Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, October 20, 2024 | 10:30 A.M.

ORDINARY TIME

Gathering

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.*

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.*

PRELUDE *Spirit of the Living God*
arr. Stephen Nielson

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

MINUTE FOR MISSION: STEWARDSHIP **JULIE OTTS**

INTROIT *All Things Bright and Beautiful*
Vicki Hancock Wright

The Children's Choir; James Lamar, *soloist*

Text: No. 20 in The Hymnal, stanzas 1 & 4

✠CALL TO WORSHIP **GINNY JONES AND ROBERT WEAVER**

Who are you?
I am a child of God.
Who are we?
We are the children of God, the family of faith.
What does it mean to be children of God?
We belong to God who loves us and calls us God's own. In life and in death, we belong to God.
Children of God, welcome home.
Let us worship God.

✠HYMN 188 *Jesus Loves Me!*
JESUS LOVES ME

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*) **JAMES LAMAR**

Eternal God,

We confess that we have too often acted as if we can earn your love and have forgotten your free gift of grace. We want to impress you and others, but we have lost our way. Forgive us when we forget that we are your children and act in ways that disappoint you. Hear our silent prayers of confession.

(Silence)

Have mercy on us, Lord, and help us remember that we belong to you. You love us more than we can understand. Help us to love and trust you with our whole hearts. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

✠ASSURANCE OF PARDON

✠PASSING OF THE PEACE **SHEP OLIVER**

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.*

New 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.*

For more than 1,000 years, *the church has used the Apostles' Creed to affirm its faith in Jesus Christ. When we say this creed together, we are joined with generations of Christians who have come before us in declaring foundational doctrines of our faith in Christ.*

✠Response | Hymn 448 *Peace of God Be with You*
AS-SALAAMU LAKUM

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer For Illumination **Preston Reeder**

Scripture Reading: Luke 10:25-28 **Eleanor Oswalt**

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

Blessing of Hurricane Relief Items **Lillian Grace Hale**

Scripture Reading: Romans 5:1-5

Sermon: "Justified by Faith" **Rev. Dr. Tara Bulger**

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 729 *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*
I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

✠Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed **Evelyn Reeder**

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 *Three-fold Amen*
Eugene Butler; arr. Chris Nemec

Offering and Presentation of Pledges **Rev. Lamar**

Offertory *For All the Saints (Sine Nomine)*
Ralph Vaughan Williams

The Sanctuary Choir

Text: No. 326 in The Hymnal, stanzas 1, 2, 4 & 5, plus additional text:

O may Thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold. Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old, and win with them the victor's crown of gold. Alleluia!

✠Response | Hymn 606 *Doxology*
OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly 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.*

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer of Intercession and 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.

✠Hymn 547 *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*
AR HYDY NOS

Sending

✠Benediction **Rev. Dr. Tara Bulger**

Postlude *Marcia (Opus 13, No. 3)*
Charles Marie Widor

GSPC is pleased to welcome the Rev. Dr. Tara Bulger as our preacher today. In May, Dr. Bulger led our visioning and planning sessions for children and youth ministry. She is Senior Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Huntsville. Dr. Bulger also writes regularly for the Presbyterian Outlook and is a leader of the Zick Preaching Scholars program, of which the Rev. Lamar is a participant. She is married to Brian and has two daughters, Hannon and Ryann.

This week's memory verse:
But God proves his love for us, in that, while we still were sinners, Christ died for us.
Romans 5:8

Sunday, October 27

Join us next Sunday, October 27, as the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar continues the "How Firm a Foundation" sermon series with scripture from I Corinthians 12. Music will include John Ireland's beloved "Greater Love Hath No Man" sung by the Sanctuary Choir and tenor, soprano and baritone soloists.

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.



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CHURCH STAFF

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Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the pulpit are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Mary and Erling Riis
by Nicole and Buzzy Riis.

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

Fall Festival in the GSPC Parking Lot: Join us at the Fall Festival right after church. There will be lunch, games, prize drawings, live music, and an opportunity to fill disaster relief buckets for those affected by Hurricane Helene. Enjoy fellowship and the chance to win fabulous prizes! We hope to see you there!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 9 a.m. at the home of Ann Adams. The group is studying the Gospel of Matthew with the Rev. George Sinclair as discussion leader. Everyone is welcome.

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 will be **Monde Donaldson, Vice President of the Better Business Bureau Educational Foundation.** Lunch is served at noon and the presentation begins at 12:30 p.m. The cost is $12. View the full schedule on gspc.org.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

Mid-week Bible Study: Noon to 1 p.m. in the Library and via Zoom. This study is led by the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar.

Choir Rehearsals: Handbells, 5:15 to 5:45 p.m. in the sanctuary; Choir, 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the choir room. If you're interested in participating in GSPC's music ministries, please contact Chris Nemec.

Men's Bible Study: 6 p.m. in the Library and via Zoom. Contact: Bo Perry.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Office Volunteers Needed: Church office volunteers are needed on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers assist with monitoring the Jackson Street entrance and answering the phone. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Meredith Johnston.

McKemie Place Volunteers Needed: On the second Friday of each month, GSPC members volunteer to bring lunch to the residents of McKemie Place, a safe, nurturing shelter for homeless women. The ladies at McKemie are grateful for the nourishing meals as well as the love and care that goes into the meals and the interaction in serving. This is a rewarding ministry. If you would like to be part of the team to prepare food and deliver it to McKemie Place, or want more information, please contact Mary DeWitt Dukes (504-920-1918) or Lisa deShazo (251-591-1077). The next date is December 13.

Flower Dedications: If you would like 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.