Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, January 18, 2026 | 10:30 A.M.

ORDINARY TIME

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 known as the mother of Presbyterianism in southern Alabama. We are a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and participate 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.

Gathering

Preparation for Worship

"Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle."
Martin Luther King, Jr.

PRELUDE *Elegy*
Raymond H. Hahn

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

INTROIT *Behold Now, Praise the Lord*
Everett Titcomb

The Sanctuary Choir
Behold now, praise the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord, praise the Lord.

✠**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Responsive)* **DICK OTTS**
We come seeking light that illuminates darkness.
We gather in the presence of God, who makes all things new.
We come seeking hope that overcomes despair.
We gather in the presence of God, who makes all things new.
We come seeking healing where there is brokenness.
We gather in the presence of God, who makes all things new.
With joy and thanksgiving, let us worship God.

✠**HYMN 837** *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine*
SHOWALTER

✠**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(Unison)* **REV. LAMAR**

Holy God,
You created the world and called it good. You sent Christ to lead us from sin. You give us the Holy Spirit to guide our way. We confess that the world is not as you intend it to be. We confess that we have been quick to give up, quick to accept that things cannot change, quick to abandon your call for righteousness and justice. Forgive us, Lord, and hear our silent prayers.

(Silence)

Have mercy on us, O God. Heal our brokenness. Grant us hope that change is possible and give us courage to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

✠**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

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.*

✠Passing of the Peace

✠Response | Hymn 581 *Glory Be to the Father*
GLORIA PATRI

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination **Dick Otts**

First Reading: Revelation 21:1-5

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**
Wee Worship Leaders: Emily Watson and Katherine Ogburn

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Sermon: "Lies We Tell Ourselves: Things Can Never Change" **Rev. Lamar**

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 406 *We Are Standing on Holy Ground*
HOLY GROUND

The hymn will be sung twice.

✠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.

Choral Response *Amen*
Franz Schubert

Offering

Offertory *Soon and Very Soon*
Andraé Crouch; arr. Jack Schrader

The Sanctuary Choir
Text: No. 384 in The Hymnal (stanzas 1,3 and 4)

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.*

Visiting? Welcome to GSPC, *where we hope you'll find our worship meaningful, our fellowship warm and our ministry exciting. Come again! 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.*

✠Response | Hymn 609 *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*
LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer of Intercession and The Lord's Prayer **Rev. Lamar**

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.

Sending

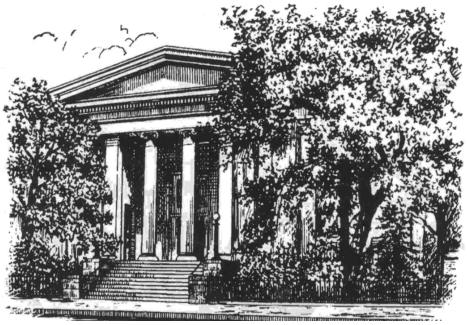
✠Hymn 268 *Crown Him with Many Crowns*
DIADEMATA

✠Benediction **Rev. Lamar**

Postlude *Air (HWV 466)*
G.F. Handel

Sunday, January 25

Join us next week, January 25, when the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar will continue her sermon series with a sermon titled "The Lies We Tell Ourselves: I Can Do It Myself," with scripture references from I Corinthians 12 and John 15:1-15. Music includes Mark Patterson's setting of the Spiritual "Witness" and Eugene Butler's setting of the text "Rejoice, the Lord is King."



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CHURCH STAFF

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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 by the Presbyterian Women
of GSPC in loving memory of the women of GSPC
who died in 2025:
Becky Baumhauer
Charlotte Naylor
Joy Rue

Calendar of Events

MONDAY, JANUARY 19
Church Office closed: The church office will be closed in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20
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, JANUARY 21
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.

NEWS AND NOTES

GSPC Book Club: The Book Club will meet on January 27 at 5:30 p.m. in the library and via Zoom. The group will view a presentation, "Iconographic Disjunction in the Rushkin Psalter." Please RSVP to Meredith Johnston at mwjohnston@crimson.ua.edu.

Lunch and Learn series: The Tuesday Lunch and Learn series will resume on Tuesday, February 3, with our own Tom McGehee as the first speaker of the winter-spring series.

Transfiguration Sunday / Joe Cain Day: The worship service on Sunday, February 15, will be held at 9 a.m. at First Baptist Church. The service will be led by Rabbi Ed Boraz (Spring Hill Avenue Temple), the Rev. Trey Doyle (FBC), and the Rev. Lamar. Passes to help those traveling downtown for worship will be available in the sanctuary and in the church office.

Mardi Gras Holidays: The church office will be closed on Lundi Gras and Mardi Gras, February 16-17.

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 March 13. 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.