Government Street Presbyterian Church
Betsy and Dick Otts	The Lamar Family
Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Hutchison	Binky Oswalt
Casi and Jarrett Callaway	Government Street Presbyterian Church
Sally, Brent, Emily, and David Ericson	Donna Jacks Sally Pearsall Vivian Ash Harriett Boster Dorothy Morrison
Damon, Elizabeth, Jackson, and Mac Boone	Ted and Mary Ella Northrop Nancy Boone
Ava Stinson	Blanche and Dewey Parsons
Dorothy Morrison and Ava Stinson	Rebekah Abel Lamar
Dorothy Morrison	Paula Spath Our Caring Congregation
Her Loving Family	Bligh Jones
Harley, Marlene, Carolyn, Houston, and Johnathan	Bligh Jones
The Irvine Family	Rebekah Abel Lamar, our most marvelous pastor

Poinsettia Dedications

Memorials

Given by:	***In Memory of:***
Ann Adams and Family	Marion Adams, Jr.
Peggy and Dave Glascoff	Marion Adams, Jr.
Don Winn and Family	Anne Winn Bessie Spafford
Anonymous dedication	Ben Dukes Beau Dukes
Sally Pearsall	David Pearsall Rosalie and Massey Heltzel Mid and Leon Pearsall
The Peebles Family	E.B. and Geraldine Peebles E.B. and Lee Peebles Hon. and Mrs. W. Brevard Hand Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Hand Mr. and Mrs. Alan C. Denby John D. and Julia (JuJu) Meador
Their Family	Anne and GB Clarke Erma and Lee Catrett Abbie and Buck Tamblyn
Shawn and Duke Walker	Samuel and Betty Walker Suzelle McShea Suzanne Little
Lynn McDaniel	Dr. and Mrs. James McDaniel Alan Ashworth
Babs Jacobelli	John David Mann, Jr. Jake Jacobelli
Linda Price	Mr. and Mrs. E.W.I. Seager
Mary Elizabeth and Bo Perry	Margaret and Bob Adams Catherine and Wade Perry
Sara Bryan	Don Bryan Joel Bryan
Harley, Marlene, Carolyn, Houston, and Johnathan	Martha Tissington

Poinsettia Dedications

Memorials

Given by:	***In Memory of:***
Brenda and Chandler Ogburn	Our Parents
Ava Stinson	"MyTelle," Martelle Scott
Dorothy Morrison	Steve Morrison Martelle Scott
Betsy and Dick Otts	Louise Oswalt Shannon Bennett Dibber and John Lutz Fay and Mac Otts Ellen Bodden
Ruth Schmohl	Ruth V. Kirk (Grandmother) Mary Kirk Kelly (Mother)
Bligh T. Jones and Family	Haney Randall Jones, Sr. Martha Brown Tissington Arthur B. Tissington III Arthur (Bud) Tissington IV Martha B. Coleman Ione Gordon Tissington Charles B. Reed
His Family	Stewart Ashbee
Ceil and Tom McGehee	Dr. and Mrs. Paul D. McGehee, Jr. Dr. and Mrs. Rayford A. Smith, Jr.
Joy Gardner and Family	Hattie Ogburn Charles Ogburn Walter Ogburn Edward Ogburn
Stella and Charlie Jackson	Dibber and John Lutz DeeDee and Charles Jackson
Their Families	Emily Townsend Miller Jack Miller
Lucinda Haas and Ashford Kettler	BeBe Haas McDuffie Tom Haas Tim Haas Jules Lillian Marie Kettler Conway

Poinsettia Dedications

Memorials

Given by:	***In Memory of:***
Rudy and Molly Nordmann	Fred and Molly Crown Fred Crown, Jr. Molly Hitchcock Bobby Harper, Jr. Blair and Jeff Newman Andrew Mills Robby Pierce William Sandifer
Their Family	Dottie and Dixon Meyers Virginia and Dallas Jones Dallas Jones, Jr.
Blanche and Dewey Parsons	David Pearsall
Marilyn and John Moses	Mr. and Mrs. J. Elliott Moses Mrs. Elizabeth M. Mathes Mr. and Mrs. Vernon P. Linhart
Tommie Major	Jerry Curran (Edwin Curran III) David Pearsall
Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Hutchison	Beverly Hutchison Louise Ellis Oswalt
Harry, Hunter, and Elizabeth Ray	Paul Ray
Casi and Jarrett Callaway	Laura Walding Callaway
The Sanctuary Choir and Handbells	Charlotte Naylor Edward Ogburn David Pearsall Jasper Reaves
Damon, Elizabeth, Jackson, and Mac Boone	Ed Boone
Eddie Curran, Greg Curran, and Leslie Naff	Eleanor and Jerry Curran
Brian Naylor	Charlotte Naylor
David and Jeanie Lindsey	David Pearsall
Mr. and Mrs. Van Golden	David Pearsall

Poinsettia Dedications

Memorials

Given by:	***In Memory of:***
Henry, Beth, Elizabeth, and Henry Morrissette	Mr. and Mrs. John M. Henderson, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. John M. Morrissette, Jr.
Shelley and Jim Hood	Jim R. Hood Our Great Cloud of Witnesses
His Family	Lattie F. Collins
The Irvine Family	Elizabeth R. English Anne Carter Irvine Our "extra grandmother," Faye "Mucker" Anderson
Ted and Linda Burke	Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Gill Charlotte Naylor
Amanda and Kendall Dexter	Ann Dailey Dexter Kendall Parker Dexter Sandra Jones Lee Stephen Gregory Crawford
Sally, Brent, Emily, and David Ericson	Leif R. Ericson David Pearsall Mary Esther and O.L. Ericson Eva and Wayne Hamilton Rosalie and Massey Heltzel Mid and Leon Pearsall

The wreaths on the church doors were given by Betsy and Dick Otts in memory of Dibber and John Lutz.

Thank you to our poinsettia donors. All are welcome to take their poinsettias home at the conclusion of the service.

The church office will be closed December 25-26. The office will be open from 9 a.m. to noon on December 31 and closed on January 1.

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.