Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, January 11, 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

"It is not our job to measure our worthiness. It is our job to respond to God's love."
Madeleine L'Engle

PRELUDE *Elegy*
Raymond H. Hahn

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

INTROIT *Be Not Afraid*
Dufford/arr. Chris Nemec

The Sanctuary Choir

You shall cross the barren desert, but you shall not die of thirst; you shall wander far in safety, though you do not know the way. You shall speak your words to foreign men and they will understand; you shall see the face of God and live. Be not afraid, I go before you always, come, follow me, and I will give you rest. If you pass through raging waters in the sea, you shall not drown. If you walk amid the burning flames, you shall not be harmed. If you stand before the pow'r of hell and death is at your side, know that I am with you though it all.

✠**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Responsive)* **JULIE OTTS**

The Lord says, "Do not be afraid for I have redeemed you."
We belong to God, who calls us by name.
We are precious in the sight of the Lord and empowered by the grace of a loving Savior.
We belong to Christ, who has redeemed us from sin and shame.
The world may measure worth by success or strength, but God speaks a different truth.
We belong to the Holy Spirit, who sustains us for our journey of discipleship.
Let us worship the Lord with gratitude and trust.

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

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

Gracious God,
We are precious in your sight, yet we often forget that we are your beloved. We hide ourselves from you, thinking we are unworthy of your love because we have not earned it. We confess that we fear your love is conditional, and our fear keeps us from living out our calling as disciples. Forgive us, Lord, and hear our silent prayers of confession.

(Silence)

Have mercy on us, Lord. Help us to trust your grace. Strengthen our resolve, reconcile us one to another, and bless us with your peace. In the name of Christ, 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.*

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.*

✠Assurance of Pardon
✠Passing of the Peace
✠Response | Hymn 581 *Glory Be to the Father*
GLORIA PATRI

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination **Julie Otts**
First Reading: Isaiah 43:1-5a

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**
Wee Worship Leader: Emily Watson

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-11
Sermon: "Lies We Tell Ourselves: I Am Not Worthy" **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)* **Julie Otts**

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 *Witness*
Spiritual; arr. Patterson/Nemec

The Sanctuary Choir with Kelly Conner and Jacob Mohr, soloists
Who'll be a witness for my Lord? Now Daniel was a Hebrew child, he went to pray to his God a while. The king at once for Daniel did send, he put him right down in the lion's den. God sent angels, the lions to keep, so Daniel laid down and went to sleep. Daniel was a witness for my Lord. There was a man of the Pharisees, his name was Nicodemus and he didn't believe. Christ told Nicodemus as a friend, "Man, you must be born again. Marvel not, man, if you want to be wise, repent, believe, and be baptized."
Who'll be a witness for my Lord? I'll be a witness for my Lord.

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.*

Sunday, January 18

Join us next Sunday, when the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar will continue her sermon series with a sermon titled "The Lies We Tell Ourselves: Things Can Never Change," with scripture references from 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 and Revelation 21:1-5. Music includes Andraé Crouch's "Soon and Very Soon" and Everett Titcomb's "Behold Now, Praise the Lord."

✠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

Ordination and Installation of Officers

Statement on Ordination and Installation **Rev. Lamar**

Constitutional Questions to Officers

Questions to the Congregation

Do we, the members of the church, accept these members as ruling elders and deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Do we agree to pray for them, encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

We do.

Ordination Prayer and Laying on of Hands
Welcoming of New Officers

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

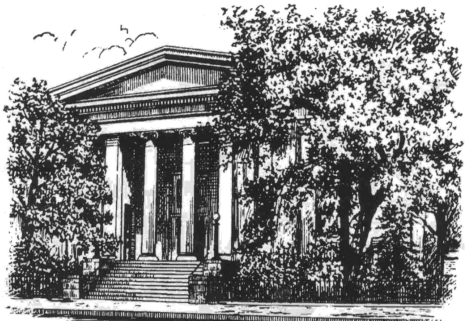
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory, forever.
Amen.

Sending

✠Hymn 268 *Crown Him with Many Crowns*
DIADEMATA

✠Benediction **Rev. Lamar**

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



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CHURCH STAFF

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Marilyn Mills
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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, and in loving memory of Dr. and Mrs. Theo Middleton by their daughters, Barbara Haas, Mary Knox McMurphy, and Margaret Brown.

Calendar of Events

MONDAY, JANUARY 12
Circles of Hope and Joy: The Circles of Hope and Joy will gather for Bible study and fellowship in the Guesnard House at 5:30 p.m. If you are able, please bring a snack or beverage to share. The Circles meet on the second Monday each month. All are welcome.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13
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 14
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, JANUARY 15
Interfaith Bible Study, 5:30 p.m. at First Baptist: Join "Two Pastors and a Rabbi," the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar, the Rev. Trey Doyle and Rabbi Ed Boraz, for Bible study and fellowship at First Baptist Church, 806 Government Street. All are welcome.

News and Notes

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.

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 January 9, February 13 and 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.

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.

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.