

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, November 27, 2022 | 10:30 A.M.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gathering

PRELUDE *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*
Leslie Betteridge

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

✠CALL TO WORSHIP
AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *responsive*

CLINT, CARLY AND HENLEY AKERS

While we wait for Christ's coming, we light the candle of hope.
We place our hope in the Light of the World.
The light of this candle is our prayer for a better world, a prayer for God's kingdom to come.
"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."
Let us worship God.

✠HYMN 82 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*
HYFRYDOL

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION *unison* **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

Holy God,
We are not ready for your coming. We live in fear, as though there is no salvation. We live in sin, as though there is no grace. We live in despair, as though there is no hope. Hear our silent prayers of confession.

(Silence)

Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us with your truth, and teach us by your grace, for you are the God of our salvation. Through Christ, our light and our hope, we pray. Amen.

✠ASSURANCE OF PARDON

✠PASSING OF THE PEACE

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.*

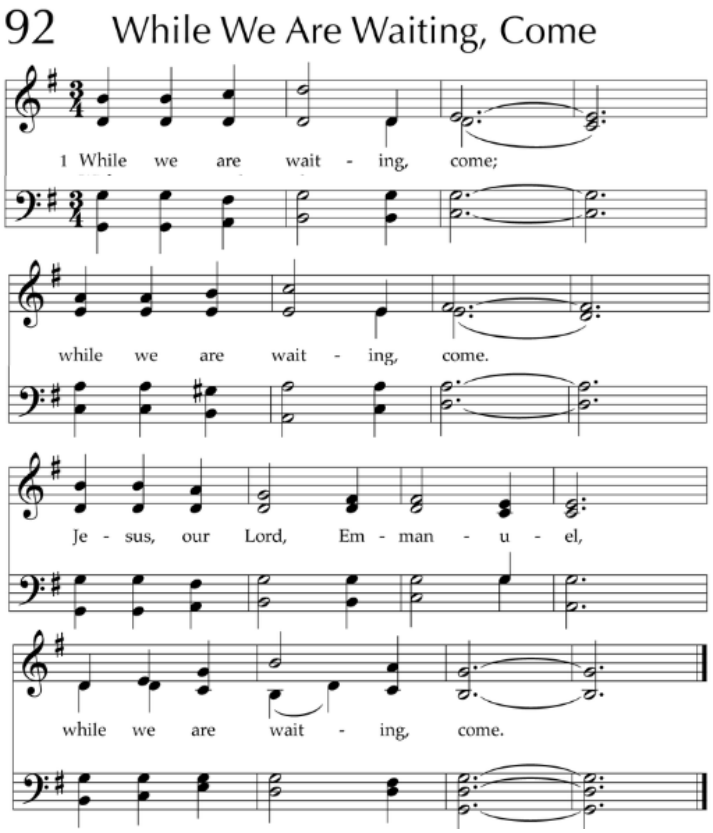
Please silence *all cellular devices for the duration of the service.*

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

During the Passing of the Peace, please turn to your neighbors and say, "The peace of Christ be with you." Respond with, "And also with you," when others greet you. The Passing of the Peace is a Christian ritual in which we remind each other of the peace that we know only in Christ, the Prince of Peace, and which draws us together as disciples.

✠Response | Hymn 92 *While We Are Waiting, Come (Stanza 1)*

WAITING (Cason)



Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination **Corinne Lorge**

First Reading Isaiah 2: 1-5

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

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

Second Reading Matthew 24: 36-44

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

Sermon "Keep Awake" **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 96 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

WINCHESTER NEW

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.*

***A Declaration of Faith was adopted in 1977 by the Presbyterian Church (USA) denomination** and remains a resource to the church for study and worship.*

✠Affirmation of Faith *unison* **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

A Declaration of Faith

Jesus, the long expected Savior, came in to the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth.

We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child,
yet born of God's power as was no other child.

In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated.

The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule.

Through his birth, life, death and resurrection, he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended.

