

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.*

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, May 7, 2023 | 10:30 A.M.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Gathering

PRELUDE *Menuet (Suite Gothique)*
Léon Boëllmann

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

✠CALL TO WORSHIP **MARGARET OTTS**

We gather together to worship the Lord.

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; give thanks in all circumstances. For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

We bring our joys and our sorrows, our happiness and our heartbreak.

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; give thanks in all circumstances. For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

We are sinners and saints, faithful and forgetful, broken and being made whole.

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; give thanks in all circumstances. For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

With humble and grateful hearts, let us worship God!

✠HYMN 697 *Take My Life*

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION **MAC SCHOENVOGEL**

Gracious God, we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace. You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not. We have so many questions, but we are afraid of your answers. We justify our actions and words, though we know they are not what you require. We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers, preferring old habits to risky change. Forgive us, Lord, and hear our silent prayers of confession.

(silence)

Help us to be born again into the life of Christ, trusting that you have included us by your grace in the family of faith. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

✠ASSURANCE OF PARDON **ANDREW MCMILLAN**

✠PASSING OF THE PEACE

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.*

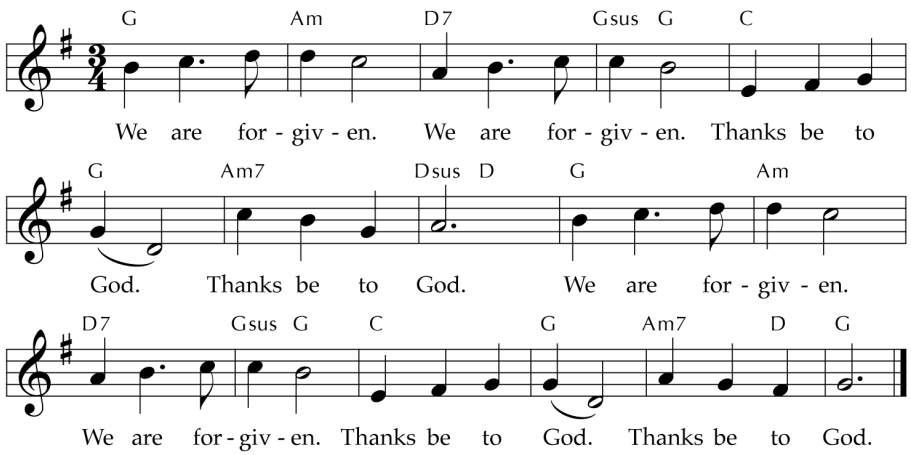
In the ***Prayer for Illumination****, we ask for the word of God to be revealed to us so that we can lead more faithful lives.*

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.*

✠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 **Sam Lamar**

Scripture Reading: Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16 **Conrad Otts**

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

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

Scripture Reading: Acts 2: 43-47

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

Sermon: "Being the Church: Breaking Bread" **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 175 *Seek Ye First*

Presentation of the Confirmation Class of 2023

McKenzie Parker Boone

Samuel Kenneth Lamar

Andrew D'Olive McMillan, Jr.

Conrad Bodden Otts

Margaret Holms Otts

Alice Louise Roberds

Charles McMillan Schoenvogel

Questions to the Confirmands

Prayers for Confirmands and Presentation of Gifts

✠Affirmation of Faith **Alice Roberds**

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 **Mac Boone**

Offertory *It Is Well with My Soul*
VILLE DU HAVRE; arr. John Ness Beck

The Sanctuary Choir

Text: The Hymnal, #840, stanzas 1, 3 & 4

✠Response | Hymn 607 *Doxology*

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving **Mac Boone**

The benediction *is both a charge with which to leave the worship service and blessing to take into the world and the week ahead.*

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Communion Meditation *Prière (Suite Gothique)*
Léon Boëllmann

Prayer After Communion **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

✠Hymn 279 *Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove*

Sending

✠Benediction **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Postlude *All Creatures of Our God and King*
arr. James C. Kasen

Sunday, May 14

Join us on Mother's Day, May 14, as the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar continues her sermon series, "Being the Church: Baptizing the Saints" with scripture from Acts 8:26-40, and an infant baptism. The GSPC Bell Choir will play a setting of the hymn tune HYFRYDOL, and the Sanctuary Choir will sing Theodore Dubois' reverent "Christ, We Do All Adore Thee." We will celebrate the sacrament of baptism as we baptize Mae Forrester Weaver, daughter of Zach and Toots Weaver.

Scripture Readings

Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16

To the leader. A Psalm of David.

In you, O Lord, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.

Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily.

Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.

You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me,

take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.

Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.

Acts 2: 43-47

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

GSPC News







The Youth did a wonderful job leading the Worship Service on Youth Sunday. Thank you to all of the participants!



Have you signed up for a Listening Session yet? The Irvines hosted a fruitful session on Tuesday night.

On Sunday, April 16, the Thriving Congregations team shared more information about their work through Montreat Conference Center to help our church discern how God is calling us to engage with our community. If you haven't already, please sign up to be part of a Listening Session. There are seven sessions scheduled during the next several weeks. Check your email for the sign-up link. You may also sign up for a one-on-one meeting with a member of the team. The congregation is also encouraged to participate in 40 Days of Prayer, which began on April 17 and continues 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.

Family Nature Walk: The next Family Nature Walk is planned for 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.

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.

Community News: Visit Mobile and many local attractions will present Explore Mobile today from 1 to 5 p.m. at Mardi Gras Park. Enjoy live music, activities, and free admission to the city's tourist attractions, including the History Museum of Mobile, the Colonial Fort of Mobile, the Conde-Charlotte Museum House and the Dora Franklin Finley African-American Heritage Trail.

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 May 12 and June 9. 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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Member PC (USA)

CHURCH STAFF

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Sally Ericson
Communications
sallyericson23@gmail.com

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 loving memory of
Mr. and Mrs. John Elliott Moses
and Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Paul Linhart
by Marilyn and John Moses.

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, MAY 7

Sunday Book Study Group: Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the library.

Talking Heads Sunday School class: This class meets in the Heltzel Room.

Sunday School for children and youth: These classes meet at 9:30 a.m.

Wee Worship: Sundays at 10:45 a.m. for ages 3 to kindergarten.

TUESDAY, MAY 9

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.

Session Meeting: 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the Library. Contact: Bo Perry.

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

No Choir Rehearsal.

MONDAY, MAY 15

PW Spring Gathering: The Presbterian 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.

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.