Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, August 17, 2025 | 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.*

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — **REV. ANNE H.K. APPLE**

PRELUDE — *Pastorale on FOREST GREEN*
Richard Purvis

✠**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Responsive)*
Behold the gathering of God's own: **beside believers and among apostles**,

drawn together as disciples and doubters, **we are shoulder to shoulder with shepherds and saints!**

Since we are surrounded by this great cloud of witnesses, **let us run with perseverance the race before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Let us worship God together.**

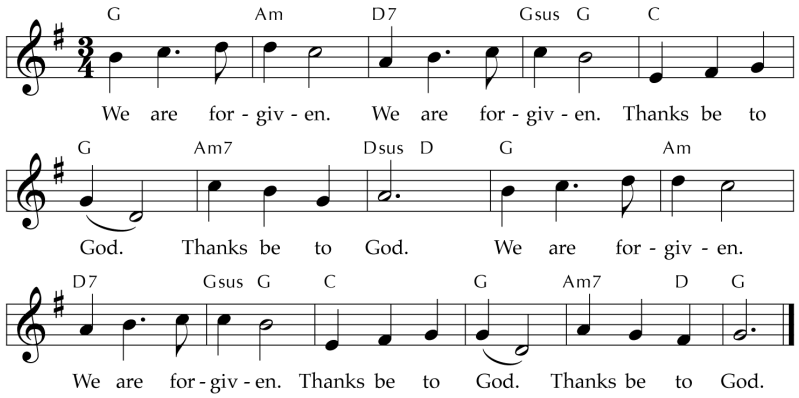
✠**HYMN 305** — *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!*
DARWALL'S 148TH

✠**CALL TO CONFESSION**

✠**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(Unison)*
Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed. God of grace, help us to admit our sin, so that as you come to us in mercy we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

✠**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

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



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.*

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.*

✠Passing of the Peace

Proclaiming the Word

Sung Prayer for Illumination

✠Hymn 291 *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*
SPIRIT
Refrain, verse 3 and refrain

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7 **Julie Otts**

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon **Rev. Anne H.K. Apple**
Wee Worship Leaders: Emily Watson and Toots Weaver

Second Reading: Luke 12:49-56

Sermon: "What Do You Think?" **Rev. Apple**

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 629 *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*
ST. AGNES

✠Affirmation of Faith (*Unison; adapted from A Brief Statement of Faith*)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female,
of every race and people, to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.
Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
Like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.

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.*

✠Response *Thanks Be to God, Alleluia*
Swahili Folk Song; arr. Chris Nemec

Call to Offering
and Presentation of Gifts, Tithes, and Offerings

Offertory *Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing*
Gordon Young

The Sanctuary Choir & Solo Quartet
(Gabrielle Mohr, Kelly Connor, Jacob Mohr & David Thomason)

Now let us all praise God and sing our great Redeemer's praise. That we may all with one accord our joyful voices raise. Sing Alleluia. All ye servants of the Lord, praise Him forever; Sing Jehovah's mighty pow'r. Sing of His righteousness.

✠Response | Hymn 606 *Doxology*
OLD HUNDREDTH

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

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving
Prayer of Intercession and 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.

Sending

✠Hymn 634 *To God Be the Glory*
TO GOD BE THE GLORY

✠Benediction **Rev. Apple**

Postlude *Toccata Brevis*
Ovid Young

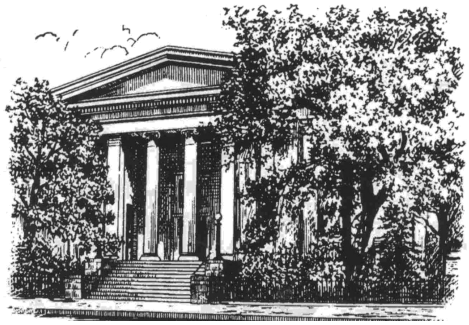
Sunday, August 24

Join us next Sunday, August 24, as Rev. Anne H.K. Apple will preach on Isaiah 58:9b-14 and Luke 13:10-17, with a sermon titled "To Be Set Free." Music includes the Introit based upon W.A. Mozart's well-known "Alleluia" and Ron Harris' "In This Very Room."

Officer Nominations and Announcements

Please use the top QR code to access the Officer Nomination Form. To access the code, hold up your phone as if you were taking a photo and click on the small yellow box. You may make as many nominations as you like.

Please use the bottom QR code to access the Announcement Form. You may use this form to submit news for the newsletter or bulletin.



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Member PC (USA)

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar
Pastor and Head of Staff
Sabbatical: June 16-September 15
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Rev. Anne H.K. Apple
Temporary Pastor
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Chris Nemec
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Barbara Williams
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Sally Ericson
Communications
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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.

GSPC News

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6-7:30 p.m. in the choir room.

NEWS AND NOTES

Call for Nominations: The congregation is invited to submit nominations for Elders and Deacons in the Class of 2028. Please use the QR code on page 3 of the bulletin to access the nomination form. You may make as many nominations as you like.

Call for Musicians: The Bell Choir and Sanctuary Choir currently have openings. The Bell Choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 5:15 to 5:45 p.m., starting September 3. The Sanctuary Choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Chris Nemec at chris@gspcmobile.org.

Back-to-School Uniform Drive: The congregation is invited to provide assistance to students who need school uniforms. GSPC supports the uniform closet at Barton Academy. If you would like to assist these families, please submit a check to the church office, or through the offering, and put "Uniform Assistance" in the memo line.

Status Update on the Elevator: The elevator repair project has begun, and the sanctuary will soon have a chair lift as well. If you need help when entering or exiting the sanctuary, please call the church office, or notify a Sunday Assistant.

Seeking a 12-Step Program Host: The Mission Committee is searching for a volunteer with AA-12 step program history to host a new program at GSPC. This will be a weekly commitment. The committee will help with providing books and meeting space. If you have the knowledge and interest, please contact Neal Horner or Lynn McDaniel.

McKemie Place Lunches: Volunteers are needed once a month to bring lunch to McKemie Place, which provides shelter, food, and counseling to homeless women. If you can help on September 11, October 10 or November 14, please call Lisa deShazo at 251-591-1077 or Mary DeWitt Dukes at 504-920-1918.

GSPC Book Club: The Book Club will meet on August 26 at 5:30 p.m. in the library and via Zoom. The selection is "Fairhope, 1894–1954: The Story of a Single Tax Colony" by Paul and Blanche Alyea. RSVP to mwjohnston@crimson.ua.edu or 251-323-5954.

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.