

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.*

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.

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, February 26, 2023 | 10:30 A.M.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Gathering

PRELUDE *Prelude in E minor (Opus 28, No. 4)*
Frederick Chopin

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

INTROIT *Rejoice in the Lord*
Jane Linder

The Children of the Church; Becca Lorge, soloist

Rejoice in the Lord, again I will say: rejoice. Be gentle to all, the Lord is near.
Be thankful and pray, and God will give you peace.

✠CALL TO WORSHIP

Let all who gather give praise to God.

We humble ourselves before the Lord, knowing our sin is great and separates us from God.

We confess our unworthiness and are met with grace upon grace.

God is gracious and merciful, forgiving and abounding in steadfast love.

With thankful hearts, we present ourselves as living sacrifices of praise.

With grateful hearts, let us worship God.

✠HYMN 412 *God, Reveal Your Presence*
ARNSBERG

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God,

Temptations are all around us, and we often stray from your will for us. We do not love you with our whole heart; nor do we love our neighbor as we love ourselves. We ignore the plight of the poor, and are guided by selfish desires. We ask your forgiveness as we pray our silent prayers of confession.

(silence)

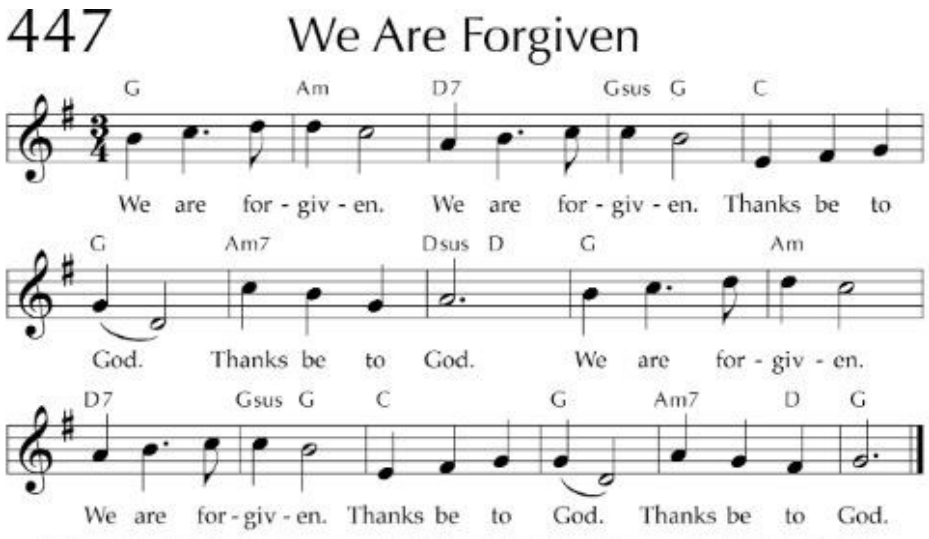
Grant us your mercy, and restore us to wholeness so that we may serve you faithfully. Guide us each day as we begin our walk with you to Jerusalem. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

✠Assurance of Pardon

✠Passing of the Peace

✠Response | Hymn 447 *We Are Forgiven*

WE ARE FORGIVEN



Proclaiming the Word

Prayer For Illumination **Jeanie Lindsey**

Scripture Reading: Psalm 32

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

Children's Sermon

Scripture Reading: Matthew 4: 1-11

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

Sermon: "Wilderness" **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Children ages three *and older are invited to the front for the Children's Sermon. Children ages three through kindergarten may leave with volunteers for Wee Worship for the remainder of the service. The sign-in sheet for parents of Wee Worship children is on the front row.*

The nursery is available for ages infant through kindergarten.

Children's worship packets *are available at the front of the sanctuary.*

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 165 *The Glory of These 40 Days*
ERHALT UNS, HERR

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.

✠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 *Danish Amen*
Traditional

Offering

Offertory *Surely He Bore Our Griefs*
David DeVidal

The Sanctuary Choir

(Isaiah 53: 4-6)

Surely He bore our griefs, surely he carried our sorrows, yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, and He was bruised for our iniquities. Upon Him was the chastisement that made us whole and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned everyone to His own way, and the Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

✠Response | Hymn 607 *Doxology*
OLD HUNDREDTH

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 — **Rev. Rebekah Abel 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.

