Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, October 13, 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 Woship is "Talk to Our Hearts," a poem by Joy Lenton at poeetryjoy.com.

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 *Two Fanfares*
Michael McCabe

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

MINUTE FOR MISSION: STEWARDSHIP **SUSAN ASHBEE**

INTROIT *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*
HAMBURG; arr. Ronald Kauffmann

The Bell Choir

✠CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing Spirit! Sing of the soul's birth, its rightful place in this world, sing in whispers, in clouds, and lullabies, in every tree, plant, person, ocean,and sky.
Sing of secrets that lie out of reach, concealed far from prying eyes, covertly hidden in plain sight but revealed to the faithful and wise.
Bring us messages direct from heaven, written in holy script, which we receive when we read your wondrous words with humility.
Talk to our hearts, talk strong, talk soft, talk much, as you slowly break apart our hardened souls of stone where you are now enthroned.
We long to hear a comforting word, an answer to prayer, guidance and confirmation, reassurance, hope and encouragement to give us courage to start again.
Though we might not listen hard enough, or even rebel and go our own way sometimes, don't ever give up speaking to us each and every day of our lives.

✠HYMN 839 *Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!*
ASSURANCE

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Holy God,

Your Spirit rests upon us and moves throughout the earth. We confess that we often ignore the Holy Spirit's work. We miss the miracles you are doing around us each day. We become wed to ways that are comfortable and miss the call to live more faithfully. We stop listening for your holy wisdom and rely on our own understanding and preferences. Forgive us, Lord, and hear our silent prayers of confession.

(Silence)

Have mercy on us, Lord. Redirect our ways. Give us courage to be surprised by your Spirit and led in new paths. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. 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 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.*

New children's worship totes *are available for children in the sanctuary. These totes include children's bulletins and other items to help children engage in the worship service.*

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 448 *Peace of God Be with You*
AS-SALAAMU LAKUM

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer For Illumination **Casi Callaway**

Scripture Reading: Acts 9:1-19

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

Scripture Reading: Acts 10 (selected verses)

Sermon: "Led By the Spirit" **Rev. Lamar**

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 828 *More Love to Thee, O Christ*
MORE LOVE TO THEE

✠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 *Amen!*
Haugen; arr. Chris Nemec

Offering

Offertory *O Love*
Elaine Hagenberg

The Sanctuary Choir

Text: No. 833 in the Hymnal, Stanzas 1 & 3

✠Response | Hymn 606 *Doxology*
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 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

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 833 *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*
ST. MARGARET

Sending

✠Benediction **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**
Postlude *Trumpet Tune*
Jeremiah Clarke

This week's memory verse:
I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every people, anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him.
Acts 10:34b,35

Sunday, October 20

Join us next Sunday, October 20, as we welcome the Rev. Dr. Tara Bulger, Senior Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Huntsville, as our guest preacher. Dr. Bulger was our Children and Youth Ministry Consultant last May and will lead a Sunday class in addition to preaching. Dr. Bulger will continue the sermon series with scripture from Romans 5:1-5. The liturgy will be led by GSPC's children and the Children's Choir will sing. In addition, we will be receiving pledges for our 2025 Stewardship campaign and blessing the clean-up buckets we will make during the Fall Festival following worship. Music will include the Children's Choir singing a setting of "All Things Bright and Beautiful" and the Sanctuary Choir singing Ralph Vaughan Williams' "For All the Saints."

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.



300 Government Street
Mobile, Alabama 36602
251-432-1749 | gspcmobile.org
Member PC (USA)

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar
Pastor and Head of Staff
rebekah@gspcmobile.org

Chris Nemec
Director of Music and Organist
chris@gspcmobile.org

Bradley Daugherty
Director of Christian Education
bradley@gspcmobile.org

Meredith Johnston
Office Manager
meredith@gspcmobile.org

Dawn Hearn
Bookkeeper
dawn@gspcmobile.org

Barbara Williams
Property Manager and Hostess
barbara@gspcmobile.org

Sally Ericson
Communications
sallyericson23@gmail.com

Willie Mae King
Director of Food Services

Marilyn Mills
Arthur Lewis
Sexton(s)

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the pulpit are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Anne Winn, Bessie Spafford,
and Margaret Haight
by Anita, Don, and Michael Winn.

Calendar of Events

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14
Circles of Hope and Joy: 5:30 p.m. in the Guesnard House. All are welcome to join us for an evening of fellowship and Bible study. If you are able, please bring a snack or beverage to share with the group.
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15
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.
Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Library. Contact: Mary Elizabeth Perry.
Tuesday Lunch and Learn: Come to lunch! Our guest speaker will be **Justine Bixler, President and CEO, United Way of Southwest Alabama.** Lunch is served at noon and the presentation begins at 12:30 p.m. The cost is $12. View the full schedule on gspc.org.
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16
Mid-week Bible Study: Noon to 1 p.m. in the Library and via Zoom. This study is led by the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar.
Choir Rehearsals: Handbells, 5:15 to 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.
Men's Bible Study: 6 p.m. in the Library and via Zoom. Contact: Bo Perry.
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17
Two Pastors and a Rabbi: Interfaith Bible Study at First Baptist Church, 5:30 to 7 p.m.
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20
Fall Festival: The Fall Festival will be held on October 20 after church. There will be lunch, games, prize drawings, live music, and an opportunity to fill disaster relief buckets for those affected by Hurricane Helene. Please note: Half of the parking lot will be used for the Fall Festival. Parking on the street is free on Sundays, and additional parking will be available at the Mardi Gras Museum. Children are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes, and everyone is encouraged to bring extra lawn/folding chairs. We hope to see you there!

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Office Volunteers Needed: Church office volunteers are needed on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers assist with monitoring the Jackson Street entrance and answering the phone. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Meredith Johnston.
McKemie Place Volunteers Needed: On the second Friday of each month, GSPC members volunteer to bring lunch to the residents of McKemie Place, a safe, nurturing shelter for homeless women. The ladies at McKemie are grateful for the nourishing meals as well as the love and care that goes into the meals and the interaction in serving. This is a rewarding ministry. If you would like to be part of the team to prepare food and deliver it to McKemie Place, or want more information, please contact Mary DeWitt Dukes (504-920-1918) or Lisa deShazo (251-591-1077). The next date is December 13.
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.