

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, March 19, 2023 | 10:30 A.M.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Gathering

PRELUDE *Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?*
arr. Chris Nemec

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

INTROIT *God So Loved the World (The Crucifixion)*
Sir John Stainer

The Sanctuary Choir

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoso believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. (John 3:16-17)

✠CALL TO WORSHIP

In this Lenten season, we humble ourselves before the cross of Christ.

Jesus, light of the world, heal our brokenness.

We repent of our sins and renew our commitment to the way of Christ.

Jesus, light of the world, shine light on our path.

We seek the Spirit's direction and serve God's children in the name of Christ.

Jesus, light of the world, give us eyes to see.

Let us worship God!

✠HYMN 54 *Make a Joyful Noise to God*
DIX

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we are people who still love darkness rather than light. We keep shameful deeds secret, but flaunt our acts of virtue. We see ourselves as blameless, but pass judgment on others. We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable, but step back, protecting ourselves. Forgive us, we pray, and hear our silent prayers of confession.

(silence)

Bring us into the light so that we may see ourselves rightly and bear fruit for your kingdom. We pray in the name of Christ, the light of the world. 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.*

In the ***Prayer for Illumination****, we ask for the word of God to be revealed to us so that we can lead more faithful lives.*

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.*

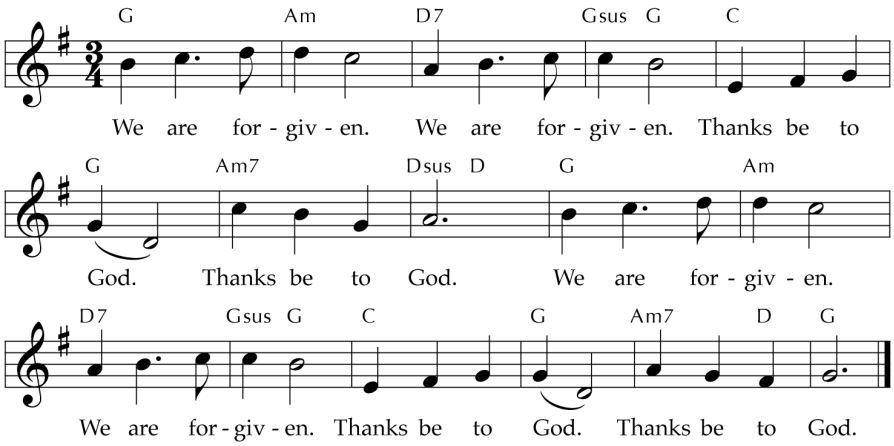
The nursery is available for ages infant through kindergarten.

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

✠Assurance of Pardon

✠Passing of the Peace

✠Response *We Are Forgiven*
WE ARE FORGIVEN



To sing, rather than simply say, a response to the Declaration of Forgiveness has the effect of making the moment both more affirmative and more corporate. The musical repetition of the two sentences also strengthens awareness of what it means to be assured of God's pardon.

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer For Illumination **Molly Nordmann**

Scripture Reading: Psalm 23

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

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

Scripture Reading: John 9: 1-41

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

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

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 802 *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*
ST COLUMBA

Although not written by apostles, *the Apostles' Creed reflects the theological formulations of the first century church. The creed's structure may be based on Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In a time when most Christians were illiterate, oral repetition of the Apostles' Creed helped preserve and transmit the faith..*

✠Affirmation of Faith — Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar

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 — *Amen!*

Marty Haugen

Offering

Offertory — *Pie Jesu (Requiem)*

Andrew Lloyd Webber

Gabrielle Corlette, *soprano*; Carter Hale, Jr., *boy soprano;* The Sanctuary Choir

Translation: Merciful Jesus, Father, who takes away the sins of the world
Grant them rest, everlasting rest.

✠Response | Hymn 607 — *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

✠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.

***The benediction** is both a charge with which to leave the worship service and blessing to take into the world and the week ahead.*

✠Hymn 213 *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*
RATHBUN

Sending

✠Benediction **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Postlude *Marche Sortie*
Theodore Dubois

Sunday, March 26

Join us in worship next Sunday, March 26, as the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar preaches on "Grief," with texts from John 11: 1-45 and Psalm 130. Music that day will include guest flutist Dr. Andra Bohnet from the Mobile Symphony playing J.S. Bach's Siciliano from his 2nd Flute Sonata (BWV 1031) and Francis Poulenc's haunting Cantilena from his Flute Sonata. Dr. Bohnet will join the Sanctuary Choir and mezzo-soprano soloist Meredith Wilson in David Johnson's Lenten anthem "O Dearest Lord."

Scripture Readings

Psalm 23

A Psalm of David.

[1]The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

[2]He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters;

[3]he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths

for his name's sake.

[4]Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil;

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff —

they comfort me.

[5]You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

[6]Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord

my whole life long.

