Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, March 1, 2026 | 10:30 A.M.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Preparation for Worship

"The only wisdom we can hope to acquire is the wisdom of humility: humility is endless."
T.S. Eliot, "East Coker" from "Four Quartets," 1940

PRELUDE *Tu Solus Altissimus (Thou Alone Are Most High)*
Alexandre Pierre François Boëly

WELCOME **JULIE OTTS**

MINUTE FOR MISSION: *Rise Against Hunger* **SUSAN ASHBEE**

INTROIT *With All I Am*
Taylor Davis

The Sanctuary Choir

Though I may master all things known, though I may forfeit all I owe, and do not love,
I search in vain to find the God who knows my name. Love does not hide or run away, it does not threaten or delay. Alive in hope, it braves our schemes, it bears our pain, believes our dreams.
With all I am, and all I do do, I pledge my faith, I honor you. I give you, Lord, my solemn vow,
my life, my love, I offer now.

✠**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Responsive)* **JULIE OTTS**

In the stories Jesus told, the ordinary becomes a view into the kingdom of God.
We bring our ordinary selves, listening for truth hidden in seed and soil, bread and banquet, lost and found.
These stories comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.
They invite us to see ourselves and our world more clearly.
During Lent, we gather to hear again what we think we already know, trusting that Jesus still speaks through the stories he told.
We open our hearts to be surprised, unsettled, and changed.
Come, then, with ears to hear, and let us worship God.

✠**HYMN 35** *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*
LOBE DEN HERREN

✠**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(Unison)* **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

Have mercy on us, O God. We know our sin is great. We are ashamed, and it is difficult to confess the errors of our ways. When we sin against our neighbor, condone injustice, and quarrel with one another, we sin against you and are in need of your mercy. Thank you for holding the confessions of our humbled and contrite hearts as we pray in silence.

(Silence)

Forgive us, O Lord. Strip from us the masks of self-righteousness, and free us from the burden of comparison. Make us humble as we seek to follow you. Through Christ, 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.*

The congregation of Government Street Presbyterian Church*, as the people of God called to worship and work in downtown Mobile, pursue our mission to use our unique resources and opportunities to love, to honor, and to glorify God and to give hope, comfort, instruction and inspiration to all persons that they may become joyful disciples of Jesus Christ.*

Government Street Presbyterian Church, *founded in 1831, is a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and participates in the work of the Presbytery of South Alabama.*

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.

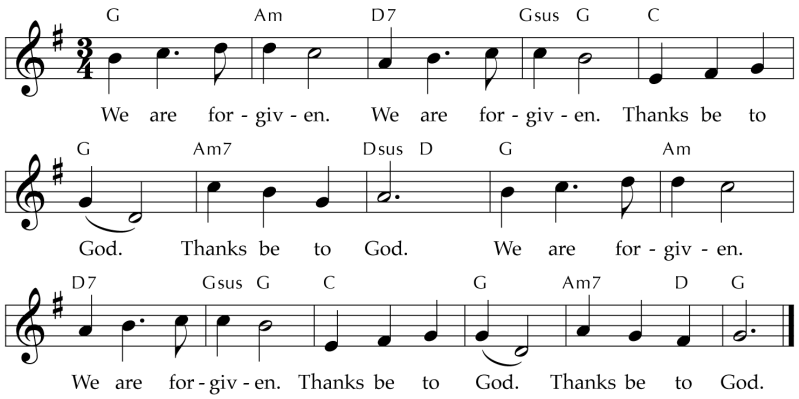
We pass the peace *by greeting one another and saying, "The peace of Christ be with you," to which one replies, "And also with you." The ancient ritual of the church reminds us that Christ offers us peace that passes understanding.*

***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.*

***Wee Worship sign-in slips** are available next to the bulletins at the front and back of the church as well as in the children's worship totes. Children may bring these filled out slips with them when they go to Wee Worship.*

***Children's worship totes** are available for children in the sanctuary. These totes include children's bulletins and other items to help children engage in the worship service.*

✠Response | Hymn 581 *We Are Forgiven*
WE ARE FORGIVEN



Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination **Julie Otts**

First Reading: Psalm 51:1-2,10-17

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon **John Moses**

Wee Worship Leader: Emily Watson

Second Reading: Luke 18:9-14

Sermon: "Praying: The Pharisee and the Tax Collector" **Rev. Lamar**

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 417 *Lord Jesus, Think on Me*
SOUTHWELL

✠Affirmation of Faith *(The Apostles' Creed)* **Julie Otts**

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.

