

"Magnify" by Hannah Garrity | A Sanctified Art | sanctifiedart.org

*This Advent season, we are using resources from **A Sanctified Art**, an online ministry that supports worshiping communities in integrating art and creativity into their spiritual practices.*

***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.*

***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.*

Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 22, 2024 | 10:30 A.M.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT | LESSONS AND CAROLS

Gathering

PRELUDE *Carol Medley*
(It Came Upon the Midnight Clear; O Little Town of Bethlehem; Angels We Have Heard on High)
arr. Anthony/Beard

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

✠CALL TO WORSHIP
AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES *responsive*

DAMON, ELIZABETH, JACKSON, AND MAC BOONE

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?
Let us begin with tenderness. Let us begin with our hearts open. Let us begin from a place of compassion and hope. Let us begin with love.
Yes, let us start with love. Today we light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love.
May the warmth of these lights be our cornerstone. May the truth in these lights help us begin again.
May it be so! Amen.

✠HYMN 133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*
(Stanzas 1, 3 & 4)
ADESTE FIDELES

OFFERING

OFFERTORY | HYMN 145 *What Child Is This*
GREENSLEEVES

✠DOXOLOGY | HYMN 606 *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*
OLD HUNDREDTH

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

✠PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

CHILDREN'S SERMON **BRADLEY DAUGHERTY**

Service of Lessons and Carols

Bidding Prayer — **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

The First Lesson: Isaiah 9: 2-7 — **Harris Oswalt**

✠Congregational Carol — *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*

1. God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Savior was born upon this day.
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray:
Refrain: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

2. From God our heav'nly Father a blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name:
Refrain

3. The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding In tempest, storm and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway this blessed babe to find:
Refrain

4. Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface:
Refrain

The Second Lesson: Isaiah 11: 1-9 — **Meredith Johnston**

✠Congregational Carol 123 — *It Came Upon The Midnight Clear*
CAROL

The Third Lesson: Luke 1: 26-38 — **John Browning**

Anthem — *Coventry Carol*
(circa 1591; and arr. Martin Shaw)

The Sanctuary Choir

The Fourth Lesson: Luke 2: 1-7 — **Bo Perry**

✠Congregational Carol 113 — *Angels We Have Heard on High*
GLORIA

The Fifth Lesson: Luke 2: 8-20 — **Eleanor Oswalt**

Anthem — *Star Carol*
John Rutter

The Sanctuary Choir

THE SIXTH LESSON: Matthew 2: 1-11 **TOM MCGEHEE**

✠CONGREGATIONAL CAROL 147 *The First Nowell*
THE FIRST NOWELL

Stanzas 1, 5 and 6

THE SEVENTH LESSON: John 1: 1-14 **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

ANTHEM *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*
GO TELL IT

The Sanctuary Choir; Jacob Mohr, *tenor*
Please join the Choir in singing each refrain (The Hymnal, No. 136)

✠BENEDICTION **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

POSTLUDE *Joy To The World (finale)*
Marc Cheban

Christmas Eve at GSPC

Our 5 p.m. service will celebrate Christmas Eve, the Birth of Our Lord, with Carols, Candles and Holy Communion. Scripture references for the sermon, “Love Knows Your Name,” will be drawn from Isaiah 9:2-7 and Luke 2:1-20. Music includes numerous Christmas Carol favorites, choral settings of "Away in a Manger," "Silent Night," "The Sussex Carol," and "O Holy Night" as well as the Lamar Family String Quartet. Also, timpanist/ percussionist Laura Noah will join us to celebrate the occasion.

Poinsettia Dedications

In Honor of:	Given by:
Faye Anderson	The Morrissette Family
Sally and David Pearsall	Sally and Brent Ericson
Ted and Mary Ella Northrop Nancy Boone	Elizabeth, Damon, Jackson, and Mac Boone
Binky Oswalt	Margaret Vidmer and Lyle Hutchison
Rebekah Abel Lamar	The Irvine Clan
The Lamars The Otts	Stella and Charlie Jackson and family
Bligh Jones	Her children and grandchildren
Binky Oswalt Susan Groom	Margaret Sue and John Browning
Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Sauer Dr. Coleman Oswalt	Ashley and Guy Oswalt

Poinsettia Dedications

In Honor of:	Given by:
Miss Blanche	Ava Stinson and Dorothy Morrison
Sally and Brent Ericson Susan Pearsall and Marc Fusco	Sally and David Pearsall

