*Welcome to Worship*

# GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, August 23, 2026 | 10:30 A.M.

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 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.*

***Government Street Presbyterian Church,*** *founded in 1831, is a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and participates in the work of the Presbytery of South Alabama.*

***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.*

## *Preparation for Worship*

**PRELUDE** *Sinfonia*
Johann Sebastian Bach

**WELCOME** **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION:** Nominating Committee **JULIE OTTS**

✠**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Responsive)* **JAMES HEUSSER**

Lord, we love you, and we thank you.
**For this sacred hour and for the blessing of prayer,**
Lord, we love you, and we thank you.
**For the chance to worship and the opportunity to confess,**
Lord, we love you, and we thank you.
**For the gift of holy scripture and the chance to sing your praise,**
Lord, we love you, and we thank you.
**As we worship God!**

✠**HYMN 1** *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!*
NICEA

✠**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(Unison)* **REV. LAMAR**

Creator God,

We confess that we forget that it is a blessing to gather in worship. We have considered this gathering a chore rather than a privilege. We forget that we are called to praise and glorify you. We have been selfish in our actions, forgetting that we belong to you. Forgive us, Lord, and hear our silent prayers.

Silence

Have mercy on us, Lord, and help us to grow as your faithful disciples. Lead us in paths of righteousness and make us ambassadors for your kingdom of justice and peace. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

✠**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**
✠**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

✠**RESPONSE | HYMN 447** *We Are Forgiven*
WE ARE FORGIVEN

***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.*

# *Proclaiming the Word*

**Prayer for Illumination** **Beth Rouse**

**First Reading**: Isaiah 6:1-8

This is the Word of the Lord.
**Thanks be to God.**

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

Wee Worship leaders: Emily Watson and Beth Majure

**Second Reading:** Romans 12:1-8

**Sermon:** "A Living Sacrifice" **Rev. Lamar**

**✠Hymn 286** *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*
TRENTHAM

# *Thanksgiving*

**✠Affirmation of Faith** *(The Apostles' Creed*) **Beth Rouse**

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.

**Offering**

**Offertory** *The Gift of Love*
Hal H. Hopson

**The Sanctuary Choir**

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, and have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain. Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every deed, by this we worship and are freed. Amen.

**✠Response | Hymn 606** *Doxology*
OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host, praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***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.*

***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! Be sure to sign the Registry booklet that you will find in your pew. 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.*

***Prayer requests:*** *Please scan the QR code below to share your joys and concerns so that we may share them with our church family in the newsletter and bulletin.*

**✠Prayer of Thanksgiving** — **Beth Rouse**

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

## *Sending*

**✠Hymn 691** — *Lord, When I Came into This Life*
LAND OF REST

**Congregational Meeting to Elect Nominating Committee**

**✠Benediction** — **Rev. Lamar**

**Postlude** — *Hyfrydol*
Carlos Staszeski

*Thanks to Stephen Prager for serving as our guest organist today.*

## *Sunday, August 30*

*Join us next Sunday as the Rev. Lamar continues her sermon series, "I'm a Christian. Now What?" She will preach on Luke 11:1-13 with a sermon on worship titled, "Teach Us to Pray." Music will be offered by Stephen Prager, guest organist, and the Sanctuary Choir, conducted by David Trent.*

## *Prayer Requests*

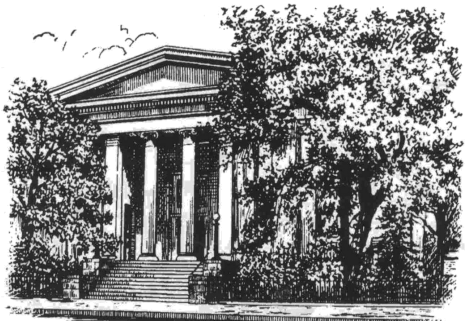
*Please share your joys and concerns with your church family. Your prayer requests can be general requests for a family, community, country, or world. They can be personal, for someone in the church, or someone you know. If you are making a request for someone else, please make sure they are comfortable being included and named. You can always omit a name and make a general request for prayers or celebrations. Each prayer request will remain on the list for one month and then be removed.*

