*Welcome to Worship*

# GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, February 22, 2026 | 10:30 A.M.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

***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 known as the mother of Presbyterianism in southern Alabama. We are a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and participate 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.*

## *Gathering*

Preparation for Worship

*"The Word of God is not a thing of the past; it is present and effective."*
**Pope Benedict XVI (2008)**

**PRELUDE** *Meditation on PASSION CHORALE*
arr. Miclekson

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

**INTROIT** *O How He Loves You and Me*
Kaiser/arr. Chris Nemec

**The Sanctuary Choir**
O how He loves you and me. He gave His life, what more could He give?

✠**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Responsive)* **JEANIE LINDSEY**

In the stories Jesus told, the ordinary becomes a view into the kingdom of God.
**We bring our ordinary selves, listening for truth hidden in seed and soil, bread and banquet, lost and found.**
These stories comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.
**They invite us to see ourselves and our world more clearly.**
During Lent, we gather to hear again what we think we already know, trusting that Jesus still speaks through the stories he told.
**We open our hearts to be surprised, unsettled, and changed.**
Come, then, with ears to hear, and let us worship God.

✠**HYMN 361** *O Christ, the Great Foundation*
AURELIA

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

Have mercy on us, O God. We know our sin is great. We are ashamed, and it is difficult to confess the errors of our ways. When we sin against our neighbor, condone injustice, and quarrel with one another, we sin against you and are in need of your mercy. Thank you for holding the confessions of our humbled and contrite hearts.

(silence)

Forgive us, we pray, for we are broken in spirit. Remove our sins from us so that we may be reconciled to you through the mercy of Jesus Christ. Keep us always in your presence so that we may be restored to the joy of your salvation. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

✠**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***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.*

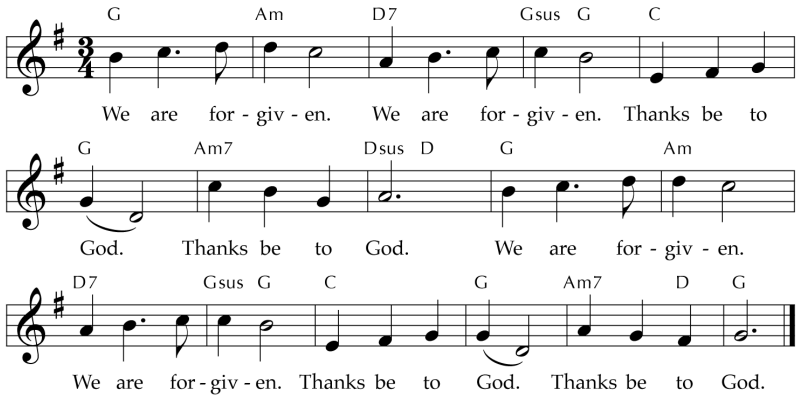
***Wee Worship sign-in slips*** *are available next to the bulletins at the front and back of the church as well as in the children's worship totes. Children may bring these filled out slips with them when they go to Wee Worship.*

***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**

**✠Response | Hymn 581** *We Are Forgiven*

WE ARE FORGIVEN




# *Proclaiming the Word*

**Prayer for Illumination** **Jeanie Lindsey**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 55:10-11

The Word of the Lord.
**Thanks be to God.**

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

Wee Worship Leaders: Emily Watson and Stella Jackson

**Second Reading:** Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

**Sermon:** "Sowing: The Parable of the Sower" **Rev. Lamar**

# *Thanksgiving*

**✠Hymn 250** *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

PROMISE

**✠Affirmation of Faith** *(The Apostles' Creed)* **Jeanie Lindsey**

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.

***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.*

***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.*

**Choral Response** *Three-Fold Amen*
Eugene Butler

**Offering**

**Offertory** *God Is Our Refuge and Strength*
Allen Pote

**The Sanctuary Choir**

God is our refuge and strength, a present help in time of trouble. Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though the waters roar and foam, we will not fear. Come and behold the work of the Lord, the awesome acts of God. He is in the midst of His people in all the earth. He is the Word, we are His hands, He will lead us. He is the air, we are song, we will celebrate His presence all the day long. Come and behold the works of the Lord, the awesome acts of God. He is in the midst of His people in all the earth. He is the rain, we are the storms, He will cleanse us.

