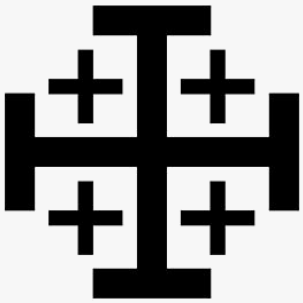
Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, September 22, 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.*

PRELUDE *Bourée (Fireworks Music, HWV 351)*
G.F. Handel

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

INTROIT *Alleluia!*
W.A. Mozart

The Sanctuary Choir

✠**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*based on Psalm 32*)

Rejoice in the Lord and be glad! Sing to the Lord with an upright heart!
Let all the faithful pray to you, confessing our sins and giving thanks for your goodness.
The Lord is our hiding place, protecting us from trouble.
May the Lord's loving eyes be upon us in all we do.
May the Lord instruct us and teach us the way that we should go.
Rejoice in the Lord and be glad! Sing to the Lord with an upright heart!
Let us worship God!

✠**HYMN 32** *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*
ELLACOMBE

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.*

✠**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)

Merciful God,

We confess that we have strayed from your ways. We have wasted the gifts you have given us. You give us neighbors to love, but we pursue selfish ambitions. You give us commandments, but we break your law and forsake your love. You give us this beautiful earth, but we squander its resources. Forgive us, Lord, and hear our silent prayers of confession.

(Silence)

Have mercy on us, Lord. Draw our wandering hearts back to you that we may find forgiveness and freedom through your grace. Through Christ our Lord, 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.*

✠**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

✠**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

✠**RESPONSE | HYMN 447** *To God Be the Glory (refrain)*
TO GOD BE THE GLORY

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.*

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer For Illumination — **Bobby Headrick**

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 43:1-3a

Children's Sermon — **Bradley Daugherty**
Bible Presentations

Scripture Reading: Luke 15:11-31

Sermon: "Parables" — **Rev. Lamar**

Thanksgiving

✠**Hymn 824** — *There Is a Place of Quiet Rest*
MC AFEE

✠**Affirmation of Faith:** 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** — *Seven-fold Amen*
Peter Lutkin

Offering

Offertory — *O How Amiable*
Ralph Vaughan Williams

The Sanctuary Choir

(*At the finale of the anthem, please join the choir in singing one verse of "O God, Our Help in Ages Past.")*

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come.
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

O how amiable are thy blessings, O Lord of Hosts. My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God. Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young: even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be always praising thee. The glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us: prosper thou the work of thy hands upon us.
O prosper thou our handiwork. (Psalm 84 & 90)

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.*

✠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 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 649 *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

AMAZING GRACE

Sending

✠Benediction **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Postlude *Passacaglia*

G. Young

This week's memory verse:
You are the light of the world.
Matthew 5:14a

Sunday, September 29

Join us next Sunday, September 29, as the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar continues her sermon series with "King" with scripture from John 19:1-16. Music will include a setting of the text from Revelation 21:4, "And God Shall Wipe Away All Tears" by Eleanor Daley, and an arrangement of the hymn "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" by Gordon Young.



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CHURCH STAFF

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Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the pulpit are given to the glory of God
in celebration of and gratitude for the marriage
of E.B. and Geraldine Hill Peebles
by their family.

Calendar of Events

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering, 5:30 p.m.: The Presbyterian Women will begin a new year of Bible study with a Fall Gathering in the Guesnard House. The Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar will teach the first lesson in the new PW book. Books will be available for purchase. The price is $10. All GSPC women are invited and are encouraged to bring their friends to this celebration of food, fun and fellowship. If you would like to bring a sweet or savory snack to share, or a libation, please contact Sallye Irvine.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
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 **Merceria Ludgood,** Mobile County Commissioner, District 1. 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.
Book Club Meeting: 5:30 p.m. at the church and via Zoom. The discussion will feature "The Archaeology of Protestant Landscapes" by Kimberly Pyszka. The author will join us, via Zoom, for the discussion. The Zoom link is posted prior to the meeting on the church calendar. For assistance in accessing the Zoom link or the reading material, please contact Meredith Johnston.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
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

Volunteers Needed: The church office welcomes volunteers during the week, especially between the hours of 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Volunteers assist with monitoring the Jackson Street entrance and answering the phone. They may also assist with special projects. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Meredith Johnston.

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.

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.