Scripture Readings

John 9: 1-41

[1]As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth.
[2]His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" [3]Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. [4]We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. [5]As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." [6]When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, [7]"Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. [8]The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" [9]Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." [10]But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" [11]He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." [12]They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

[13]They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. [14]Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. [15]Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." [16]Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. [17]So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

[18]The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, [19]"Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" [20]His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; [21]but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." [22]His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. [23]Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

[24]So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." [25]He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." [26]They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" [27]He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" [28]Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. [29]We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." [30]The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. [31]We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. [32]Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. [33]If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." [34]They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

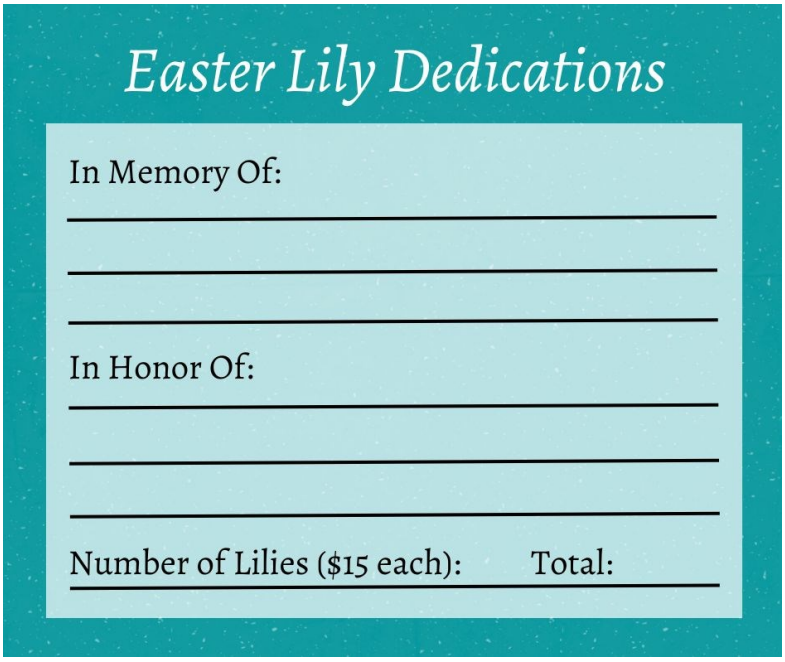
[35]Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" [36]He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." [37]Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." [38]He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped him. [39]Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." [40]Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" [41]Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

GSPC News





Thanks to our fantastic Chili Cookoff Team for making delicious chili on Saturday! Thanks also to John Browning for organizing our entry.



Circle of Joy and Circle of Hope: These two Circles will have a joint meeting at the Guesnard House on Monday, March 20, at 5:30 p.m. Jeanie Lindsey will lead the lesson. Please bring a dish or beverage to share.

Easter Lilies: It's time to order Easter lilies in honor of or in memory of loved ones. Please use the form printed below, or call the church office during business hours. The deadline is Tuesday, April 4.

Easter Egg Hunt: Mark your calendars for the GSPC Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8, at 10 a.m. in Washington Square. It's going to be an eggs-cellent time of fellowship!

Reminder to Parents: The Children of the Church will sing on Palm Sunday, April 2, and all children ages 3 to 5th grade are invited. Rehearsals are held weekly during their Sunday School time, 9:30-9:45 a.m. Attendance at rehearsal is necessary in order to learn our song, which tells the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, "... riding on a donkey's colt he came, palm branches spread before him." Questions? Contact Chris Nemec, chris@gspcmobile.org.

Club 345 will meet today after worship for a fun service project in Fellowship Hall. We'll be making sandwiches for our Meals on Wheels clients.



GSPC families went bowling on Saturday at Eastern Shore Lanes. Thanks to Hunter Oswalt for organizing this fun event.

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: 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, 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 receive 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.

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.

MOBILE AREA INTERFAITH CONFERENCE

The Mobile Area Interfaith Conference (MAIC) is a non-profit agency that provides services for inmates in Metro Jail and released inmates returning to the community. MAIC has an urgent need for white underwear (see details below) and used glasses. Here is a partial list of items:

- Personal hygiene products for men and women, including full size shampoo and conditioner (must be able to see through the containers), full size deodorant (no roller balls), full size soap, full size toothpaste, white cotton socks (no anklet style);
- Clothing, including men's white cotton briefs or boxers (no snaps), white cotton T-shirts with sleeves (men and women use these, so all sizes welcome), women's white cotton underpants (all sizes), women's white cotton bras (all sizes);
- Reading material, including Bibles (softbound only, large print editions especially needed), magazines with neutral content such as food, decorating, self-improvement, health, shopping, geography, history, etc., and books (soft bound only, with mild non-violent content, non-fiction also appreciated).

BLANKET MINISTRY

All are invited to donate baby blankets to be delivered to the Mostellar Clinic. 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.



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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.

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the pulpit are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Cecile Howard Taylor Gardner
and Charles Bancroft Taylor
by Shelley and Jim Hood, Rachael Austen Hood,
Shelley and Kyle Griffin, and Hannah Jeter Collins.

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

Sunday Book Study Group: Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the library.

Talking Heads Sunday School class: This class meets in the Heltzel Room.

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.

Club 345: Service project today after worship in Fellowship Hall.

MONDAY, MARCH 20

Circle of Joy and Circle of Hope: 5:30 p.m. joint meeting at Guesnard House. Jeanie Lindsey will lead the lesson. Please bring a dish or beverage to share.

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 8 a.m. at the home of Ann Adams.

Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Library. Contact: Mary Elizabeth Perry.

Session Meeting: 5:30 p.m. in the Library.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the Library. Contact: Bo Perry.

Handbell Choir Rehearsal: 5:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: 6 p.m. in the Choir Room.

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.