Choral Response *Alleluia*

The Sanctuary Choir — Traditional; arr. C. Nemec

Offering

Offertory *O Praise the Lord and Magnify His Name*

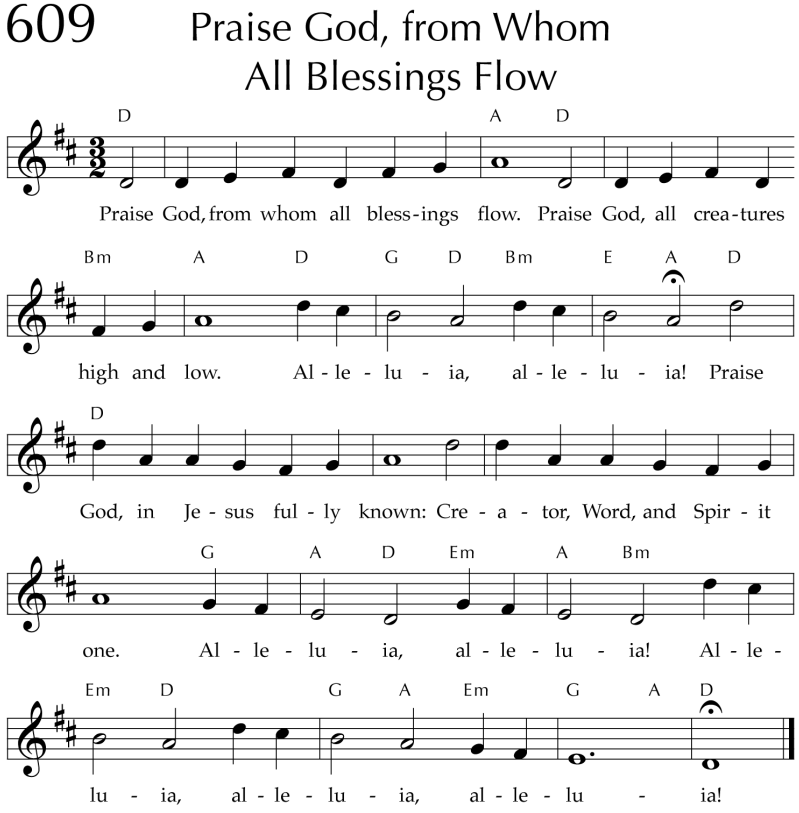
(Christmas Cantata)
Karl Graun

O praise the Lord and magnify His name, forever. Praise Him, and magnify His name. O praise Him and magnify His name.

The Sanctuary Choir

✠Response | Hymn 609 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN



✠Prayer Of Thanksgiving

Prayer of Intercession **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

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 88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Stanzas 1,6,7)*
VENI EMMANUEL

✠Benediction **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Postlude *Improvisation on "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*
C. Nemec

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 2: 1-5

2 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw
concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the
mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
3 Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the
Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
4 He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

5 O house of Jacob, come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

Matthew 24: 36-44

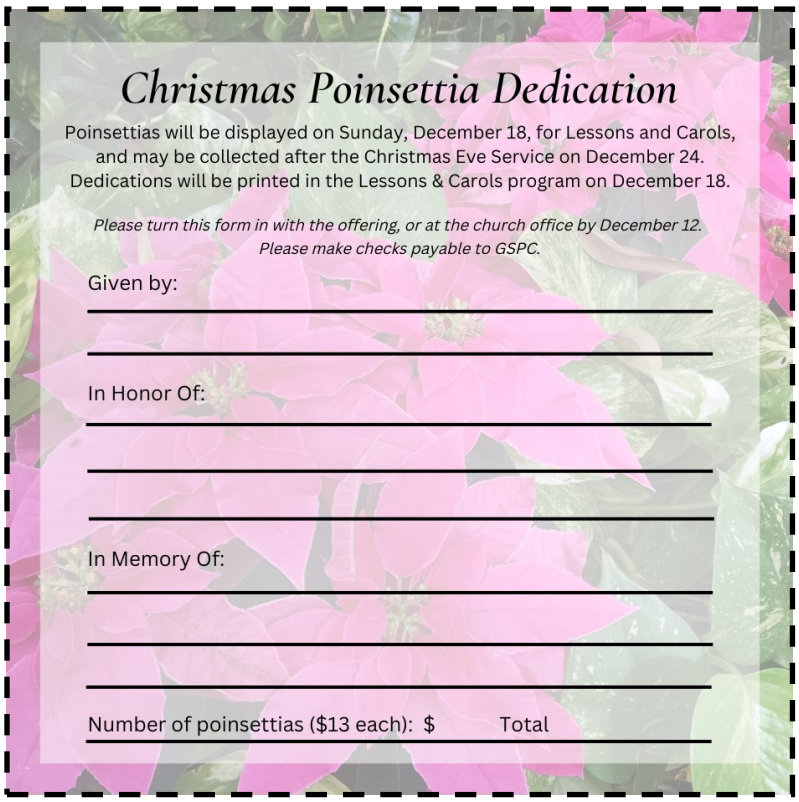
36 "But about that day and hour no one knows,
neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but
only the Father. 37 For as the days of Noah were,
so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For
as in those days before the flood they were
eating and drinking, marrying and giving in
marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark,
39 and they knew nothing until the flood came
and swept them all away, so too will be the
coming of the Son of Man. 40 Then two will be in
the field; one will be taken and one will be left.
41 Two women will be grinding meal together;
one will be taken and one will be left.

