

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.*

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.*

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, May 12, 2023 | 10:30 A.M.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Gathering

PRELUDE *Pasticcio (Opus 91, No. 10)*
Jean Langlais

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

INTROIT *Hyfrydol*
The Handbell Choir arr. Timothy C. Shepard

✠CALL TO WORSHIP

Bless our God; let the sound of his praise be heard.

We will come into God's house offering our gratitude and praise.

Come and hear, all you who fear God. Hear the awesome works of the Lord.

God has listened to our prayers and given heed to our words.

With joy and thanksgiving, let us worship God!

✠HYMN 475 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you have given us more than we deserve. You have blessed us beyond what we can comprehend. We confess that, in spite of your gifts, we have ignored your commands and sought our own paths. We have turned away from the needs of our neighbors. We have found excuses for our selfish actions, and we have refused to rely on you. Forgive us, Lord, and hear our silent prayers of confession.

(silence)

In your mercy, remove our sin from us and remember it no more. Give us glad and cheerful hearts to do your will and seek your kingdom. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

✠ASSURANCE OF PARDON

✠PASSING OF THE PEACE

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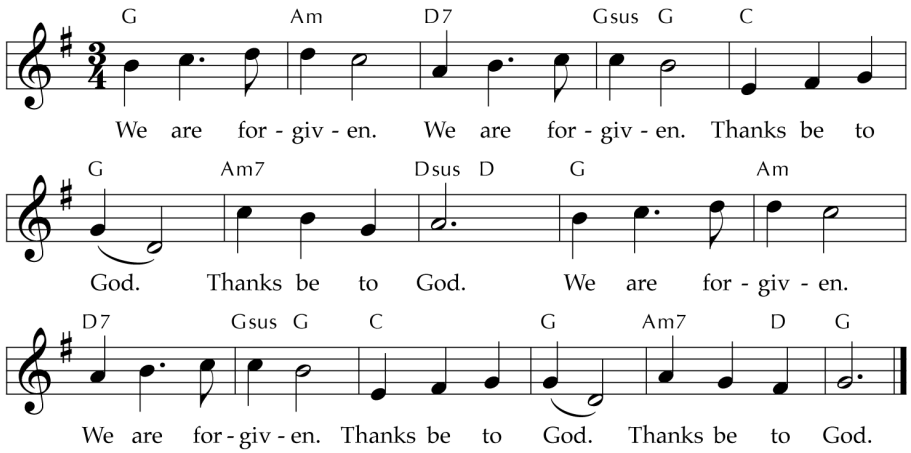
Children ages three *and older are invited to the front for the Children's Sermon. Children ages three through kindergarten may leave with volunteers for Wee Worship for the remainder of the service. The sign-in sheet for parents of Wee Worship children is on the front row.*

The nursery is available for ages infant through kindergarten.

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

Mae Weaver *is the granddaughter of Dick and Betsy Otts. She is being baptized on the 100th birthday of her great-grandmother, Elizabeth Bodden (Dibber) Lutz.*

✠Response: Hymn 447 *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 **Charlotte Crockett**

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 3: 13-22

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

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

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Mae Forrester Weaver

Born November 18, 2022

Daughter of Zach and Toots Weaver

✠Baptism Hymn 486 *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

Scripture Reading: Acts 8: 26-40

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

Sermon: "Being the Church: Baptizing the Saints" **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 482 *Baptized in Water*

✠Affirmation of Faith **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

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 *Amen!*
Marty Haugen

Offering

Offertory *Christ, We Do All Adore Thee*
Theodore Dubois

The Sanctuary Choir

Christ, we do all adore thee, and we do praise thee forever. For on the holy cross has thou the world from sin redeemed. Christ, we do all adore thee.

✠Response | Hymn 607 *Doxology*

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer — **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

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.

✠Hymn 14 — *For the Beauty of the Earth*

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 — *Toccata on "Amazing Grace"*
arr. Christopher Pardini

Sunday, May 21

Join us in worship next Sunday, May 21, as the Rev. Alexandra Hutson preaches on "Being the Church: Speaking Bravely." Scriptural references include Psalm 68: 1-10 and Acts 4: 1-22. Choral music will include a lovely setting for sopranos and altos of Andrea Ramsey's "God Be in My Head" with text from the Book of Hours (a service book from 1514), and the tenors and basses will sing a rousing arrangement of the spiritual "Ain'a The Good News," arranged by Mark Patterson.

After worship, there will be a Family Nature Walk in historic Magnolia Cemetery, led by Tom McGehee. Please RSVP to Sally Ericson if you plan to attend.

