

**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.

**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.

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Welcome to Worship

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## GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, August 4, 2024 | 10:30 A.M.

ORDINARY TIME

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# Gathering

### PRELUDE

*Steal Away*

arr. Charles Calahan

Nancy Graham, *guest organist*

### WELCOME

**REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

### MINUTE FOR MISSION: *Dinner Clubs*

**LINDA REYNOLDS**

### INTROIT

*Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

Spiritual; arr. John Payne

Jacob Mohr, *tenor*

Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart. Lord, I want to be more lovin' in-a my heart.

### ¶CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 84 in "The Message")

How lovely is the place you call home, Lord!

**My soul longs to live in a room in your house, O God, where I can sing with joy to you!**

There is a place for everyone in your house. Even the sparrows and the swallows find a place to build a nest and raise their young because your home is safe and nurturing for all who make their life here.

**How blessed all those in whom you live, whose lives become like roads you travel.**

Just one day in your beautiful house, singing and worshiping you, beats a thousand spent anywhere else.

**I'd rather be a servant in the house of my God than be a special guest in the palace of those who dishonor the Lord.**

With joy and thanksgiving, let us worship God!

### ¶HYMN 385

*All People That on Earth Do Dwell*

OLD HUNDREDTH

### ¶PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Holy God,

You have given us the gift of prayer, and you want us to talk to you. We confess that sometimes we are reluctant to pray. We ignore your gracious invitation. We think you don't want to hear from us, or our prayers do not matter. We are afraid that you will disappoint us, or we hold a grudge because you did not answer us the way we wanted. Forgive us, Lord, and hear our silent prayers.

(Silence)

Merciful God, draw us back to you. Let prayer be our heartbeat and deepen our relationship with you, our Creator. Help us to appreciate the gift you have given us and remove whatever keeps us from regularly bringing our joys, sorrows, questions, and confusion to you in prayer. In Jesus' name, we ask this. Amen.

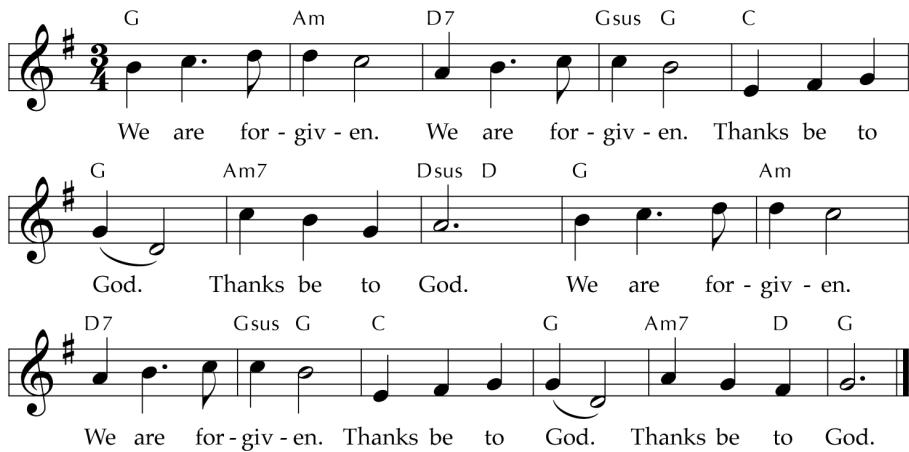
**We pass the peace** by greeting one another and saying, "The peace of Christ be with you," to which one replies, "And also with you." The ancient ritual of the church reminds us that Christ offers us peace that passes understanding.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

## RESPONSE | HYMN 447

*We Are Forgiven*  
WE ARE FORGIVEN



## *Proclaiming the Word*

**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.

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**SADIE WELDON**

**SCRIPTURE READING:** John 6:56-69

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

**BRADLEY DAUGHERTY**

## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Genesis 18:22-33

**SERMON:** "Great Prayers of the Bible: Abraham"

**REV. LAMAR**

## *Thanksgiving*

## HYMN 525

*Let Us Break Bread Together*

LET US BREAK BREAD

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed

**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.

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**

*Deep River*

Spiritual; arr. Harry T. Burleigh

*Jacob Mohr, tenor*

Deep river, my home is over Jordan, I want to cross over into campground. Oh, don't you want to go to that Gospel feast? That promised land, where all is peace? Deep river, I want to cross over into campground.

**†RESPONSE | HYMN 606**

*Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God 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**

*Now the Silence*

Carl Schalk

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**†HYMN 451**

*Open My Eyes, That I May See*

OPEN MY EYES

*Sending*

**REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

*Glory Be to the Father*

Richard Avery/Donald Marsh

We welcome guest organist and GSPC member Nancy Graham to worship today while Chris Nemec is on vacation. Thank you to Jacob Mohr for being our vocalist.

*Sunday, August 11*

Next Sunday, August 11, the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar will continue her sermon series "Great Prayers of the Bible," with a sermon titled "Hannah's Prayer." Voices Unlimited will be our guest musicians.

**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;



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#### CHURCH STAFF

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MARILYN MILLS  
ARTHUR LEWIS  
*Sexton(s)*

*Send news for the e-newsletter or bulletin  
to Sally Ericson at  
[sallyericson23@gmail.com](mailto:sallyericson23@gmail.com).*

## Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the pulpit are given to the glory of God by  
John and Jessica Mostellar.

## Calendar of Events

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 6

**Women's Bible Study:** Tuesdays at 8 a.m. at the home of Ann Adams. The group will study the Gospel of Matthew with the Rev. George Sinclair as discussion leader. Everyone is welcome.

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7

**Choir Rehearsals Resume:** Choir rehearsals resume this week from 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.

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

**Parents' Night Out:** GSPC Children's Ministry will have a Parents' Night Out Pajama Party on Friday, August 9, at the church from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Children will have pizza, play games and have Bible storytime while their parents stroll downtown during ArtWalk! The Guesnard House will be open with refreshments for adults.

### ADDITIONAL NOTES

**Sign Up for Dinner Clubs:** It's almost time to start a new Dinner Club season! Bring your favorite dish to the kickoff potluck luncheon in the Guesnard House on August 18 after worship. Beverages will be provided. Please call or text Linda Reynolds at 251-510-6913 if you want to be added to the 2024-25 Dinner Club season list.

**Second Sunday Monthly Luncheons:** The congregation is invited to luncheons in Fellowship Hall on Sept. 8, Oct. 13, and Nov. 10, immediately after worship. The Sept. 8 luncheon will celebrate Rally Day and the beginning of Sunday School. Donations are requested.

**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](mailto: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.