

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, August 28, 2022 | 10:30 A.M.

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Gathering

PRELUDE *Interlude on RESIGNATION*

ARR. GILBERT MARTIN

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

✠**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Psalm 71)*

We take refuge in the Lord.

In your righteousness, O God, deliver us, rescue us from all that would harm us.

The Lord is our hope and our trust. We lean on the Lord in our times of weakness.

Be to us a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, O Lord, and save us in times of distress.

We praise the Lord for our God is mighty and full of compassion.

Incline your ear to us, Lord, as we offer our worship and praise today.

Let us worship God!

✠**HYMN 35** *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

LOBE DEN HERREN

✠**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *unison*

God of mystery and might,

We go through our days without speaking your name, and yet your presence surrounds us every moment. Each day brings trials and testing, and we want to be faithful to your call. But we confess that we ignore the plans you have for us. We choose comfort over calling. We choose safety over sacrifice. Forgive our willful ignorance, O Lord. Make us brave for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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.*

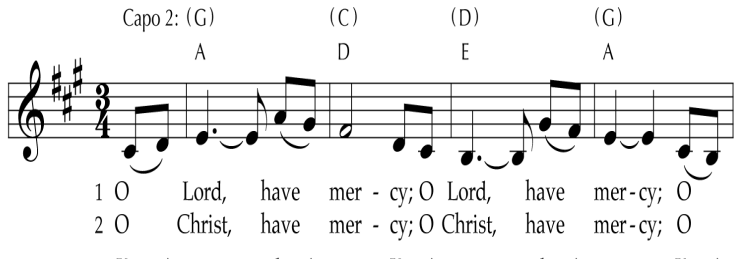
Please silence *all cellular devices for the duration of the service.*

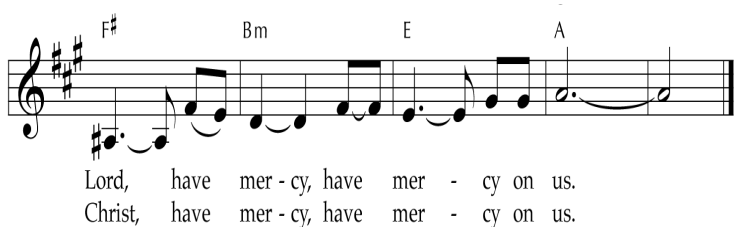
Congregational responses *are in* ***bold*** *text.* ✠ *is an indication to rise in body or in spirit as you are able.*

✠Assurance of Pardon **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

✠Response | Hymn 578 *O Lord, Have Mercy*

Kyrie eleison
Oré poriajú verekó





Children ages 3 and older are invited to come forward during the Children's Sermon. *Following the time with children, they may return to sit with their parents. Wee Worship is currently on Summer break and will resume once school has started back in the Fall. Children's Bulletins are available at the front of the sanctuary.*

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination **Susan Ashbee**

First Reading Luke 14: 1,7-1

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

Children's Sermon **Rev. Alexandra Hutson**

Second Reading **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Esther 4:1-17

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

The congregation is given the opportunity to respond to hearing God's Word through The Apostles' Creed, affirming what we believe and expressing our faith. Creeds give us the opportunity to say what we believe about God and what God has done in history. Our statements of faith should reflect the deep commitment of our lives.

Sermon "Sunday School Stories: Esther"

Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar

Thanksgiving

✠ **Hymn 817** *We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight*
DUNLAP'S CREEK

