

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.*

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.*

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, May 28, 2023 | 10:30 A.M.

PENTECOST

Gathering

PRELUDE *Veni Creator Spiritus (Come, Creator Spirit, Opus 4)*
Maurice Duruflé

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

✠CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning, the Holy Spirit breathed life into the world.

In the fullness of time, the Holy Spirit came to Mary, bringing Jesus to dwell among us.

At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit gave birth to the church, offering good news for all.

Today, in this moment, even now, the Holy Spirit creates, redeems, and sustains us, leading us to participate in the new thing God is doing.

Let us worship God.

✠HYMN 289 *On Pentecost They Gathered*
MUNICH

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, we confess that we do not understand your Spirit, and we struggle to trust what we do not understand. Our fear leads us to ignore your commandments and forget what we have been taught. Too often we miss your still, small voice. Let your mercy quiet us, God. Fill us with your goodness and compassion as we offer our silent prayers of confession.

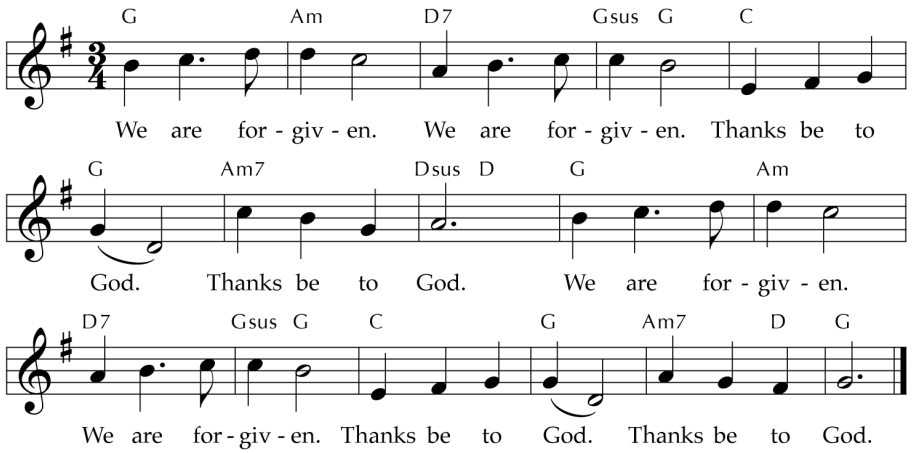
(silence)

Forgive us, Lord. Open us to the mystery of your gracious Spirit and help us to experience your peace. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

✠ASSURANCE OF PARDON

✠PASSING OF THE PEACE

✠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 **Susan Ashbee**

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

Children's Sermon **Rev. Alexandra Hutson**

Scripture Reading: Acts 2: 1-21

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

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

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 300 *We Are One in the Spirit*
THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

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.*

The Brief Statement of Faith was written in the 1980s when the Presbyterian Church (USA) was formed by the reunion of the northern and southern strands of Presbyterianism that divided before the Civil War. The statement offers one of the fullest descriptions of the Holy Spirit found in our denomination's Book of Confessions, emphasizing the Spirit's work in our present-day world.

✠Affirmation of Faith **Rev. Alexandra Hutson**

A Brief Statement of Faith:

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.
The same Spirit
who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.
In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

✠Response *Amen!*
Eugene Butler

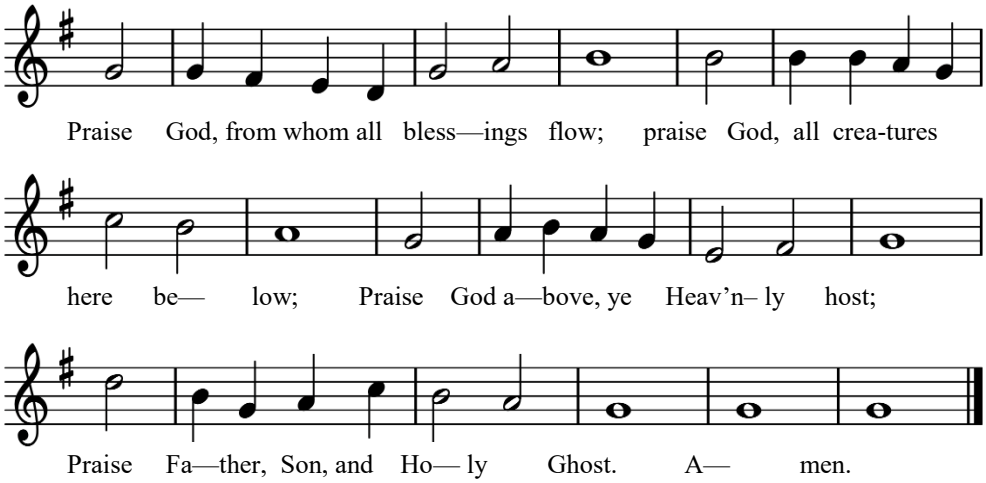
Offering

Offertory *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*
Harold W. Friedell

The Sanctuary Choir

Text: No. 529 in the Hymnal

✠Response | Hymn 607 *Doxology*



✠Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer **Rev. Alexandra Hutson**

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.

