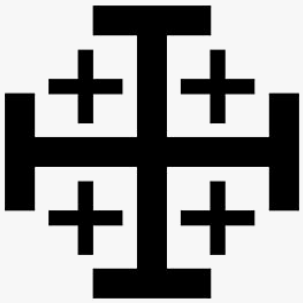
Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, March 10, 2024 | 10:30 A.M.

FOURTH 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 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

PRELUDE *Prelude in E Minor (Op. 28, No. 4)*
Frederic Chopin

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

INTROIT *The Ash Grove (Let All Things Now Living)*
arr. Jay Althouse
The Handbell Choir

✠**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*responsive*)
On our best days, when life is full of wonder and hope,
God is good. God's love for us will never end.
On our worst days, when tragedy and loss make it hard to take the next step,
God is good. God's love for us will never end.
On our average days, when the mundane keeps us in the shallows of life,
God is good. God's love for us will never end.
On our extraordinary days, the ones that mark "before" and "after,"
God is good. God's love for us will never end.
Jesus Christ lived in our wonderful and broken world.
He experienced the highs and lows, the ordinary and extraordinary.
He came so that we might always know the good news that
God is good. God's love for us will never end.
Let us worship God!

✠**HYMN 826** *Lift High the Cross*
CRUCIFER

✠**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)

Holy God,
Your ways are not our ways, and your thoughts are not our thoughts. The world does not make sense to us. We confess that we want to control scenarios beyond our reach. We want to hold your world in our hands, forgetting that it belongs in yours. Forgive us for the moments when we declare our will and ignore yours. Forgive us for arguing when we could listen. Hear our silent prayers of confession.

(Silence)

Have mercy on us, Lord. Soften our hard edges. Help us loosen our grip and give you the control that has always been yours. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

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-K 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.*

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.

✠Assurance of Pardon

✠Passing of the Peace

✠Response | Hymn 475 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (verse 1)*
NETTLETON

Come thou fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace.
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer For Illumination **Julie Otts**

Scripture Reading: Psalm 107: 1-3

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

Scripture Reading: Mark 16: 13-23

Sermon: "I'm Fixed Upon It" **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 213 *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*
RATHBUN

✠Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

✠Response *Thanks be to God, Alleluia!*
Swahili folk song; arr. Nemec

Offering

Offertory *O Dearest Lord, Thy Sacred Head*
arr. David N. Johnson

The Sanctuary Choir, Meredith Wilson, *mezzo soprano soloist*

O dearest Lord, thy sacred head with thorns was pierced for me; O pour thy blessing on my head that I may think for thee. O dearest Lord, thy sacred hands with nails were pierced for me; O shed thy blessing on my hands, that they may work for thee. O dearest Lord, thy sacred feet with nails were pierced for me; O pour thy blessing on my feet that they may follow thee. O dearest Lord, thy sacred heart with spear was pierced for me; O pour thy spirit in my heart that I may live for thee. Amen.

✠Response | Hymn 607 *Doxology*
OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. 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.

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer of Intercession
And the Lord's Prayer

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

Sending

✠Benediction **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**
Postlude *Praise Ye, the Lord of Hosts (Tollite Hostias)*
Camille Saint-Saëns

Sunday, March 17

Join us on the fifth Sunday in Lent. We will continue our "Wandering Heart" worship series with the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar's sermon, "Teach Me," from Psalm 119:9-16 and Matthew 18:15-20. Choral music includes Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Pie Jesu" from his Requiem, sung by Gabrielle Corlette and Carter Hale Jr., and a setting of the text "Behold the Lamb."

The "Wandering Heart" Lenten series

- The "Young Worshippers Challenge" for our elementary-age worshippers can be found at the front of the sanctuary.
- "Wandering Heart" Lenten devotionals are available at every entrance.
- Children's worship bags are available at the entrances.

Easter Lily Dedications

It's time for Easter Lily dedications. Please submit your orders by March 26. The lilies will be on display in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, March 31.

Easter Lily Dedications

The Easter Lilies will be displayed on Easter Sunday, March 31, and may be collected after the service.

Please turn this form in with the offering, or at the church office, by March 26. Please make checks payable to GSPC.

Given by: _____

_____

In Memory of: _____

_____

In Honor of: _____

_____

Number of lilies ($13 each): *Total:* _____



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Marilyn Mills
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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 four generations
of William Wright Majure.

Calendar of Events

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 8 a.m. at the home of Ann Adams. The group is studying Romans.

Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Library. Contact: Mary Elizabeth Perry.

Tuesday Lunch and Learn: Come to lunch and learn about what's going on at the port! Our guest speaker will be John Driscoll, Director and CEO of the Alabama Port Authority. Lunch is served at noon and the presentation begins at 12:30 p.m. Lunch is $12 and includes coffee, tea and dessert. Invite your friends and family to lunch! Here is the schedule:

March 12: John Driscoll, Director and CEO, Alabama Port Authority
March 19: Alan Sealls, author and Chief Meteorologist at NBC-15
April 2: Champ Napier, client advocate, Mobile County Public Defender's Office
April 9: Simone Eli, sports director and anchor, WKRG
April 16: Owen Bailey, CEO, USA Health
April 23: Jon Carfagno, Executive Director, Mobile Museum of Art
April 30: Elizabeth Stevens, President and CEO, Downtown Mobile Alliance

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

Choir 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.

Easter Events and Holy Week services

- Sunday, March 24: Palm Sunday service, 10:30 a.m.
- Thursday, March 28: Maundy Thursday service, 6 p.m.
- Friday, March 29: Good Friday service, noon.
- Saturday, March 30: Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m. in Washington Square.
- Sunday, March 31: Easter Sunday service, 10:30 a.m.

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.