Scripture Readings

1 Peter 3: 13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Acts 8: 26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,

and like a lamb silent before its shearer,

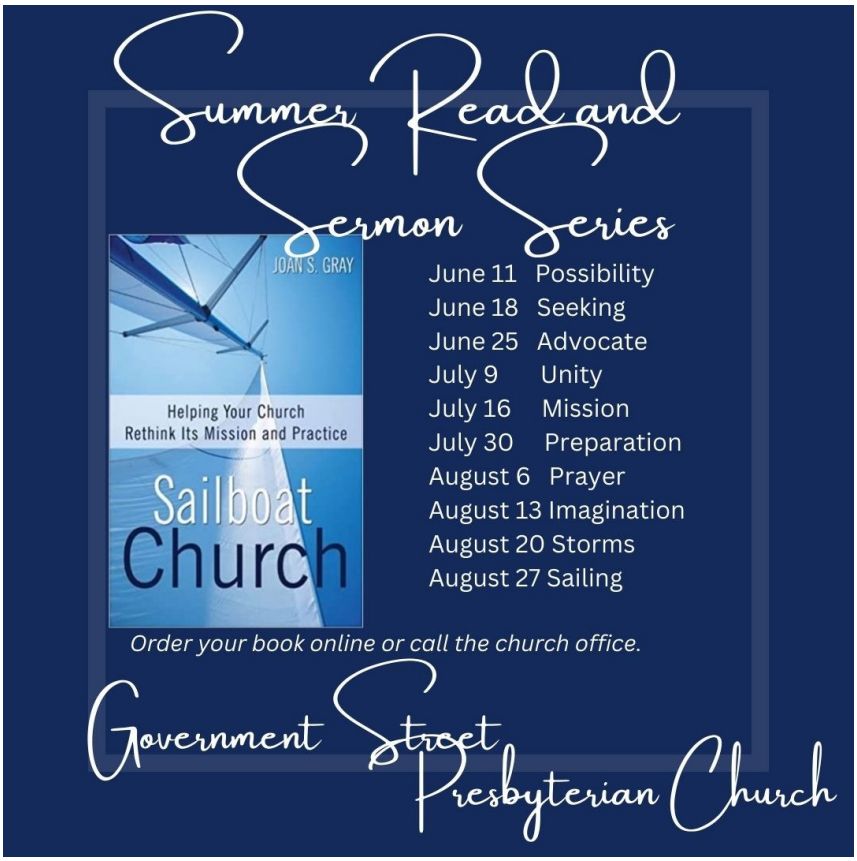
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.





Congratulations to the Confirmation Class: These Confirmands made their profession of faith on Sunday, May 7: Alice Roberds, Margaret Otts, Andrew McMillan Jr., Conrad Otts, Mac Schoenvogel, Sam Lamar and Mac Boone.



The GSPC Thriving Congregations Team held a Listening Session on May 7 in the Parlor.

GSPC News

The Thriving Congregations team has held seven Listening Sessions to help our church discern how God is calling us to engage with our community. The congregation is also encouraged to continue with 40 Days of Prayer through Pentecost weekend. The GSPC Thriving Congregations Team members are John Browning, Casi Callaway, Mary Herndon Nordmann, William Peebles, Bo Perry, Buzzy Riis, Nicole Riis and the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar.

PW Spring Gathering: The Presbyterian Women will hold their annual Spring Gathering on Monday, May 15, at 5:30 p.m. at the Guesnard House. During the Gathering, they will study Lesson 9: Sabbath and Community; collect the PWUSA offering; hear about the Blanket Ministry; sing a hymn; and enjoy appetizers, drinks and fellowship. If you are able, please bring snacks or a beverage to share.

Sign up for Vacation Bible School: VBS at GSPC will be held June 19-23. Parents are encouraged to register their children as soon as possible, so that we'll have time to order T-shirts. The registration portal is on the church website, gspcmobile.org, under the "Ministries / Children's Ministry" tab.

Sunday School Party: The Children of the Church and their Sunday School teachers will have an End-of-the-Year party during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, May 21.

Family Nature Walk: The next Family Nature Walk is planned for noon on Sunday, May 21, and will be a history tour at Magnolia Cemetery led by Tom McGehee. Please RSVP to Sally Ericson if you plan to attend.

Summer Series: This summer, our church will read together Joan S. Gray's "Sailboat Church." The sermons will loosely follow the chapters of the book. Books are available in paperback and kindle online. A few copies are available in the church office for $13 each.

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 June 9 and July 14. 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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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 honor of the baptism of Mae Forrester Weaver, and in loving memory of her Great-Grandmother, Elizabeth Boden Lutz, on her 100th birthday.

The flowers on the Baptismal font are given to the glory of God and in honor of Mae Forrester Weaver, and in memory of MayBeth Walker Bruckmann.

Calendar of Events

MONDAY, MAY 15

PW Spring Gathering: The Presbyterian Women will hold their annual Spring Gathering at 5:30 p.m. in the Guesnard House. If you are able, please bring food or a beverage to share.

TUESDAY, MAY 16

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. The group is studying the Book of Proverbs.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the Library. The group will conclude for the summer at the end of May. Contact: Bo Perry.

Handbell Choir Rehearsal: 5:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Choir Rehearsal: 6 p.m. in the Choir Room.

SUNDAY, MAY 21

End-of-the-Year Party: The Children of the Church and their Sunday School teachers will have an End-of-the-Year celebration at 9:30 a.m.

Family Nature Walk: Noon at Magnolia Cemetery. This walking tour will be led by Tom McGehee. Please email or text Sally Ericson if you plan to attend.

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.