Choral Response *Amen*
Franz Schubert

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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

Visiting? Welcome to GSPC, *where we hope you'll find our worship meaningful, our fellowship warm and our ministry exciting. Come again! Be sure to sign the Registry booklet that you will find in your pew. If you are considering membership, we'd love to have you. You may join us through transfer of letter, re-affirmation of faith or profession of faith.*

Next Sunday, March 8, *the Rev. Lamar will continue the Lenten sermon series "The Stories Jesus Told" with a sermon on Luke 15:11-32 titled "Straying: The Prodigal Son." Music includes the Handbell Choir playing settings of "When I Survey" and "What Wondrous Love is This" and the Sanctuary Choir singing the Lenten anthem "Behold the Man."*

Offering **Julie Otts**

Offertory *Surely He Bore Our Griefs*
David DeVidal

The Sanctuary Choir

Text: Isaiah 53:4-6 (KJV)

✠**Response | Hymn 606** *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*
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** **Julie Otts**

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 *Sicilienne (Opus 78)*
Gabriel Fauré
Elevatione No.1
Dom Paul Benoit

Prayer After Communion **Rev. Lamar**

Sending

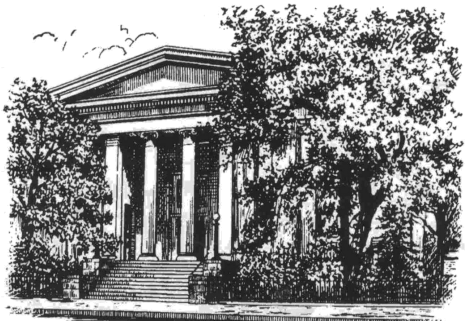
✠**Hymn 63** *The Lord Is God*
AZMON

✠**Benediction** **Rev. Lamar**

Postlude *Rondeau*
Jean-Joseph Mouret

Lenten Questions for This Week

Monday: What character or object am I most drawn to in today's parable?
Tuesday: If I were making a video to depict this parable, what would it be like? What would I see and hear?
Wednesday: What questions does this parable raise for me? What doesn't it say that I would like to know?
Thursday: What is something I want to carry with me from this parable that will help me live in the way of Christ?
Friday: What is the good news in this parable that is worth sharing in my words or my actions?
Saturday: What is my prayer for this coming week of Lent?



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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.

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the pulpit are given
to the glory of God, and in loving memory of
of Marion Adams, Jr.,
by his wife, Ann, and his children, grandchildren,
and great-grandchildren.

Calendar of Events

TUESDAY, MARCH 3
Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 9 a.m. at the home of Ann Adams.
Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Library. Contact: Mary Elizabeth Perry.
Tuesday Lunch and Learn: Come to lunch! Our guest speaker is Denise Riemer, Lead District Social Worker for Mobile County Public Schools. Lunch is served at noon, and the presentation will begin at 12:30 p.m. The price is $10 and includes drinks and dessert. All of the lunches are open to the community. Free parking is available in the GSPC parking lot on the corner of Government and Jackson streets on Tuesdays during the lunch hour.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4
Music Rehearsals: Handbells, 5:15-5:45 p.m.; choir, 6-7:30 p.m.
Men's Bible Study: 6 p.m. in the Library. Contact: Bo Perry.

MONDAY, MARCH 9
Circles of Hope and Joy: The Circles of Hope and Joy will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Guesnard House for fellowship and Bible study. All are welcome.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14
Rise Against Hunger: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. All are welcome to volunteer to help with this special urban mission project to package nutritious meals for those in need. Please sign up with Neal Horner or Susan Ashbee.

NEWS AND NOTES

McKemie Place: Each month on the second Friday, volunteers provide a light lunch for about 24 residents at McKemie Place, a shelter for homeless women. Volunteers are needed on March 13. Please call Lisa DeShazo at 251-591-1077 or Mary DeWitt Dukes at 504-920-1918 if you are able to help with this mission at GSPC.

Driver needed: The Meals on Wheels ministry needs a driver for the Northern Route on Wednesday mornings. Please contact Lisa deShazo at 251-591-1077.

Flower Dedications: 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 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.