✠Hymn 410 — *God Is Calling Through the Whisper*
W ZLOBIE LEZY

Sending

✠Benediction — **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Postlude — *Celebration*
Phil Lehenbauer

Scripture Readings

Psalm 32
A Psalm of David. A Maskil (probably a literary or musical term).

1Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
2Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
3While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
4For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah.
5Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah.
6Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.
7You are a hiding-place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah.
8I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
9Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.
10Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.
11Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Matthew 4: 1-11

1Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. 3The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." 4But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

5Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'
and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

7Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

8Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; 9and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." 10Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

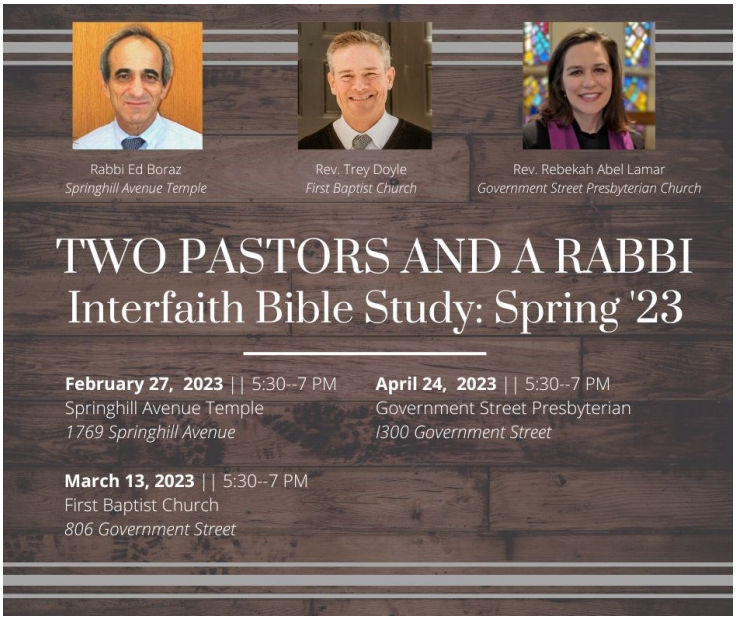
'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' "

11Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

GSPC News









Congratulations to Alexandra and Jacob Hutson, who welcomed Elsie Grace on Friday, February 17. She weighed 7 lbs. 3 oz. and is 21 in. Welcome to the family of faith, Elsie!

Congratulations to Molly Crown Nordmann, who was inducted into the 2023 Arts Hall of Fame at UMS-Wright Preparatory School. The Arts Hall of Fame consists of a prestigious group of alumni who made significant contributions in an arts discipline while attending the school, meritorious work in the field beyond graduation, and who continue to give back to the community. Molly is shown with fellow inductees John Cleveland Hays Miller III, Michelle Appelman Gruber, and Byron Martin Turk.

Family Nature Walk: The Family Nature Walk will be held today at Village Point Park in Daphne. Walkers will meet in Fellowship Hall for lunch after worship, then drive to the park for our hike.

Community Action and Service Town Hall Forum: Springhill Avenue Temple and the Social Action Committee invite you to a Town Hall Forum today from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Temple, 1769 Spring Hill Avenue. The event will feature speakers from NEST of Mobile, Dumas Wesley Community Center, Door to Serenity, BELONG and Veterans Recovery Resources. Learn about the good work and needs of these organizations in a collaborative forum. Dessert, coffee and tea will be served.

Two Pastors and a Rabbi: The next installment of the Interfaith Bible Study is set for Monday, February 27, at 5:30 p.m. at Spring Hill Avenue Temple. Please RSVP to Heather Hamilton if you plan to attend.

Lunch and Learn: N. Blair Fisher, Head of School at St. Paul's Episcopal School, will lead a presentation on "Science and Religion" in the Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday, March 5. Please RSVP to Heather Hamilton if you plan to attend.

