

"The Good That Is Yours" | Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art | sanctifiedart.org

*This Advent season, we are using resources from **A Sanctified Art**, an online ministry that supports worshiping communities in integrating art and creativity into their spiritual practices.*

***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.*

***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.*

Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 15, 2024 | 10:30 A.M.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gathering

PRELUDE *Caroling, Caroling*
Alfred Burk; arr. Ovid Young

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

MINUTE FOR MISSION: Baytreat Update **DAVID TRENT**

INTROIT *Every Valley*
John Ness Beck

The Sanctuary Choir

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry mountain made low; and the crooked straight; and the rough places plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. Amen. (Isaiah 40: 4, 5)

✠CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *responsive*
KATHERINE OGBURN, KYLE OLIVER, AND SHEP OLIVER

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?
Let us start small. Let us begin with what is right in front of us. Let us do the good that is ours to do, and let us do it with joy!

Yes, let us begin with joy. Today we light the candles of hope, peace, and joy.

All: May these lights remind us of what could be. May these lights inspire action. May the warmth of these lights fill us with joy.

May it be so! Amen.

✠HYMN 87 *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*
GENEVAN 42

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

Almighty God,
There are days when the world can feel like it's crumbling. There are days when we doubt that we can make a difference. We ask ourselves,
"What could these two hands do?"
"What could this one voice say?"
Forgive us when we doubt your ability to use us for your purposes. Forgive us when we neglect to do good in your name. Hear our silent prayers of confession.

(Silence)

Shake us free of our own paralysis and self-doubt. Remind us that we are not called to fix everything. We can simply do the good that is ours to do. With joy in our hearts, we pray in Christ's name. 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 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.*

***New 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 88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (refrain only)*

VENI EMMANUEL

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination **Buzzy Riis**

First Reading: Isaiah 58: 9b-12

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

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

Second Reading: Luke 3: 7-16

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God!

Sermon: "Do the Good That Is Yours to Do" **Rev. Lamar**

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 140 *Once in Royal David's City*

IRBY

✠Affirmation of Faith: John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Offering

Offertory *Song of Mary (Celebrate Life)*

Buryl Red

The Sanctuary Choir; Meredith Wilson, *mezzo soprano soloist*

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, his name is holy, He is the mighty one. His mercy is ever sure.

✠Response | Hymn 606 *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host; Praise, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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.