In Memory of:	Given by:
Ruth V. Kirk Mary Kirk Kelly	Ruth Schmohl
Ed Boone	Elizabeth, Damon, Jackson, and Mac Boone
Our Parents	Brenda and Chandler Ogburn
Don Bryan Joel Davis Bryan	Sara Bryan
Dibber and John Lutz	Stella and Charlie Jackson and family
Elizabeth and Claude Hare Faith and C.A. Horner	Sherrie and Neal Horner
Edward McMurphy Dr. and Mrs. Theo Middleton	Knox McMurphy
Mr. and Mrs. Vernon P. Linhart Mr. and Mrs. J. Elliott Moses Mrs. Elizabeth M. Mathes	Marilyn and John Moses
Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Gill	Linda and Ted Burke
Paula Weldon	Scott, Taylor, and Sadie Weldon
Steve Morrison Martelle Scott Martha Tissington	Dorothy Morrison and Ava Sinson
Rosalie and Massey Heltzel Mid and Leon Pearsall	Sally and David Pearsall
Stewart Ashbee	His Family
Dr. Mac and Mary McDaniel Alan Ashworth	Lynn McDaniel

Poinsettia Dedications

In Memory of:	Given by:
Marion Adams, Jr.	Ann Adams
Fred and Molly Crown Fred Crown, Jr. Rudy and Florence Nordmann William Sandifer	Rudy and Molly Nordmann
Anne Winn	The Donald Winn Family
Margaret and Bob Adams Catherine and Wade Perry	Mary Elizabeth and Bo Perry
Dr. and Mrs. Rayford A. Smith, Jr. Dr. and Mrs. Paul D. McGehee, Jr.	Ceil and Tom McGehee
Jimmy Carroll Joyce Hunter Debbie Stapleton	Kym Carroll
Lee and Erma Catrett Buck and Abbie Tamblyn G.B. and Anne Clarke	Their Family
Margaret and Tom Gainer Elizabeth and Oscar Parsons	Blanche and Dewey Parsons
Martha McGinniss Brown-Coleman Ione Gordon Tissington Arthur (Big Art) Tissington, III Martha Tissington Arthur (Bud) Tissington IV James Grady Tissington H. Randall (Randy) Jones	Their Family
E.B. and Geraldine Peebles E.B. and Lee Peebles Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Hand Hon. and Mrs. W. Brevard Hand Mr. and Mrs. Alan C. Denby John D. and Julia (JuJu) Meador	The Peebles Family
Marilyn and Stova McFadden Lucy and Clyde Rouse, Sr.	Beth and Robert Rouse

Poinsettia Dedications

In Memory of:	Given by:
Suzelle McShea	Shawn and Duke Walker
Suzanne Little	
Emily Townsend Miller	Her Family
Jack Miller	His Family
John David Mann	Babs Jacobelli
Jake Jacobelli	
Bob and Ginny Pollard	
Our Parents	Shelley and Jim Hood
The Rev. Lattie F. Collins III	
R. Walter Ogburn, Jr. and Hattie Chandler Ogburn	Walt and Marlyn Ogburn
Edward Edens Ogburn	
Charles Baker Ogburn	
Louise Ellis Oswalt	Margaret Vidmer and Lyle Hutchison
Beverly Hutchison	
Hattie Ogburn	Her Family
Walter Ogburn	His Family
Edward Ogburn	His Family
Charles Ogburn	His Family
Richard and Rebecca Ivy	Corinne and Toby Lorge,
Mary Marvin Anderson	Mickie, Susan, and Becca
Corinne Humphries Sproles	
Jasper Reaves	The Sanctuary Choir
Paul Ray	His Family

The wreaths on the church doors were given in honor and thankfulness for the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar.

Select Scripture Readings

Isaiah 9: 2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Luke 2: 1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.
This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Matthew 2: 1-11

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler

who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

John 1: 1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.



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CHURCH STAFF

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Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the pulpit are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory
of Mr. and Mrs. Ervin S. Cooper
by their family.

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22
GSPC Youth Party: The Youth will meet in the Multipurpose Room after worship today for a light lunch, a Christmas Party, and to stuff stockings with treats for our Meals on Wheels clients.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24
Christmas Eve Service: 5 p.m. in the sanctuary. The service will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29
There will be no Sunday School or Wee Worship.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11
GSPC Book Club: 5:30 p.m. in the GSPC Library. We will watch a video presentation on "The Medieval Nun Bookmakers of Cologne" by Dr. Joshua O'Driscoll, curator of Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts at the Morgan Library. Dr. O'Driscoll may join us via Zoom. There is no reading selection, but this will be an interesting presentation and discussion. Please RSVP to Meredith Johnston.

ADDITIONAL NEWS AND NOTES

Cold-weather clothing drive: 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.

Stewardship Reminder: Please remember to return your pledge cards. Pledges can be dropped in the offering plate, submitted to the church office, or emailed to Dawn Hearn, GSPC Bookkeeper.

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.