



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.

Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 10, 2023 | 10:30 A.M.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gathering

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
arr. Roy T. Scoggins, Jr.

The Handbell Choir

WELCOME

REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR

INTROIT

Every Valley
John Ness Beck

The Sanctuary Choir
Text: Isaiah 40: Verses 4, 5

✕CALL TO WORSHIP

AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *responsive*

**HARRIS, HUNTER, ELEANOR,
HARRIS, AND HOWELL OSWALT**

While we wait for Christ's coming, we light the candle of hope.

We place our hope in the Light of the World.

While we wait for Christ's coming, we light the candle of peace.

We pray for peace in our hearts, our homes, and our world.

The light of these candles is our 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 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates
TRURO

✕PRAYER OF CONFESSION *unison*

REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR

Holy God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace. You made a way in the wilderness and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance and speechless when we ought to sing. Hear our silent prayer of confession.

(silence)

Forgive us, Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts as we seek to follow in your holy way. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

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.

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.

The Apostles' Creed is on Page 35 of The Hymnal.

✠ASSURANCE OF PARDON

✠PASSING OF THE PEACE

✠RESPONSE | HYMN 447

We Are Forgiven

WE ARE FORGIVEN

Chords: G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, Dsus, D, G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, D, G.

Proclaiming the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

BETH MORRISSETTE

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40: 1-11

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR

SECOND READING

Luke 1: 39-56

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

SERMON: "Song of Mary"

REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR

Thanksgiving

✠HYMN 99

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

MORNING SONG

✠AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed

CHORAL RESPONSE

The Sanctuary Choir

Amen

Marty Haugen

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

He Shall Feed His Flock
James Richens

The Sanctuary Choir
Text: Isaiah 40: 11; Psalm 23

✠**RESPONSE | HYMN 609** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*
LASST UNS ERFREUEN

✠**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.

Sending

✠**HYMN 87**

Comfort, Comfort Now My People
GENEVAN 42

✠**BENEDICTION**

REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR

POSTLUDE

O Come, All Ye Faithful
arr. Barbara B. Kinyon

The Handbell Choir

Sunday, December 17

Next Sunday will be the annual Service of Lessons and Carols. Included with the seven Lessons will be numerous congregational Christmas carols. Carter Hale Jr. will sing Max Reger's "The Virgin's Slumber Song," and the Sanctuary Choir will sing settings of "Ding Dong Merrily on High," "Still, Still, Still" and "Sans Day Carol." This is a great service to invite friends and family!



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CHURCH STAFF

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Send news for the e-newsletter or bulletin to
Meredith Johnston at meredith@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 Dottie and Dixon Meyers
and Virginia and Dallas Jones, Sr.,
by their family.

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

Luncheon: The Supper Clubs will have a luncheon in Fellowship Hall after the worship service today. Everyone is invited to share their favorite Christmas food.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

Circles of Hope and Joy: The Circles of Hope and Joy will have their Christmas meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Guesnard House. All are welcome to attend and to bring friends to enjoy an evening of Bible study and fellowship. If you are able, please bring a snack or beverage to share.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

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, DECEMBER 13

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

Men's Bible Study: 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.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

Lessons and Carols: Join us for the annual Advent Service of Lessons and Carols during the worship hour.

ADDITIONAL NEWS AND NOTES

Order forms for Christmas poinsettia dedications may be picked up in the Sanctuary or in the church office. The deadline for orders is December 17. The dedications will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

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.