

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.*

Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 3, 2023 | 10:30 A.M.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gathering

PRELUDE *Improvisation on "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*
Chris Nemec

INTROIT *Mary's Song (Celebrate Life)*
Buryl Red
Meredith Wilson, *mezzo soprano soloist*; Jarrett Callaway, *guitar;* the Sanctuary Choir

Sing, my soul, the greatness of the Lord. Rejoice, my spirit, rejoice in God,
my Savior. So tenderly has He regarded me, so wondrously has He exalted me. All generations shall call me blest. For His name is holy, He is the mighty one.
His mercy is ever sure.

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

✠CALL TO WORSHIP
AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *responsive*

WILLIE, ANNA AND GINNY JONES

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 82 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*
HYFRYDOL

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION *unison* **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

Holy God, we are not ready for your coming. We live in fear, as though there is no salvation. We live in sin, as though there is no grace. We live in despair, as though there is no hope. Hear our silent prayers of confession.

(silence)

Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us with your truth, and teach us by your grace, for you are the God of our salvation. Through Christ, our light and our hope, 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.*

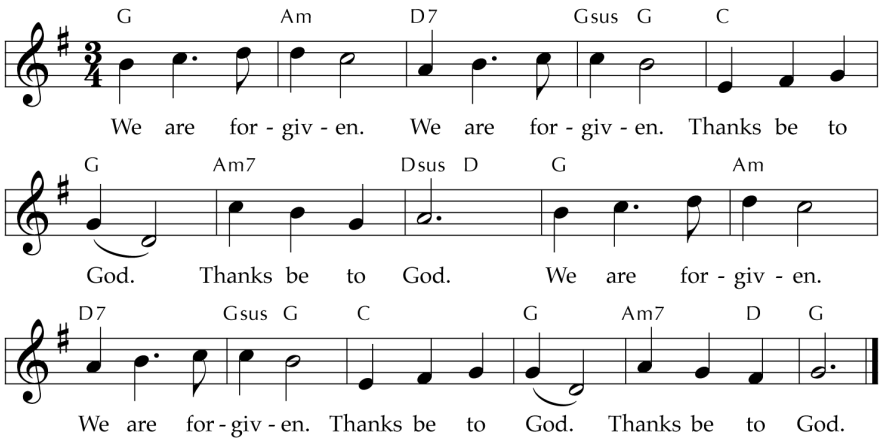
***The Apostles' Creed** is on Page 35 of The Hymnal.*

✠Assurance of Pardon

✠Passing of the Peace

✠Response | Hymn 447 *We Are Forgiven*

WE ARE FORGIVEN



Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination **Richard Otts**

First Reading Isaiah 64: 1-9

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks Be to God!

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

Second Reading Luke 1: 67-80

The Gospel of the Lord.
Thanks Be to God!

Sermon: "Song of Zechariah" **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 92 *While We Are Waiting, Come*

WAITING

✠Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

Choral Response *Seven-Fold Amen*

The Sanctuary Choir Peter Lutkin

Offering

Offertory *Magnificat (Christmas Cantata)*
James Richens

Gabrielle Corlett, *Soprano soloist*; The Sanctuary Choir

Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done unto me as you have said. Oh my soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. His mercy is on all people throughout the ages, for He that is mighty has lifted up the low, and Holy is His name. From henceforth all generations shall call me blessed, for He that is mighty has done to me great things. And Holy is His name.

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

✠**Prayer Of Thanksgiving**

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.

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 *is on Page 35 of The Hymnal.*

Breaking of the Bread
Communion of the People
Communion Meditation *Veni, Emmanuel*
Richard Purvis

Ave Maria (Opus 52, No. 6)
Franz Schubert

Prayer After Communion

Sending

✠**Hymn 96** *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*
WINCHESTER NEW

✠**Benediction** **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Postlude *Improvisation on "Lift Up Your Heads"*
arr. C. Nemec

Sunday, December 10

Join us next Sunday as the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar continues her sermon series "Songs of the Season." The sermon is titled "Song of Mary" with scripture from Isaiah 40:1-11 and Luke 1:39-56. Music will include John Ness Beck's setting of both "Every Valley" (Isaiah 40:4, 5) and "He Shall Feed His Flock" (Isaiah 40:11), as well as familiar hymns for Advent.



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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 Stewart Ashbee
by his family.

Calendar of Events

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

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.
Session/Diaconate Meeting and Dinner: The Session and the Diaconate will have a joint dinner together at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The Diaconate will have a brief meeting before the dinner at 5 p.m. in the Library.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

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 10

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

December Birthdays

December 1: Coleman Callaway
December 2: McCain Walker
December 3: William Heisterhagen
December 4: David Trent
December 5: Travis Goodloe, Sonny Otts
December 8: Guy Helmsing
December 12: Mark Wyatt
December 13: Becky Baumhauer
December 14: Ann Thomas Lamar
December 15: Brooke Baker, Beth Walmsley
December 19: Bradley Daugherty
December 20: Margaret Browning, Beth Majure
December 21: Jay Roberds
December 23: Clint Akers
December 26: Isabelle Tanner
December 27: Glenn Adams
December 28: Paul Ray
December 29: Marthabelle Blanton, Charles Markle
December 30: Sallye Irvine, Sarah Otts

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.