Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

ORDINARY TIME

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 known as the mother of Presbyterianism in southern Alabama. We are a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and participate 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.

Preparation for Worship

"Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less."
C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

PRELUDE *O God, Beyond All Praising (Opus 32, No. 4)*
Holst; arr. Eric Thiman

O God, beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay.

WELCOME **DAVID TRENT**

INTROIT *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*
The Sanctuary Choir Dale Wood
Text: No. 394 in The Hymnal

✠**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Responsive)* **DAVID TRENT**

Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain?
The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart.
Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain?
The one whose tongue utters no slander, who does no wrong to a neighbor, and casts no slur on others.
Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain?
The one who despises a vile person but honors those who fear the Lord; who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not change their mind;
Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain?
The one who lends money to the poor without interest; who does not accept a bribe against the innocent.
Whoever does these things will never be shaken.
Let us worship God!

✠**HYMN 32** *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*
ELLACOMBE

✠**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(Unison)* **DAVID TRENT**

Holy God, we confess that we have not done what is blameless and right. We have not spoken truth from the heart with love. Despite our best efforts, we do not keep your word as we have been taught. We confess that when we participate in gossip, our words cause deep pain. Forgive us, Lord, and hear our silent prayers.

(Silence)

Have mercy on us, O God. Help us to stand in the goodness of Christ and walk in the light of his love. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

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.*

✠Assurance of Pardon
✠Passing of the Peace
✠Response | Hymn 581 *Glory Be to the Father*
GLORIA PATRI

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination **Casi Callaway**
First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon **Shawn Walker**
Wee Worship Leader: Emily Watson

Second Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon: "A Two-Way Street" **Rev. Dr. Julian Walthall**

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 172 *Blest Are They*
BLEST ARE THEY

✠Affirmation of Faith *(The Apostles' Creed)* **Casi Callaway**

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 *Thanks Be To God, Alleluia*
Swahili Folk Hymn; arr. Nemec

Offering
Offertory *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (Cantata 147)*
J.S. Bach

The Sanctuary Choir
Jesu, joy of man's desiring, holy wisdom love most bright. Drawn by thee our souls aspiring, soar to uncreated light. Word of God, our flesh that fashioned, with the fire of life impassioned. Striving still to truth unknown, soaring, dying, round Thy throne.

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.*

✠Response | Hymn 609 *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*
LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving **Casi Callaway**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table **Rev. Dr. Walthall**

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 *Adagio (Third Symphony, The Organ Symphony)*
Camille Saint-Saëns

Prayer After Communion

Sending

✠Hymn 378 *We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom*
MERLE'S TUNE

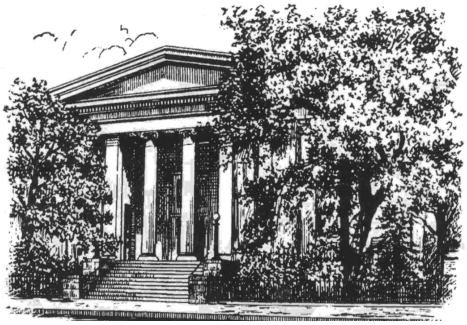
✠Benediction **Rev. Dr. Walthall**

Postlude *Toccata*
David Hegarty

We welcome the Rev. Dr. Julian W. Walthall as our guest preacher today. Dr. Walthall is a native of Hale County in the Black Belt. After serving four churches in active ministry over 39 years, he was honorably retired in 2012 by the Presbytery of South Alabama. He and his wife, Carolyn, live in Daphne. They have two sons: David, an English professor in Siena, Italy, and Claiborne, an environmental lawyer in upstate New York. Their three precious granddaughters live in New Scotland, NY.

Sunday, February 8

Join us next Sunday, February 8. The Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar will finish her sermon series with a sermon titled "The Lies We Tell Ourselves: I Am What I Do," based on Ephesians 2:8-10 and Philippians 3:2-11. Music includes the Sanctuary Choir singing John Rutter's "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" and the Handbell Choir playing "Praise the Father."



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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
Mabel and Bestor Ward
by their family.

Calendar of Events

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 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: Join us for the first Tuesday Lunch and Learn of 2026 with our own Tom McGehee as our speaker. Tom's talk will be about the history of the USS United States, the former ocean liner undergoing preparations to be sunk in Florida waters as an artificial reef. Lunch costs $10 and is served at noon.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 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.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8
Second Sunday Lunch: The congregation is invited to enjoy lunch together after worship next Sunday, February 8, in Fellowship Hall.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 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.

NEWS AND NOTES

Transfiguration Sunday / Joe Cain Day: The worship service on Sunday, February 15, will be held at 9 a.m. at First Baptist Church. The service will be led by Rabbi Ed Boraz (Spring Hill Avenue Temple), the Rev. Trey Doyle (FBC), and the Rev. Lamar. Passes to help those traveling downtown for worship will be available in the sanctuary.

Mardi Gras Holidays: The church office will be closed February 16-17.

Ash Wednesday Service: There will be a service with the imposition of ashes at noon on February 18.

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.