✠ **Affirmation of Faith** *unison* **Rev. Alexandra Hutson**

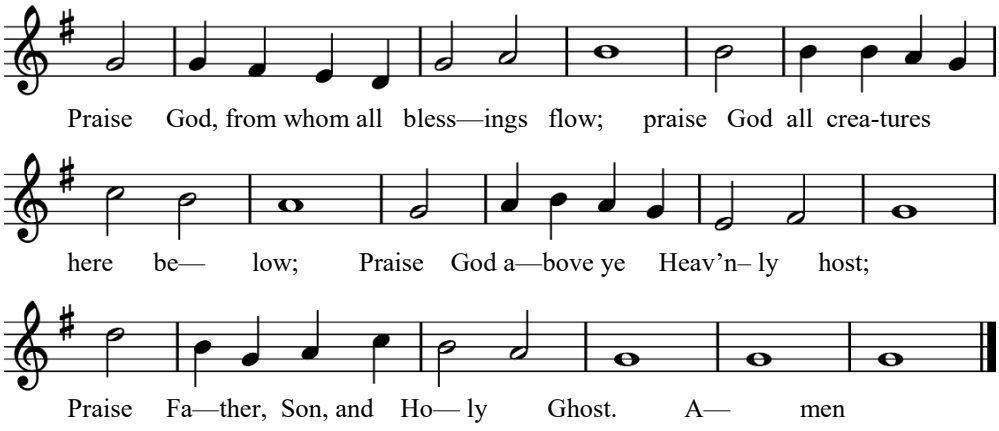
The Apostles' Creed

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

Meditation *Interlude on RESIGNATION*
CARL SCHALK

✠**Response | Hymn 607** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*



The benediction begins with a charge, or a challenge, to the faithful as they prepare to leave and is concluded with a blessing and assurance of God's presence as they go from the sanctuary into their lives of discipleship.

✠ **Prayer Of Thanksgiving** **Rev. Alexandra Hutson**

Prayer of Intercession **Rev. Alexandra Hutson**

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.

Sending

✠**Hymn 744** *Arise , Your Light Is Come!*
FESTAL SONG

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

Postlude *Voluntary in F*
SAMUEL JACKSON

Thank you to Nancy Graham for serving as our guest organist today.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

LUKE 14: 1, 7-14

14 On one occasion when Jesus[a] was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

7 When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. 8 "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, 9 and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. 10 But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. 11 For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

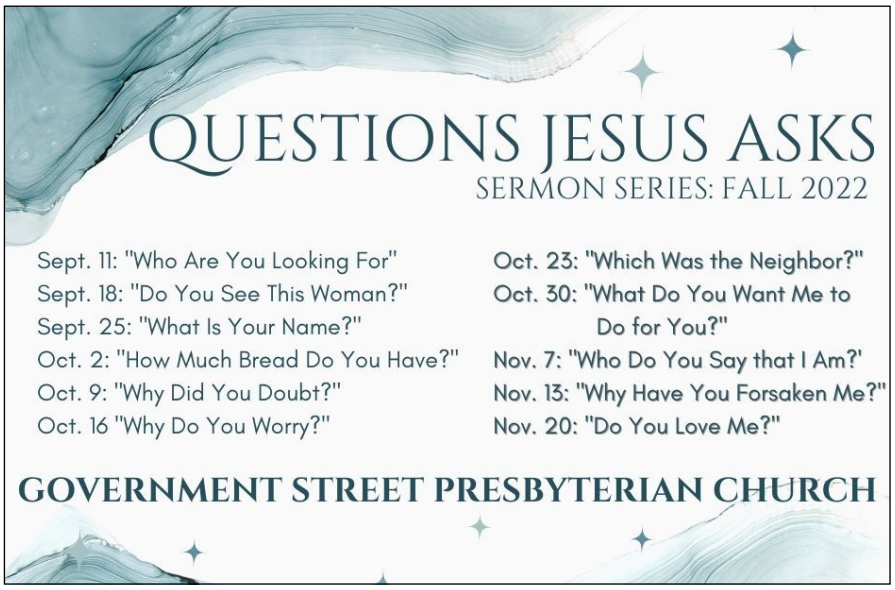
12 He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. 13 But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. 14 And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