✠Hymn 288 *Spirit of the Living God*
LIVING GOD

Sending

✠Benediction **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Postlude *"Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit"*
Spiritual; arr. Richard Elliott

Scripture Readings

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Acts 2: 1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs — in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares,

that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,

and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

and your young men shall see visions,

and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women,

in those days I will pour out my Spirit;

and they shall prophesy.

And I will show portents in the heaven above

and signs on the earth below,

blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

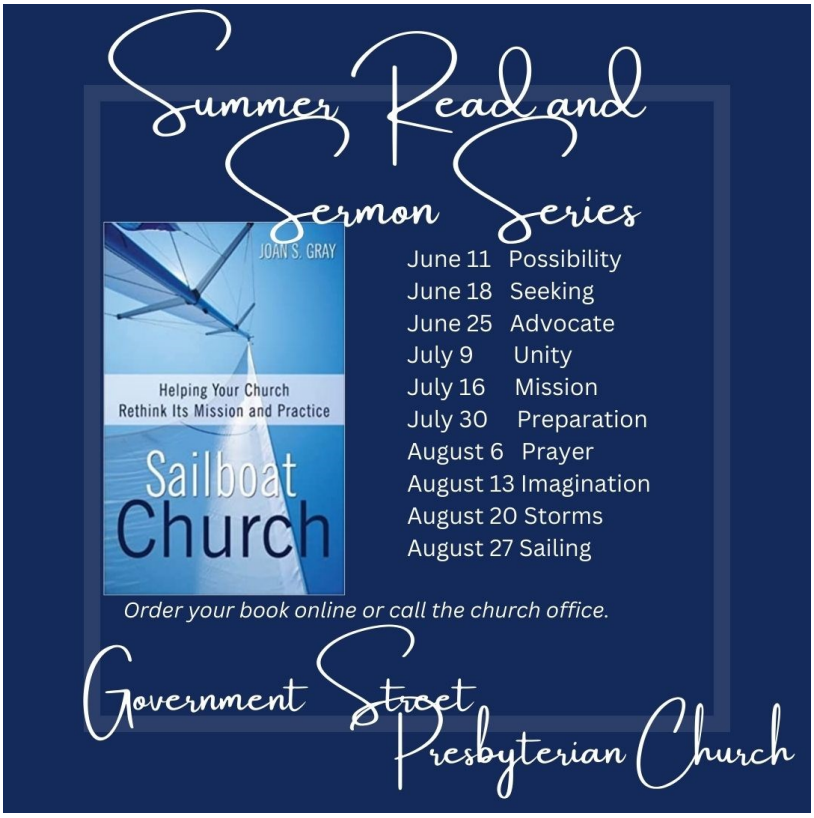
The sun shall be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood,

before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

GSPC News



Summer Series: This summer, our church will read together Joan S. Gray's "Sailboat Church." The sermons will loosely follow the chapters of the book. Books are available in paperback and Kindle online. A few copies are available in the church office for $13 each.

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.

Baytreat Summer Rentals: Baytreat is available for rentals this summer. Several of the rooms now have queen-size beds! For information, contact Shelley Springer at shelley@shelleyspringer.com or 251-605-0695.

Summer camps and classes: Parents and grandparents, the Mobile Arts Council has created a comprehensive list of camps and classes to keep little ones busy during the summer. You may view it on the mobilearts.org website.

June Birthdays

June 1: Charles Smith, Sadie Weldon

June 2: William Peebles

June 3: Shelby Gustin, Anne Guy, Sage Long, Julie Otts, Amanda Roberds

June 8: Lillian Hale

June 9: Callie Shearer

June 10: Robert Otts

June 11: Kelleen Walker

June 14: Marian Bennett, Slade Bennett, Katherine Browning

June 15: Will Ashbee, Arria Nicholas

June 16: Ceil McGehee

June 17: Susan Holler

June 18: Lucinda Haas, Timothy Heisterhagen

June 20: Nancy Boone, Benjamin Hollensworth

June 21: Heather Hamilton, Dennis Thurber

June 22: Edward Bowron

June 23: Paula Sinclair, Michael Winn

June 24: Lee Adams, Trisha Hawkins

June 25: Chris King, Joy Rue

June 26: David Carver

June 27: Charlotte Markle

June 28: Trey Crockett

June 29: Forrest Jackson

June 30: Mac Schoenvogel, KB Walker

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 July 14 and August 11. 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
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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 Don Bryan
by his wife, Sara.

Calendar of Events

MONDAY, MAY 29

Memorial Day: The church office will be closed for the Memorial Day holiday.

TUESDAY, MAY 30

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. The group is studying the Book of Proverbs and the sermon text for the following week. Contact: Mary Elizabeth Perry.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31

Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the Library. The group will recess for the summer after this meeting. Contact: Bo Perry.

Choir Rehearsal: 6 p.m. in the Choir Room.

THURSDAY, JUNE 1

There will be a Memorial Service for Hattie Ogburn on Thursday, June 1, at 3 p.m. at GSPC. The visitation begins at 2 p.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.

Worship has continued on this site since 1836, when the sanctuary, now a National Historic landmark, was completed.

Did you know?: The present church building, completed in 1839 at a cost of $60,000, had a steeple which housed a large clock imported from Liverpool. It also contained the city's first fire bell, but during a storm in 1852 the steeple was struck by lightning and had to be removed, never to be replaced.