42 "Keep awake therefore, for you do not know
on what day your Lord is coming. 43 But
understand this: if the owner of the house had
known in what part of the night the thief was
coming, he would have stayed awake and would
not have let his house be broken into.
44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son
of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

GSPC News







Advent Wednesdays: The Advent noon services will begin on Wednesday, November 30. There will be a light lunch served in Fellowship Hall at 12:30 p.m.

Interfaith Bible Study: The Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar joins Rabbi Ed Boraz of Spring Hill Avenue Temple and the Rev. Trey Doyle of First Baptist Church for an interfaith Bible study, "Two Pastors and a Rabbi." The final date is Thursday, December 1, at 5:30 p.m. at First Baptist, 806 Government St. All are welcome. Please call the church office at 251-432-1749 to register.

Choir rehearsals: Chris Nemec, Organist and Director of Music, is eager to welcome all musicians as we prepare for the holidays! The Handbell Choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, November 30, at 5:15 p.m. The Sanctuary Choir practices on Wednesdays at 6 p.m.
Chris has also begun rehearsals with the children for the **December 18 Lessons and Carols service.** The children will sing a song about the candles of the Advent Wreath. Our rehearsals are on Sundays from 9:30 to 9:45 a.m. in the Tent Room. Parents, please help us set the children up for success by bringing them to the weekly rehearsals. If you have questions, email Chris@gspcmobile.org.

Christmas Events:

This afternoon, the Youth will meet at Target at Bel Air Mall at 5:30 p.m. for a fun service project! The group will go shopping to buy gifts for an Angel Tree child.

Christmas Concert: The choir, orchestra and bands from Barton Academy will perform a Winter Concert at GSPC on Thursday, December 1, at 6 p.m.

Christmas at Bellingrath: Families are invited to meet at Bellingrath Gardens and Home at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, December 2, to tour Magic Christmas in Lights.

The **Youth Christmas Party** is set for Sunday, December 4, at 4:30 p.m. at the Rev. Alexandra Hutson's home, 31553 Memphis Loop in Spanish Fort.



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

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 (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 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 January 13, February 10, and March 10, 2023. If you can help with this mission on any of these dates, please contact Lisa deShazo at 251-591-1077.

COLD-WEATHER CLOTHING DONATIONS

GSPC is collecting gently worn cold-weather clothing items for men, women and children, such as coats, sweaters, hats, gloves and scarves. Socks are a much-needed item for those in shelters. These items will be given to various agencies that distribute clothing to those in need. There is a box for these donations in the Jackson Street Foyer.



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
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Heather Hamilton
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Dawn Hearn
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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 James Kenneth Bounds by his daughter, Nicole Bounds Riis.

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

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, led by the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar, 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.

Evening Bible Study: This study, led by the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar, meets at 5 p.m. in the Guesnard House.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

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, NOVEMBER 30

Advent Wednesday Service: Noon in the Sanctuary, followed by lunch in Fellowship Hall at 12:30 p.m.

Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the Library. Contact: Bo Perry.
Handbell Choir Practice: 5:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
Sanctuary Choir Practice: 6 p.m. in the Choir Room.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

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

Christmas Concert: 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary, presented by choir, orchestra and band students at Barton Academy for Advanced World Studies.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

Christmas at Bellingrath: The congregation is invited to meet at the Admissions Building at Bellingrath Gardens and Home at 5:30 p.m. to tour Magic Christmas in Lights together.

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.