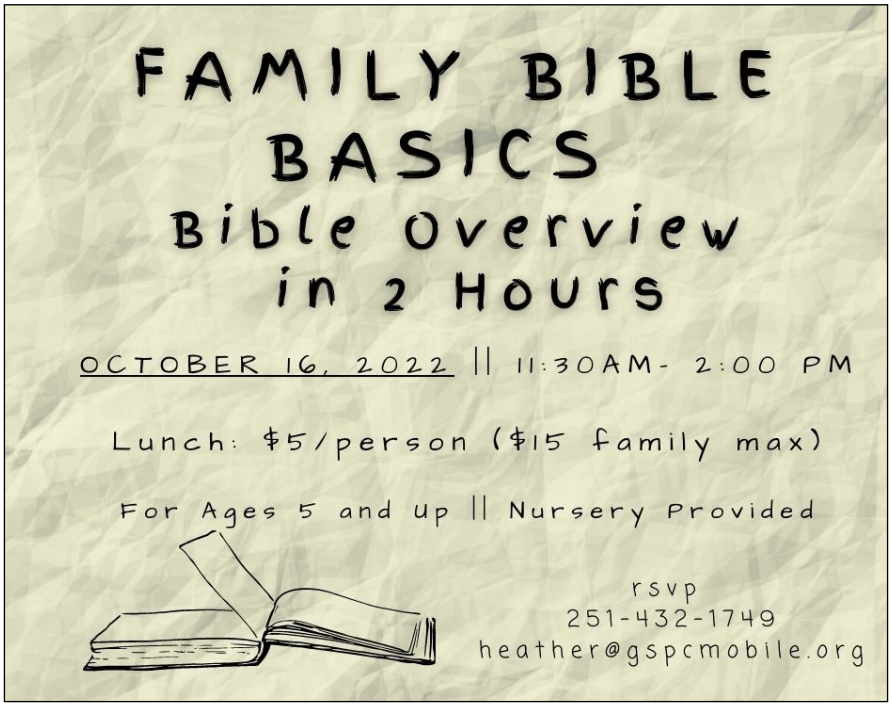
Esther 4:1-17

4 When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes and went through the city, wailing with a loud and bitter cry; 2 he went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one might enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. 3 In every province, wherever the king's command and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and most of them lay in sackcloth and ashes. 4 When Esther's maids and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed; she sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth, but he would not accept them. 5 Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what was happening and why. 6 Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate, 7 and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. 8 Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther, explain it to her, and charge her to go to the king to make supplication to him and to entreat him for her people. 9 Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. 10 Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai: 11 "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that, if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law: to be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden scepter to someone may that person live. I myself have not been called to come in to the king for thirty days." 12 When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, 13 Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. 14 For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this." 15 Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, 16 "Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish." 17 Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

GSPC NEWS







Officer Nominations: The congregation is asked to submit nominations for Elders and Deacons in the Class of 2025. Nomination cards have been placed in the sanctuary and in the Jackson Street Foyer, and you may submit your completed cards in the offering plate. You may also email nominations to Heather Hamilton in the church office at heather@gspcmobile.org.

Disaster Relief Buckets: The Presbytery of South Alabama has asked all its congregations to prepare disaster clean-up buckets and/or hygiene kits that can be stored by the churches until a need arises in the Gulf Coast region. The congregation is invited to prepare the buckets in the Fellowship Hall after the service today.

Rally Day: Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 11, as we celebrate Rally Day and the start of another Sunday School year.

New Sermon Series: The Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar will begin a new sermon series this fall, "Questions Jesus Asks." The first installment is on Sunday, Sept. 11: "Who are you Looking For?"

Blessing of the Pets: On Saturday, October 2, we'll have the Blessing of the Pets in our Jackson Street parking lot. To volunteer to assist with this event, please email Pastor Alexandra at Alexandra@gspcmobile.org.

Back to School: If you'd like to donate supplies to Barton Academy for Advanced World Studies, here are needed items for the school's Hygiene Closet: Clorox wipes, tissue, deodorant, black socks, paper towels, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Metro Jail Ministry: The Mobile Area Interfaith Conference (MAIC), a non-profit agency that provides services for inmates in Metro Jail and released inmates returning to the community, currently has an urgent need for white underwear (all sizes, male and female) and for used glasses.

CHURCH OFFICERS

SESSION

Class of 2022

John Browning, Joy Gardner, Dorothy Morrison, Scott Weldon, Marcia Wyatt

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

Clerk of Session: John Browning

Assistant Clerk: Henry Morrissette

DIACONATE

Class of 2022

Kym Carroll, Sally Ericson, John Peebles, Jim Van Haneghan, Zack Weaver

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

URBAN MINISTRIES

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 (no Jif, please, because of the recent recall) 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"x40-46"
- A few 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 entrance, or you may order from Amazon and request delivery to the church, marked "Blanket Ministry."



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Member PC(USA)

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar
Pastor & Head of Staff
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Rev. Alexandra Hutson
Associate Pastor
alexandra@gspcmobile.org

Barbara Williams
Property Manager & Hostess
barbara@gspcmobile.org

Heather Hamilton
Office Manager
heather@gspcmobile.org

Dawn Hearn
Bookkeeper
dawn@gspcmobile.org

Shelia Smith
Director of Food Services

Marilyn Mills
Arthur Lewis
Sextons

The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Marion Adams Sr.by the Adams and Oswalt grandchildren and great -grandchildren.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Women's Bible Study
Tuesdays at 8 a.m. at the home of Ann Adams
Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the church Library and via Zoom.
Contact: Mary Elizabeth Perry.

Men's Bible Study
Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the church library and also via Zoom. Contact: Bo Perry.

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

Presbyterian Women
P.W. Circle & Bible Study. Contact: Bligh Jones or Mary Elizabeth Perry.

Sunday School
Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Wee Worship
This ministry is on hiatus during the summer months.

If you have news items to share in the e-newsletter or the bulletin, please email the information to Heather Hamilton (heather@gspcmobile.org) and Sally Ericson (sallyericson23@gmail.com).

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.