



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 5, 2023 | 10:30 A.M.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Gathering

PRELUDE

My Jesus, I Love Thee
arr. Diane Bish

WELCOME

REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR

✠CALL TO WORSHIP

God sent the Hebrew people on a journey into the unknown, and God sends us to travel into a future we cannot see.

God calls us to follow in trust.

God invited Nicodemus to be born again, and Christ invites us to become a new creation.

Christ calls us into God's marvelous light, and we are saved through him.

With grateful hearts, let us worship God.

✠HYMN 35

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty
LOBE DEN HERREN

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God,

We come before you in need of forgiveness and grace. You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not. We have so many questions, but we are afraid of your answers. We justify our actions and words, though we know they are not what you require. We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers, preferring old habits to risky change. Forgive us, Lord, and hear our silent prayers of confession.

(silence)

Help us to be born again into the life of Christ, trusting that you have included us by your grace in the family of faith. In Christ's name, we pray. 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

We Are Forgiven
WE ARE FORGIVEN

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of three staves of music. The lyrics are: "We are for-giv-en. We are for-giv-en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. We are for-giv-en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God." The chords indicated above the notes are: G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, Dsus, D, G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, D, G.

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

GEORGE IRVINE

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 121

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR

SCRIPTURE READING: John 3: 1-17

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

SERMON: "Questions"

REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR

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.

Thanksgiving

✠HYMN 45

I To the Hills Will Lift My Eyes
DUNDEE

✠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

Danish Amen
Traditional

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
arr. Gilbert Martin

The Sanctuary Choir
Text: No. 223 in the Hymnal

✠RESPONSE | HYMN 607

Doxology
OLD HUNDREDDTH

✠PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

In the Presbyterian Church (USA), we understand that Jesus is the host of this table, and all who seek to know Christ are welcome to participate. We believe that Christ meets us in a special and unique way through this sacrament and nourishes us for our journey of faith through the meal.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR

GREAT PRAYER OF 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.

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION MEDITATION

*Communion
(Heures Mystiques, No. 5)*

Leon Boëllmann

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR

✠HYMN 509

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly
HOLY MANNA

Sending

✠BENEDICTION

REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR

POSTLUDE

Ukrainian National Anthem

Scripture Readings

Psalm 121

A Song of Ascents.

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
²My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
³He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
⁴He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
⁵The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
⁶The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
⁷The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
⁸The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and for evermore.

John 3: 1-17

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having

grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

GSPC News

March Birthdays

March 1: Micah Carver, Coleman
Oswalt, Preston Reeder

March 2: Martha Tissington,
Tommy Watts

March 3: Strickler Adams, Toby
Lorge

March 6: Lynn McClure Tamblyn

March 7: Bob Marley, Robert
Rouse, Leigh Schottgen

March 9: Sam Lamar

March 10: Guy Helmsing, Bill
Majure

March 14: Ma'on Adams, Shawn
Walker, John Wyatt

March 17: Jerry Curran Jr.,
Ashley Oswalt

March 18: Sophia Carver, Nikki
Jones, Henry Van Haneghan

March 20: Conrad Oswalt

March 21: Allan Gustin

March 22: Jerry Curran Sr., David
Pearsall

March 23: Emily Nelson

March 24: Arthur Lewis

March 27: Emerson Majure

March 28: Ann Claire McMillan,
Guy Oswalt

March 29: Anita Winn

March 30: Lyle Hutchison, Alice
Roberds

March 31: Lucybelle Baker

Living Our Faith Lent 2023

Sundays || 10:30 a.m.

March 12: Thirst | John 4: 5-32

March 19: Healing | John 9: 1-41

March 26: Grief | John 11: 1-45

Holy Week

April 2: Palm Sunday | 10:30 a.m.

April 6: Maundy Thursday | 6 p.m.

April 7: Good Friday | Noon



Two Pastors and a Rabbi: The next installment of the Interfaith Bible Study is set for Monday, March 13, at 5:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 806 Government Street. Please RSVP to Heather Hamilton if you plan to attend.

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

Easter Lily Dedications

In Memory Of:

In Honor Of:

Number of Lilies (\$15 each): Total:

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, Dr. 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 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 and grape jelly and individually packaged snacks (peanut butter or cheese crackers, chips, cookies, Little Debbie's, 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" by 40-46" (these are only approximations)
- 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 Foyer, or you may order from Amazon and request delivery to the church, marked "Blanket Ministry."

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.

CHILI COOKOFF: SATURDAY, MARCH 11

A team from GSPC is participating in the annual Chili Cookoff on Saturday, March 11. The cookoff is a benefit for the American Cancer Society, and all proceeds will go to transportation costs for the "Road to Recovery" program, which helps cancer patients get rides to doctor appointments and treatments. GSPC's team will receive passes for members to use to attend the cookoff. If you'd like to join the team, or to make a contribution toward the entry fee, please contact John Browning at j.browning@rapiddeployment.com.



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

CHURCH STAFF

REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR
Pastor & Head of Staff
rebekah@gspcmobile.org

REV. ALEXANDRA HUTSON
Associate Pastor
alexandra@gspcmobile.org

CHRIS NEMEC
Director of Music and Organist
chris@gspcmobile.org

HEATHER HAMILTON
Office Manager
heather@gspcmobile.org

DAWN HEARN
Bookkeeper
dawn@gspcmobile.org

BARBARA WILLIAMS
Property Manager & Hostess
barbara@gspcmobile.org

SALLY ERICSON
Communications
sallyericson23@gmail.com

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 Marion Adams, Jr., by Ann, our
 children and grandchildren.

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

Sunday Book Study Group: Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the library. Dr. Susan Ashbee is leading the Interpretation Bible Series "Romans."

Talking Heads Sunday School class: This class meets on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Heltzel Room on the second floor.

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.

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

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.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

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.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

Chili Cookoff: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Canal Road in downtown Mobile.

MONDAY, MARCH 13

Interfaith Bible Study: 5:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 806 Government Street.

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.

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.