(Psalm 46, select verses)

✠**Response | Hymn 606** *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*
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 of Thanksgiving** **Jeanie Lindsey**

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

## *Sending*

✠**Hymn 216** *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*
ST CHRISTOPHER

✠**Benediction** **Rev. Lamar**

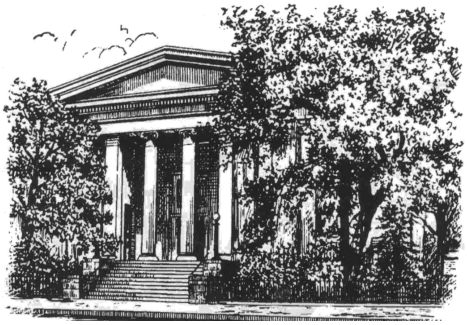
**Postlude** *Chaconne*
Louis Couperin

Lenten Questions for This Week

**Monday:** What character or object am I most drawn to in today's parable?
**Tuesday:** If I were making a video to depict this parable, what would it be like? What would I see and hear?
**Wednesday:** What questions does this parable raise for me? What doesn't it say that I would like to know?
**Thursday:** What is something I want to carry with me from this parable that will help me live in the way of Christ?
**Friday:** What is the good news in this parable that is worth sharing in my words or my actions?
**Saturday:** What is my prayer for this coming week of Lent?

## *Sunday, March 1*

*On Sunday, March 1, the Rev. Lamar will continue her Lenten sermon series, "The Stories Jesus Told" with a sermon based on Luke 18:9-14 titled "Praying: The Pharisee and the Tax Collector." Music includes David DeVidal's "Surely He Bore Our Griefs" and Taylor Davis' "With All I Am."*



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

Chris Nemec
*Director of Music and Organist*
chris@gspcmobile.org

Paula Spath
*Office Manager*
paula@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

The flowers on the pulpit are given to the glory of God, and in honor of Nicole Riis on her birthday, by her husband, Buzzy Riis.

## *Calendar of Events*

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24**
**Women's Bible Study:** Tuesdays at 9 a.m. at the home of Ann Adams.
**Women's Bible Study:** Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Library. Contact: Mary Elizabeth Perry.
**Tuesday Lunch and Learn:** Come to lunch! Our guest speaker is Spiro Cheriogotis, Mayor of Mobile. Lunch is served at noon, and the presentation will begin at 12:30 p.m. The price is $10 and includes drinks and dessert. All of the lunches are open to the community. Free parking is available in the GSPC parking lot on the corner of Government and Jackson streets on Tuesdays during the lunch hour.
**GSPC Book Club:** 5:30 p.m. in the Library and via Zoom. The reading selection is "Outside Agitator: Jon Daniels and the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama," by Charles W. Eagles. RSVP to Meredith Johnston at mwjohnston@crimson.ua.edu or 251-323-5954.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25**
**Music Rehearsals:** Handbells, 5:15-5:45 p.m.; choir, 6-7:30 p.m.
**Men's Bible Study:** 6 p.m. in the Library. Contact: Bo Perry.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26**
**Interfaith Bible Study:** 5:30 p.m. in the Library. Join "Two Pastors and a Rabbi," the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar, the Rev. Trey Doyle, and Rabbi Ed Boraz, for an Interfaith Bible Study at GSPC. All are welcome.

**NEWS AND NOTES**

**McKemie Place:** Each month on the second Friday, volunteers provide a light lunch for about 24 residents at McKemie Place, a shelter for homeless women. Volunteers are needed on March 13. Please call Lisa DeShazo at 251-591-1077 or Mary DeWitt Dukes at 504-920-1918 if you are able to help with this mission at GSPC.

**Driver needed:** The Meals on Wheels ministry needs a driver for the Northern Route on Wednesday mornings. Please contact Lisa deShazo at 251-591-1077.

**Flower Dedications:** 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.