

# GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Sunday, September 4, 2022 | 10:30 A.M.**

**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

# *Gathering*

**PRELUDE** *Larghetto*

LUCIAN SOUTHARD

**WELCOME** **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

***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.*

✠**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Psalm 139)*

O Lord, You have searched us and known us.

**You know when we sit and when we rise.**

You know our thoughts and even our words before they leave our mouths.

**You knew us before we were born, and we praise you because we are fearfully and wonderfully made.**

How weighty to us are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them.

**We try to count them. They are more than the sand. When we come to the end, we are still with you.**

Let us worship God!

✠**HYMN 65** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

CWM RHONDDA

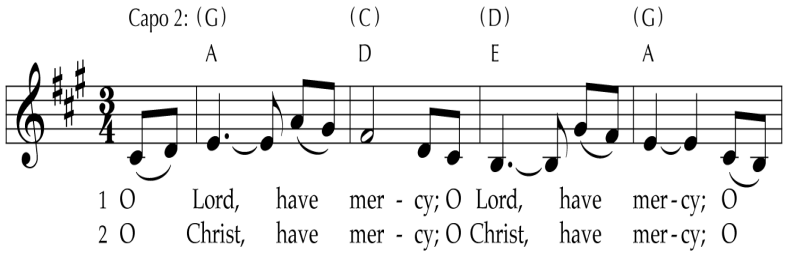
✠**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *unison*

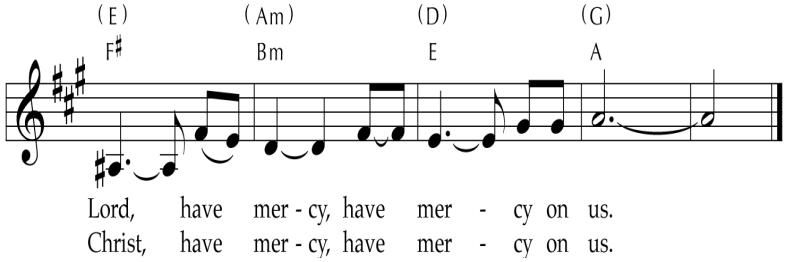
Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may be formed by your life-giving Spirit to worship and serve in the name of Christ. Amen.

**✠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 on September 11. Children's Bulletins are available at the front of the sanctuary.*

# *Proclaiming the Word*

**Prayer for Illumination** **Casi Callaway**

**First Reading** Luke 14:25-33

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

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

**Second Reading** **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Ezekiel 37:1-17

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon** "Sunday School Stories: Ezekiel and the Dry Bones"

**Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

# *Thanksgiving*

✠ **Hymn 286** *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*
TRENTHAM

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

**The Apostles' Creed**

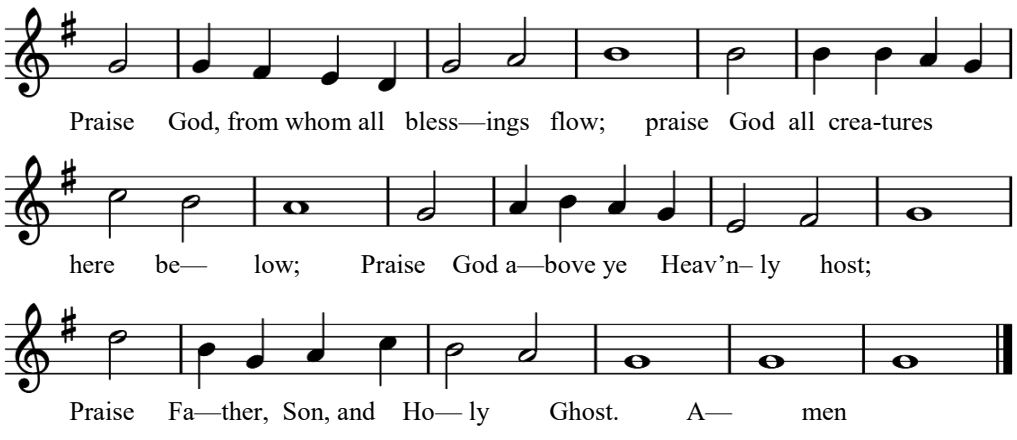
***The congregation is given the opportunity to respond to hearing God's Word through The Apostles' Creed,*** *affirming what we believe and expressing our faith. Creeds give us the opportunity to say what we believe about God and what God has done in history. Our statements of faith should reflect the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

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.
Amen.

