GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, February 23, 2025 | 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 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.*

Gathering

PRELUDE *Be Thou My Vision*
arr. Stephen Nielson

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

✠**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(From Isaiah 40*)

Have we not known? Have we not heard? Has it not been told to us since the beginning?
The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary.
He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength.
They shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint.
Let us worship God who gives us strength.

✠**HYMN 33** *Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show*
LLANFAIR

✠**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*Unison*)

Nurturing God,
You offer us all we need for us to live faithfully. You have given us Christ's words and example, but our lives do not bear the fruit that you intend. We confess that we do not love as you have loved us. We are unwilling to sacrifice for our friends and neighbors, and lose our connection to you. Forgive us, Lord, and hear our silent prayers.

(Silence)

Have mercy on us, Lord, and draw us closer to you. Grant us the compassion and courage to follow your example of love. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

✠**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

✠**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

✠**RESPONSE | HYMN 581** *Glory Be to the Father*
GLORIA PATRI

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.*

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 **Blanche Parsons**

Scripture Reading: Psalm 98

Children's Sermon **Chris Nemec**

Children's Song *Gentle Shepherd, Kind and True*
Hal Hopson

The Children's Choir, Eleanor Oswalt and Katherine Browning, *soloists*

Gentle shepherd, kind and true, cares for all, not just a few. He seeks the lamb that's lost and cold, and brings it back within the fold. Sheep were in the field of green, yes, ninety-nine Luke said were seen. But on that day the news went 'round, one small sheep could not be found.
Now I sing this happy song, I sing out loud, I sing out strong.
The God who made the land and sea loves a little child like me.

Scripture Reading: John 15:1-17

Sermon: "I AM The Vine" **Rev. Lamar**

Thanksgiving

✠**Hymn 285** *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song*
BRIDEGROOM

✠**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** *Threefold Amen*
Danish Amen

Offering

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.*

Offertory *Laudate Dominum*
(Vesperae solenenes de confessor, K. 339)
W.A. Mozart

The Sanctuary Choir; Gabrielle Corlette, *soprano soloist*

Translation: O Praise Jehovah, all ye nations, praise Him, all ye peoples. For all His loving kindness is evermore, and more toward us, and His truth, the truth of Jehovah endures forever. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever, ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

✠Doxology | 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

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 187 *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*
BRADBURY

Congregational Meeting: Receiving the Annual Report and Approving Pastor's Terms of Call

Sending

✠Benediction **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Postlude *God of the Ages*
arr. Diane Bish

Sunday, March 2

Next Sunday (Joe Cain Day) will be a special interfaith service at First Baptist Church at 9 a.m. The Rev. Lamar will preach alongside the Rev. Trey Doyle and Rabbi Ed Boraz. Parking passes are available in the sanctuary and in the church office.



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CHURCH STAFF

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Submit items for the bulletin and newsletter to Sally Ericson at sallyericson23@gmail.com.

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God
and in honor of Nicole Riis on her birthday
by her husband, Buzzy Riis.

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23
Support our Police: The congregation is invited to make donations to pay for meat for the Mobile Police Department's grill at the downtown precinct, which is constantly fired up to feed officers who are keeping our streets safe during Mardi Gras. We will collect donations today and deliver the meat to them on Wednesday. You may send donations via check or through PayPal to @gspcmobile (designated "MPD Hospitality.").
Mardi Gras Dinner & Parade Viewing: Families, children, and Youth are invited to share a meal and watch the parades together with dinner beginning at 5 p.m. and the first parade at 6:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Bradley.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25
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. Everyone is welcome.
Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Library. Contact: Mary Elizabeth Perry.
Tuesday Lunch and Learn: Noon-1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall with Jon Sexton, the new director of the History Museum of Mobile. Lunch is $12 and includes drinks and dessert.
Youth Bible Study: Tuesdays at 3 p.m. at Carpe Diem. The group is studying "The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss." All are welcome.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26
Choir Rehearsals: Handbells, 5:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary; Choir, 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the choir room.
Men's Bible Study: 6 p.m. in the Library and via Zoom. Contact: Bo Perry.
Young Women's Bible Study: 6 p.m. in the Guesnard House.

ADDITIONAL NEWS AND NOTES

Joe Cain Sunday: On Sunday, March 2, GSPC will worship at First Baptist Church at 9 a.m. Rabbi Ed Boraz (Spring Hill Avenue Temple), the Rev. Trey Doyle (FBC), and the Rev. Lamar will offer the sermon as part of the "Two Pastors and a Rabbi" collaboration. Passes to help those traveling downtown for worship are available in the sanctuary and in the church office.

Helping local schools: GSPC is collecting donations of outerwear and uniforms for students at Calloway-Smith Middle and Florence Howard Elementary Schools.

Sanctuary flowers: 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.