**Prayers for Healing:**

- Sarah Hale, mother of Carter Hale, is at Palm Gardens Nursing Home on hospice care.
- John Peebles requests continued prayers for his good friend, who is recovering from pancreatic surgery.
- Charlotte Crockett is receiving medical treatment in Tuscaloosa.
- Charlie and Stella Jackson request prayers for Edward Meacham, a family friend, who is recovering at home after a Fourth of July fireworks accident. Please pray for healing of his left eye and reduced pain.
- Carter Hale, Jr., is recovering after being struck by a car while riding his scooter on August 3. He is at home, and appreciates prayers for pain management and increased mobility.
- Sara Bryan requests prayers for her son, who is hospitalized with heart issues.
- Susan Ashbee requests prayers for her brother-in-law, Gene Glass, who underwent surgery for bile duct cancer. Prayers are also requested for his wife, Julia, and for their children, Elizabeth and Robert.

**Prayers for Safety and Strength:**

- Jane and Lee Welch request prayers for Lee, who is a volunteer helping the displaced people in Texas, and for Jane, who misses him when he is away.
- Lynn McDaniel requests prayers for Jay, Tullio, Erin, Tomaso, and Jacapu, that they will remain safe from the earthquakes in Italy. The latest earthquake shook Erin's house.



300 Government Street
Mobile, Alabama 36602
251-432-1749 | gspcmobile.org
Member PC (USA)

## CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar
*Pastor and Head of Staff*
rebekah@gspcmobile.org

Dawn Hearn
*Bookkeeper*
dawn@gspcmobile.org

Barbara Williams
*Property Manager and Hostess*
barbara@gspcmobile.org

Sally Ericson
*Communications*
sallyericson23@gmail.com

Willie Mae King
*Director of Food Services*
williemae@gspcmobile.org

Marilyn Mills
Arthur Lewis
*Sexton(s)*

*Send news for the e-newsletter or bulletin to Sally Ericson at sallyericson23@gmail.com.*

## 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.

# *Calendar of Events*

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 25**
**Women's Bible Study:** Tuesdays at 9 a.m. at the home of Ann Adams.
**Theology on Tap:** Join friends for beverages, fellowship and Bible study in the Guesnard House from 5:30 to 7 p.m. All are welcome.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26**
**Wednesday Bible Study:** noon at the home of Beth Rouse. The text is "Encounters with Jesus/ Studies in the Gospel of John" by Frances Gench. For information, contact Beth Rouse at bethmrouse@gmail.com.

**NEWS AND NOTES**

**Officer nominations:** The Nominating Committee asks for your prayerful consideration as you submit nominations for Elders, Deacons and Trustees in the Class of 2029. Please use the QR code here to make your nominations.

Here is the list of current officers:

**Elders:** Class of 2026: Sage Arnold, Julie Otts, Sally Pearsall, Dave Trent, Scott Weldon
Class of 2027: Travis Goodloe, Neal Horner, George Oswalt, LeAnne Tamblyn, Meredith Wilson
Class of 2028: Casi Callaway, Kendall Dexter, Joy Gardner, John Peebles, Buzzy Riis
Clerk of Session: Bo Perry

**Deacons:** Class of 2026: David Ericson, Sallye Irvine, John McLeod, Knox McMurphy, Sandy Thomason, Richard Tippy
Class of 2027: John Ashbee, Amanda Dexter, Charlie Jackson, Marlene Jones, Dewey Parsons, Jeanie Schottgen
Class of 2028: Walt Ogburn, Betsy Otts, Elizabeth Ray

**Trustees:** Henry Morrissette, Chandler Ogburn, Julie Otts, Beth Rouse, Scott Weldon

**McKemie Place:** Each month on the second Friday, volunteers provide a light lunch for about 24 residents at McKemie Place, a women's shelter. Please call Lisa DeShazo at 251-591-1077 or Mary DeWitt Dukes at 504-920-1918 to volunteer on September 11 or October 9.

**Calling all cooks:** The Congregational Care Committee is asking for volunteers to help prepare food for Memorial Receptions, Take Them A Meal, and other GSPC events. If you are interested in preparing food for our congregation, please call the church office.

**Helping the homeless:** If you have donations of insect repellent or sunscreen, please leave them in the collection bin in the Jackson Street foyer. Insect repellent bracelets are preferred.

## 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.