**Offering**

**Meditation** *Why Should I Feel Discouraged*
CHARLES GABRIEL

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



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

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

**Invitation to the Lord's Table** **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

**Great Thanksgiving** **Rev. Alexandra Hutson**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up 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

***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.*

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Breaking of the Bread**

**Communion of the People**

**Communion Meditation**

**Prayer After Communion** **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

# *Sending*

✠**Hymn 546** *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*
SICILIAN MARINERS

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

# SCRIPTURE READINGS

## LUKE 14: 25-33

28 For which of you, intending to build a tower,
does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to
see whether he has enough to complete
it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation
and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin
to ridicule him, 30 saying, 'This fellow began to
build and was not able to finish.' 31 Or what king,
going out to wage war against another king, will
not sit down first and consider whether he is able
with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes
against him with twenty thousand? 32 If he can-
not, then while the other is still far away, he
sends a delegation and asks for the terms of
peace. 33 So therefore, none of you can become
my disciple if you do not give up all your
possessions.

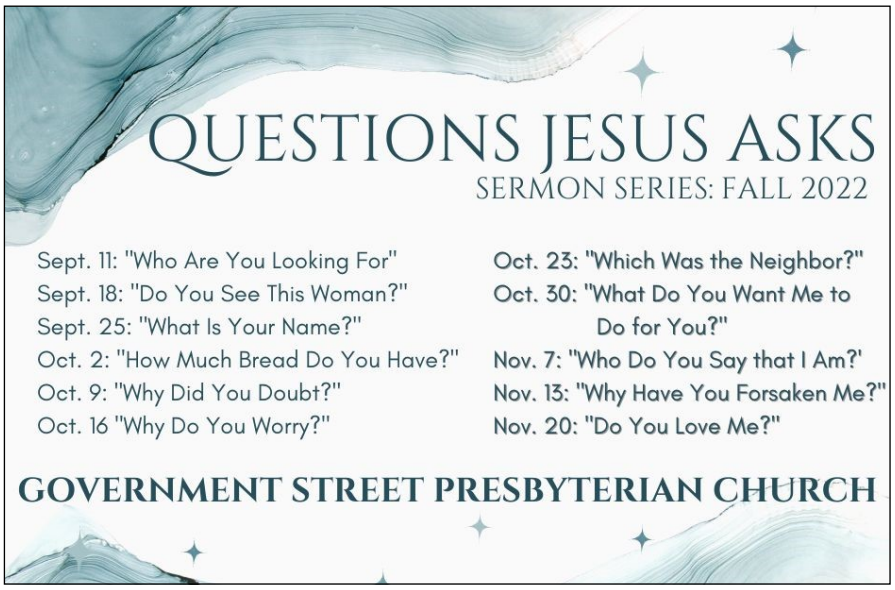
Thank you to Nancy Graham for serving as our guest organist today.

## EZEKIEL 37:1-17

**37** The hand of the LORD came upon me, and
he brought me out by the spirit of
the LORD and set me down in the middle of a
valley; it was full of bones. 2 He led me all
around them; there were very many lying in the
valley, and they were very dry. 3 He said to me,
"Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O
Lord GOD, you know." 4 Then he said to me,
"Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O
dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. 5 Thus
says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause
breath[a] to enter you, and you shall live. 6 I will
lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come
upon you and cover you with skin and put
breath[b] in you, and you shall live, and you
shall know that I am the LORD."7 So I prophe-
sied as I had been commanded, and as I
prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a
rattling, and the bones came together, bone to
its bone. 8 I looked, and there were sinews on
them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin
had covered them, but there was no breath in
them. 9 Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the
breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath:
[c] Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four
winds, O breath,[d] and breathe upon these
slain, that they may live." 10 I prophesied as he
commanded me, and the breath came into
them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a
vast multitude.11 Then he said to me, "Mortal,
these bones are the whole house of Israel. They
say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is
lost; we are cut off completely.' 12 Therefore
prophesy and say to them: Thus says the
Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and
bring you up from your graves, O my people,
and I will bring you back to the land of Isra-
el. 13 And you shall know that I am
the LORD when I open your graves and bring
you up from your graves, O my people. 14 I will
put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and
I will place you on your own soil; then you shall
know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act,
says the LORD."15 The word of the LORD came to
me: 16 Mortal, take a stick and write on it, "For
Judah and the Israelites associated with it";
then take another stick and write on it, "For
Joseph (the stick of Ephraim) and all the house
of Israel associated with it"; 17 and join them
together into one stick, so that they may be-
come one in your hand.

# GSPC NEWS






Our bucket brigade did a great job stocking up the disaster buckets last week!

**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 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.

**Rally Day:** Mark your calendars for Sunday, Sept. 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?"

**New Bible Study:** Join us on Sunday nights at 5 p.m. in the Guesnard House for "Justified By Faith: A Study of Romans," led by the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar. More details to follow.

**Diaconate Meeting:** The Diaconate will meet on Monday, Sept. 12, at 5:30 p.m. Please email Heather if you are unable to attend.

**Fall Gathering:** The Presbyterian Women will hold a Fall Gathering on Monday, Sept. 19, at 6 p.m. in the Guesnard House. Details to come!

**Blessing of the Pets:** On Saturday, Oct. 1, 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.

# 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."



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

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 memory of Emily Townsend Miller by her family.

# 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 Will resume on Rally Day, September 11.

*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.