Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, March 8, 2026 | 10:30 A.M.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Preparation for Worship

"The grace of God means something like: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are because the party would not have been complete without you."
Frederick Buechner, "Grace," from "Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC"

PRELUDE *What Wondrous Love is This*
WONDROUS LOVE; arr. Wagner/Nemec
The Handbell Choir

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

INTROIT *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*
HAMBURG; arr. Ronald Kauffmann

The Handbell Choir

✠**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Responsive)* **LYNN MCDANIEL**
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 415** *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*
RESTORATION

✠**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(Unison)* **REV. 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. Heal our wayward hearts. Restore our broken relationships. Helps us accept the forgiveness you offer to us and live as your grateful people. 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.*

The Apostles' Creed:

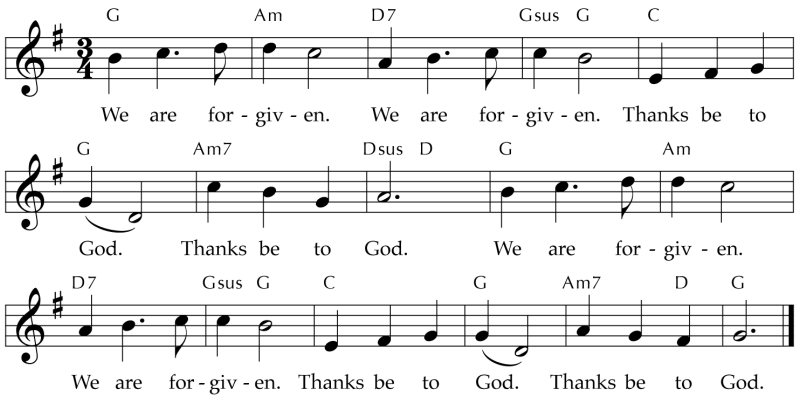
I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; 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 | Hymn 447 *We Are Forgiven*

WE ARE FORGIVEN



Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination **Lynn McDaniel**

First Reading: Psalm 103:8-13

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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

Wee Worship leader: Emily Watson

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Sally Barbour Etherton
Daughter of Russ and Blair Etherton
Born June 12, 2025

✠Hymn 486 *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

KINGDOM

Second Reading: Luke 15:11-32

Sermon: "Straying: The Prodigal Son" **Rev. Lamar**

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 227 *Jesus, Remember Me*

REMEMBER ME

The hymn will be sung four times.

✠Affirmation of Faith *(The Apostles' Creed)* **Lynn McDaniel**

Choral Response *Amen*

Haugen/arr. Nemec

Offering

Prayer is a place we bring ourselves fully before God. *In the Prayer of Intercession, we hold the needs of our hearts and of the world before a powerful and loving God. If you have a need for prayer, you may call the church office to speak with a pastor or to have your request passed on to our prayer team.*

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.*

Offertory *Behold the Man (Ecce Homo)*
Owens; arr. Nemec

The Sanctuary Choir

Behold the Man, wounded and bruised, crowned with thorns. He was despised, rejected. Behold the Man, Man of sorrows, acquainted with grief, we hid our faces from Him. We did not know that it was for our sins He died, that for us the Son of God was crucified; that in love He bore our sorrow and pain; and in love He willingly suffered. Behold the Man, suff'ring in silence, bearing our shame, we hid our faces from Him. We did not know that this was God the Father's plan, born of love to bring redemption down to man. That in love He gave His only Son so that we might be forgiven. Behold the Man, risen in glory, coming to reign, by the Father exalted, crowned with glory and honor. Behold the Man, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, through all creation, Jesus Christ is Lord. He is Lord!

✠**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** **Lynn McDaniel**

Prayer of Intercession
And The Lord's Prayer **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Sending

✠**Hymn 475** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*
NETTLETON

✠**Benediction** **Rev. Lamar**

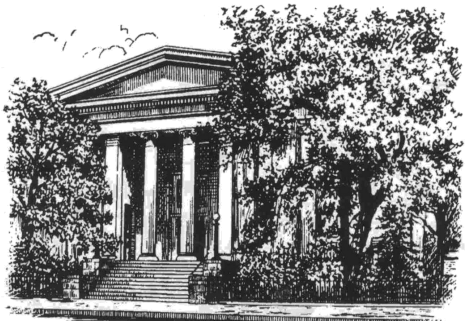
Postlude *Crown Him with Many Crowns*
DIADEMATA

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?

Sunday, March 15

Next Sunday, the Rev. Lamar continues her Lenten sermon series, "The Stories Jesus Told" with a sermon based on Matthew 20:1-16, titled "Working: Workers in the Vineyard." Music includes the Sanctuary Choir singing Franz Schubert's "Kyrie" from his Mass in G, and mezzo soprano Meredith Wilson singing a setting of "God So Loved the World." In addition, we will have two violinists from the Mobile Symphony join us.



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CHURCH STAFF

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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 Gloria Crichton McGehee,
by Ceil and Tom McGehee.

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, MARCH 8
Second Sunday Lunch: The congregation is invited to enjoy lunch together in Fellowship Hall today after the worship service.

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. If you are able, please bring a snack or beverage to share with the group. All are welcome.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10
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 Steve Joynt, creator of the Mobile Mask. 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 11
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.

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 April 10. 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.

Meals on Wheels: If you're interested in learning about our Meals on Wheels ministry, 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.