Church Officers

SESSION

Class of 2023

Susan Ashbee, Casi Callaway, Lisa deShazo, John Moses, Henry Morrissette, Bo Perry

Class of 2024

Bobby Headrick, Charles Jones, Mary Herndon Nordmann, Katherine Ogburn, Dick Otts, Beth Rouse

Class of 2025

Eddy Hawkins, Margaret Vidmer Hutchison, George Irvine, Harris Oswalt, Nicole Riis, Duke Walker

Clerk of Session: John Browning

Assistant Clerk: Henry Morrissette

DIACONATE

Class of 2023

Damon Boone, Jane Hale, Ashley Oswalt, Harris Oswalt Jr., Leigh Schottgen, LeAnne Tamblyn

Class of 2024

Ashley Ashbee, Stella Jackson, Ashford Kettler, Richard Otts, Jasper Reaves

Class of 2025

Clint Akers, Lisa Goodloe, Dr. Meg Heusser, Corinne Lorge, Lynn McDaniel, William Peebles

Chair of the Diaconate: Lisa Goodloe

Urban Ministry

JELLY AND SNACKS FOR MEALS ON WHEELS

Our 45 Meals on Wheels recipients get a sandwich bag each day along with their hot meal. The bag has a sandwich and a snack. Peanut butter and jelly is often on the menu and we are in need of donations of creamy peanut butter and grape jelly and individually packaged snacks (peanut butter or cheese crackers, chips, cookies, Little Debbies, etc.). There is a donation box in the Jackson Street Foyer for these donations.

BLANKET MINISTRY

All are invited to donate items to be delivered to USA Children's & Women's Mother/Baby/At Risk department for full term babies of needy families (not the NICU) and to the Mostellar Clinic.
Here are suggested items and sizes:

- Baby blankets (greatest need) approx. 28-36" square/ rectangles 30-34" by 40-46" (these are only approximations)
- Hats and booties
- (USACW only): No-scratch mittens (must be fabric, not yarn)

Inexpensive items of any baby-appropriate washable fabric or yarn are appreciated. No large items, please: The babies we serve usually average 3-5 lbs. Store-bought or handmade items are welcomed. (Please do not donate unmade fabric.)
Donations may be left in the "Baby Box" at the Jackson Street Foyer, or you may order from Amazon and request delivery to the church, marked "Blanket Ministry."

MCKEMIE PLACE

GSPC has agreed to provide lunch for up to 45 residents at McKemie Place on the second Friday of each month. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered for this mission over the last year. We are in need of volunteers to provide, prepare, and serve lunches on April 14 and May 12. If you can help with this mission on either of these dates, please contact Lisa deShazo at 251-591-1077.

COLD-WEATHER CLOTHING DONATIONS

GSPC is collecting gently worn cold-weather clothing items for men, women and children, such as coats, sweaters, hats, gloves and scarves. Socks are a much-needed item for those in shelters. These items will be given to various agencies that distribute clothing to those in need. There is a box for these donations in the Jackson Street Foyer.



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Member PC (USA)

CHURCH STAFF

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Sally Ericson
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Shelia Smith
Director of Food Services

Marilyn Mills
Arthur Lewis
Sexton(s)

Send news for the e-newsletter or bulletin to Heather Hamilton at heather@gspcmobile.org, or to Sally Ericson at sallyericson23@gmail.com.

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Sunday Book Study Group: Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the library. Dr. Susan Ashbee is leading the Interpretation Bible Series "Romans."

Talking Heads Sunday School class: This class meets on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Heltzel Room on the second floor.

Sunday School for children and youth: These classes meet at 9:30 a.m.

Wee Worship: Sundays at 10:45 a.m. for ages 3 to kindergarten.

Family Nature Walk: 1 p.m. at Village Point Park in Daphne. Walkers will meet in Fellowship Hall for lunch after the worship service, then meet at the park for a brief hike.

Community Action and Service Town Hall Forum: 1 p.m. at Springhill Avenue Temple, 1769 Spring Hill Avenue. The event will feature speakers from NEST of Mobile, Dumas Wesley Community Center, Door to Serenity, BELONG and Veterans Recovery Resources. Learn about the good work and needs of these organizations in a collaborative forum. Dessert, coffee and tea will be served.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Two Pastors and a Rabbi: 5:30 p.m. at Spring Hill Avenue Temple. Please RSVP to Heather Hamilton if you plan to attend.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

Lunch and Learn: 11:45 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. N. Blair Fisher, Head of School at St. Paul's Episcopal School, will give a presentation on "Science and Religion" after the worship service. Please RSVP to Heather Hamilton if you plan to attend.

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.

Worship has continued on this site since 1836, when the sanctuary, now a National Historic landmark, was completed. The building is one of the oldest and least-altered Greek Revival style houses of worship remaining in the United States.