Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, September 1, 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.*

The Call to Worship is from "A Wee Worship Book" from the Wild Goose Worship Group (1999)

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.*

PRELUDE *Air (Water Music, HWV 348)*
G.F. Handel

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

MINUTE FOR MISSION: *Tuesday Lunch and Learn series* **SALLY ERICSON**

✠**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*responsive*)

Gather us in, the lost and the lonely, the broken and breaking, the tired and the aching who long for the nourishment found at your feast.
Gather us in, the done and the doubting, the wishing and wondering, the puzzled and pondering who long for the company found at your feast.
Gather us in, the proud and pretentious, the sure and superior, the never inferior who long for the leveling found at your feast.
Gather us in, the bright and the bustling, the stirrers, the shakers, the kind laughter makers, who long for the deeper joys found at your feast.
Gather us in from corner or limelight, from mansion or campsite, from fears and obsession, from tears and depression, from untold excesses, from treasured successes, to meet, to eat, to be given a seat, be joined to the vine, be offered new wine, become like the least, to be found at the feast.

✠**HYMN 611** *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*
HYMN TO JOY

✠**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)

Holy Lord,
We confess that we don't know how to pray as we ought. It is difficult to humble ourselves in the posture of prayer and admit how far we are from who you call us to be. We confess that we sometimes perform the acts of faith rather than submit to them. We use pride as a shield, and allow our arrogance to be a stumbling block in our discipleship. Forgive us for the ways we disappoint you.

(Silence)

Have mercy on us, Lord. By your grace, draw us into right relationship with you and with our neighbors. Give us the courage to be humble, the will to be faithful, and the encouragement to be your servants in all we do. Through Christ our Lord, 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 under 3 are welcome in the nursery. Older children may return to sit with their parents.*

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.*

✠Passing of the Peace

✠Response | Hymn 634 *To God Be the Glory (refrain)*
TO GOD BE THE GLORY

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice! O come to the Father through Jesus the Son, and give him the glory: great things he has done!

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer For Illumination **Sally Ericson**

Scripture Reading: Psalm 25: 1-12

Children's Sermon **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Scripture Reading: Luke 18: 9-14

Sermon: "Great Prayers of the Bible: The Tax Collector" **Rev. Lamar**

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 170 *You Walk Along Our Shoreline*
WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN

✠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.

Offering

Offertory *Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester*
L.J. White

The Sanctuary Choir

O holy Jesus, most merciful redeemer, friend and brother. May I know Thee more clearly, love Thee more dearly, and follow Thee more nearly. Amen.

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.*

When we gather for Communion, *the Spirit draws us into Christ's presence and unites us with Christians in every time and space. We join with the baptized faithful in heaven and on earth in offering thanksgiving to the triune God. We affirm the promises of our baptism and recommit ourselves to love and serve God, one another, and our neighbors in the world.*

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.

✠Response | Hymn 606 *Doxology*
OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**
Great Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Communion Meditation *Day By Day*
Martin How

The Sanctuary Choir

Day by day, dear Lord of Thee three things I pray: to see Thee more clearly, love Thee more dearly, follow Thee more nearly, day by day. Amen.

Elegy
Ovid Young

Prayer After Communion
✠Hymn 187 *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*
BRADBURY

Sending

✠Benediction **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**
Postlude *Holy Father, Great Creator*
REGENT SQUARE; Lani Smith

Sunday, September 8

Join us next Sunday, September 8, for Rally Day and the start of a new Sunday School year! The Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar will preach on "Birth," with Scripture references from Matthew 1:17-2:15. Music will include Carter Hale, Jr., singing a setting of "Jesus Loves Me" and the Sanctuary Choir singing Hal Hopson's "The Gift of Love." Other music will include settings of music from the June Vacation Bible School.



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CHURCH STAFF

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Send news for the e-newsletter or bulletin to Sally Ericson at sallyericson23@gmail.com.

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the pulpit are given with gratitude
to the glory of God
by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Price.

Calendar of Events

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3
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.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
Choir Rehearsals: Handbells, 5:15-5:45 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.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
Rally Day and Congregational Luncheon: The GSPC Children's Ministry will begin the new Sunday School year with a special Rally Day celebration in the sanctuary. There will also be a Second Sunday Congregational Luncheon after the worship service.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Sign Up for Dinner Clubs: Please call or text Linda Reynolds at 251-510-6913 if you want to be added to the 2024-25 Dinner Club season list.

Volunteers Needed: The church office would welcome 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 at the church office.

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.

September Birthdays

September 1: Bligh Jones
September 2: Dewey Parsons
September 3: Harley Jones, John Mostellar
September 4: Susan Ashbee
September 5: Jackson Boone
September 8: Vivian Ash
September 10: Barbara Haas, Mac Mostellar
September 12: Brenda Ogburn
September 13: Susan Miller
September 15: Haas Adams, Jeanie Schottgen
September 17: Rudy Nordmann
September 18: Ben Dukes, Henri Schoenvogel
September 20: Lelia Otts, LeAnne Tamblyn
September 21: Carolyne Hess, Harry Ray Jr.
September 22: Jarrett Callaway, Henry Morrissette
September 23: Sims Brown
September 24: James Lamar
September 26: Marie Durant, Dru Oswalt, Georgia Schwarzhauer
September 27: Lindsay Otts, Robert Weaver
September 28: Perrin Tamblyn Bickert
September 29: Toots Weaver
September 30: Eleanor Oswalt