✠Prayer Of Thanksgiving

Prayer Of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer

Sending

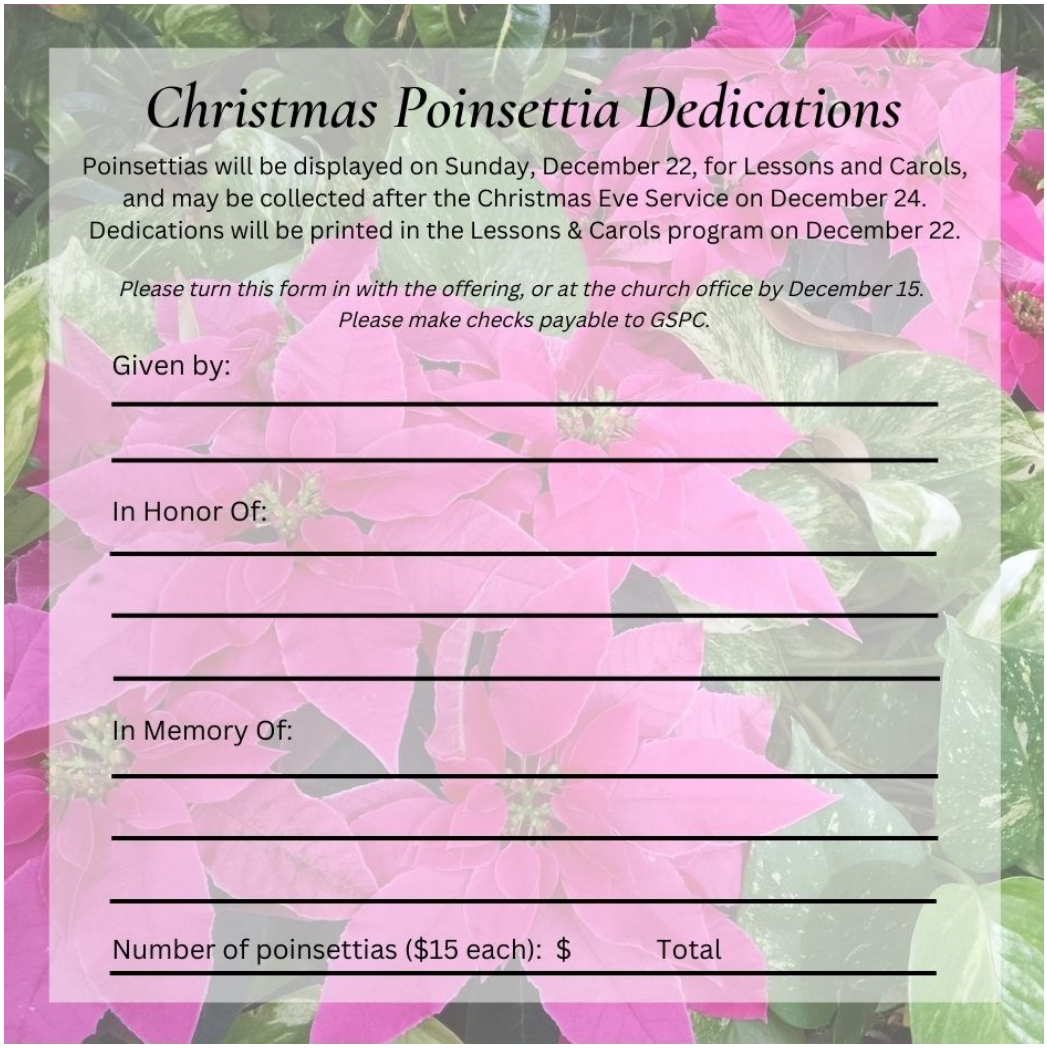
✠Hymn 128 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*
W ZLOBIE LEZY

✠Benediction **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Postlude *Toccata on "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"*
George Wright

Sunday, December 22

Join us next Sunday as we present our annual Lessons and Carols service, the Christmas story as told through scripture and music. Music includes numerous favorite congregational carols, as well as choral settings of "Coventry Carol," John Rutter's "Star Carol" and a rousing setting of "Go Tell It on the Mountain."





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Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the pulpit are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Louise Ellis Oswalt
by Coleman Oswalt, Margaret Vidmer and Lyle Hutchison,
and Ashley and Guy Oswalt.

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
Christmas Luncheon: Dinner Club members are invited to the annual Christmas luncheon in the Guesnard House immediately after worship. New Dinner Clubs for January-May 2025 will be created later in December. If you would like to join a Dinner Club, contact Blanche Parsons (251) 348-7037 or Linda Reynolds (251) 510-6913.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17
Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 9 a.m. at the home of Ann Adams. The group is studying the Gospel of Matthew with the Rev. George Sinclair. Everyone is welcome.
Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Library. Contact: Mary Elizabeth Perry.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18
Advent Wednesday Service: Noon in the Sanctuary, followed by lunch in Fellowship Hall at 12:30 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal: 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the choir room.
Men's Bible Study: 6 p.m. in the Library and via Zoom. Contact: Bo Perry.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22
Service of Lessons and Carols: 10:30 a.m.
GSPC Youth Party and Service Project: The Youth will meet in the Fellowship Hall after worship for a light lunch, a Christmas Party, and to stuff stockings with treats for our Meals on Wheels clients.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24
Christmas Eve Service: 5 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29
There will be no Sunday School or Wee Worship.

ADDITIONAL NOTES
Flower Dedications: If you would like 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.

Staff Love Offering: The GSPC Staff Committee invites the congregation to show their appreciation to the GSPC staff by making a love offering to be shared among the staff. Checks or cash should be marked "For Staff Gift" and turned in to the church office before December 17.

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.