

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.*

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, January 1, 2023 | 10:30 A.M.

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Gathering

PRELUDE *The Shepherds' Farewell (L'Enfance du Christ)*
Hector Berlioz

WELCOME **REV. ALEXANDRA HUTSON**

✠**CALL TO WORSHIP** *responsive*

In this Christmas season of great joy, we praise the Lord;
For in mercy and abundant steadfast love, God has become our Savior.
Even in times of danger and threat, we praise God, who has set us free from fear and death through Jesus Christ, the pioneer of our salvation.
With all creation , in the midst of the congregation, we praise and put our trust in God alone.
Let us worship God.

✠**HYMN** *Another Year Is Dawning*
SUNG TO THE TUNE "AURELIA"

Another year is dawning, dear Father let it be,
In working or in waiting, another year with Thee.
Another year of progress, another year of praise,
Another year of proving Thy presence all the days.

Another year of mercies, of faithfulness and grace,
Another year of gladness, in the shining of Thy face.
Another year of leaning upon Thy loving breast,
Another year of trusting of quiet, happy rest.

Another year of service, of witness for Thy love,
Another year of training for holier work above.
Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be,
On earth, or else in heaven, another year for Thee.

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.*

The nursery is available for ages infant through kindergarten.

***Children's worship packets** are available at the front of the sanctuary.*

✠Prayer of Confession *unison* **Carter Hale Jr.**

Merciful God,
In great love you have claimed us as your children. We confess that we have not loved you as we should. We have not participated fully in your purposes and plans; we grow weary and give up when the way is hard. We have not loved our brothers and sisters as you intend. Complacent in the presence of injustice and violence, we fail to recognize our own complicity.

(Silence)

Forgive us, especially when we fail to protect children so vulnerable and precious in your sight. Forgive our misuse of power against people and against creation. Help us to praise you by living in harmony and peace. Do not be ashamed of us, we pray, but strengthen us in our time of testing. Set us free from fear that we may wholly trust in you. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who shared our flesh and blood. Amen.

✠Assurance of Pardon **Carter Hale Jr.**

✠Passing of the Peace **Rev. Alexandra Hutson**

✠Response | Hymn 133 *O Come, Let Us Adore Him (Refrain)*
ADESTE FIDELES

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination **Houston Jones**

First Reading Hebrews 2: 10-18

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks Be to God!

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

Second Reading Matthew 2: 13-23

The Gospel of the Lord.
Thanks Be to God!

Sermon: "Making Choices" **Rev. Alexandra Hutson**

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 145 *What Child Is This*
GREENSLEEVES

✠Affirmation of Faith *unison* **Houston Jones**

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; 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 143 *Come and Worship! (refrain)*
REGENT SQUARE

Offering **Houston Jones**

Offertory *I Believe in God the Father*
The Sanctuary Choir Hymn 481; Genevan 42

I believe in God the Father, merciful and mighty Lord, maker of the earth and heavens, whom we worship and adore; and in Jesus Christ the Son, only Savior, sovereign one, by the Holy Spirit given, born of Mary, blessed virgin.

Under Pilate, Jesus suffered, faithful to his final breath. He was crucified and buried, and descended into death. From the grave he did arise; he ascended through the skies; now enthroned with God in heaven, he will judge the dead and living.

I believe in God the spirit, and the church in every place; saints in glorious communion, all forgiven, full of grace; flesh and blood will live again; life in Christ will never end. Holy spirit, Son and Father: I will praise your name forever.

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

✠Prayer Of Thanksgiving **Houston Jones**

Prayer of Intercession and The Lord's Prayer **Rev. Alexandra Hutson**

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 136 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*
GO TELL IT

✠Benediction **Rev. Alexandra Hutson**

Postlude *"Ding Dong! Merrily on High"*
arr. Mary McDonald



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Send news for the e-newsletter or bulletin to Heather Hamilton at heather@gspcmobile.org, or to Sally Ericson at sallyericson23@gmail.com.

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the pulpit are given to the glory of God.

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

Worship at 10:30 a.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 2

Church Office closed.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3

Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Library. Contact: Mary Elizabeth Perry.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4

Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the Library. Contact: Bo Perry.

Handbell Choir Rehearsal: 5:15 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Choir Rehearsal: 6 p.m. in the choir room.



The staff of GSPC would like to thank the congregation for their generous Love Gifts. Happy New Year!

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.