Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, March 15, 2026 | 10:30 A.M.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Preparation for Worship

"There is nothing that troubles our conscience so much as the thought that God is good to those whom we think unworthy."
Helmut Thielicke, "The Waiting Father: Sermons on the Parables of Jesus," 1959

PRELUDE *Panis Angelicus*
César Franck

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

MINUTE FOR MISSION **CINDY FISHER**
Director of Communication and Outreach
Presbyterian Home for Children

INTROIT *God So Loved the World*
Bill Wolaver

Meredith Wilson, *mezzo soprano*, and the Ladies of the Sanctuary Choir
God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

✠**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Responsive)* **HARRIS OSWALT**
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 265** *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun*
DUKE STREET

✠**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 as we pray in silence.

(Silence)

Forgive us when we are quick to judge and resentful of your generosity. Shape us to be gracious reflections of our Lord and Savior. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

✠**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

✠**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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 a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and participates 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.

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.*

The Apostles' Creed:

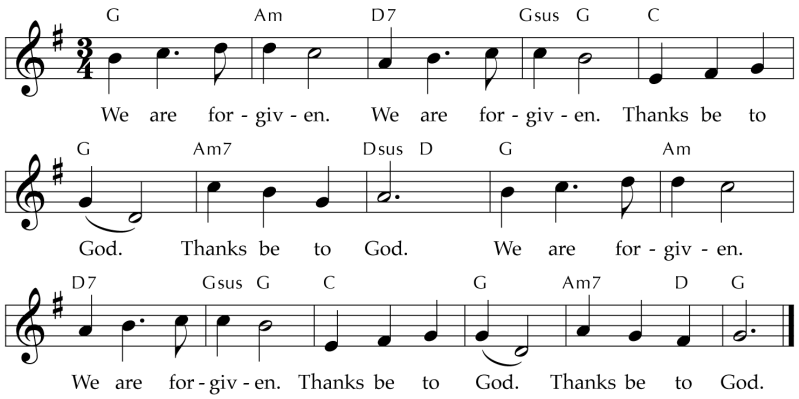
I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; 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 | Hymn 447 *We Are Forgiven*

WE ARE FORGIVEN



Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination **Harris Oswalt**

First Reading: Psalm 145:18-17

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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

Wee Worship leaders: Katherine Ogburn and Lisa Goodloe

Second Reading: Matthew 20:1-16

Sermon: "Working: Workers in the Vineyard" **Rev. Lamar**

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 221 *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

PASSION CHORALE

✠Affirmation of Faith *(The Apostles' Creed)* **Harris Oswalt**

Choral Response *Amen*

Franz Schubert

Offering

Offertory *Kyrie (Mass in G, D. 167)*

Franz Schubert

The Sanctuary Choir; Gabrielle Mohr, *soprano soloist*

Translation: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

✠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 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.*

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving **Harris Oswalt**
Prayer of Intercession
And The Lord's Prayer **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Sending

✠Hymn 223 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*
HAMBURG

✠Benediction **Rev. Lamar**
Postlude *Sonata in G (K 274)*
W.A. Mozart

This morning we welcome our guest musicians from the Mobile Symphony, violinists Dr. Silvia Rath and Jim Lichtenberger.

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 22

Next Sunday, the Rev. Lamar will continue her Lenten sermon series, "The Stories Jesus Told" with a sermon based on Luke 18:9-14 titled "Noticing: The Rich Man and Lazarus." Music includes the Sanctuary Choir singing the Lenten anthem "Behold the Lamb" and Arcangelo Corelli's setting of "Ave Verum Corpus." The organ prelude will be J.S. Bach's "Awake Thou Wint'ry Earth" in honor of the beginning of Spring.

The congregation will receive the Annual Report during a congregational meeting immediately following the worship service.

Easter Lily Dedications

The Easter Lilies will be displayed on Easter Sunday, April 5, and may be collected after the service.

Please turn this form in with the offering, or at the church office, by March 31. Please make checks payable to GSPC.

Given by: _____

_____

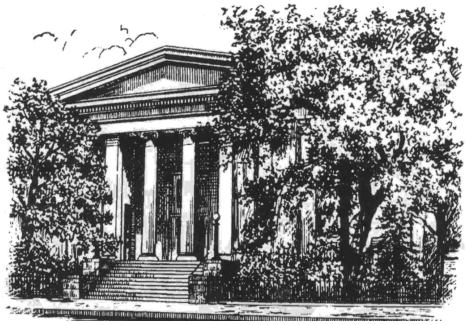
In Memory of: _____

_____

In Honor of: _____

_____

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



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Member PC (USA)

CHURCH STAFF

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Willie Mae King
Director of Food Services
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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 loving memory
of John and Sally Morrissette,
and John and Faye Anderson,
by their grandchildren, Elizabeth and Henry
Morrissette.

Calendar of Events

TUESDAY, MARCH 17
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.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18
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, MARCH 19
Interfaith Bible Study: 5:30 to 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church. All are welcome to join this evening of fellowship and Bible study, led by the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar, the Rev. Trey Doyle of First Baptist, and Rabbie Ed Boraz of Springhill Avenue Temple.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22
Congregational Meeting: The congregation will receive the Annual Report during the Annual Meeting immediately after worship next Sunday.

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 April 10. 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.

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