Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, May 19, 2024 | 10:30 A.M.

PENTECOST

Gathering

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 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.*

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.*

PRELUDE *Two Variations on "Veni, Creator Spiritus" (Come, Creator Spirit, Op. 4)*
Maurice Duruflé

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

INTROIT *Shine on Me*
Spiritual; arr. Rollo Dillworth

The Tenors and Basses of the Sanctuary Choir

Shine on me, oh shine on me. I wonder if the lighthouse will shine on me. Is a light shinin' above? Is it shinin' above in the heavens for me? I'm wonderin', wonderin', wonderin' if there's a light that is shinin' above in the heavens for me.

✠**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*responsive*)

In the beginning, the Holy Spirit breathed life into the world.
In the fullness of time, the Holy Spirit came to Mary, bringing Jesus to dwell among us.
At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit gave birth to the Church, offering good news for all.
Today, in this moment, even now, the Holy Spirit creates, redeems, and sustains us, leading us to participate in the new thing God is doing.
Let us worship God.

✠**HYMN 289** *On Pentecost They Gathered*
MUNICH

✠**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)

Creator God, we confess that we do not understand your Spirit, and we struggle to trust what we do not understand. Our fear leads us to ignore your commandments and forget what we have been taught. Too often we miss your still, small voice. Let your mercy quiet us, God. Fill us with your goodness and compassion as we offer our silent prayers of confession.

(silence)

Forgive us, Lord. Open us to the mystery of your gracious Spirit and to experience your peace. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

✠**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

✠**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

✠**RESPONSE | HYMN 581** *Glory Be to the Father*
GLORIA PATRI

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.*

The Brief Statement of Faith *was written in the 1980s when the Presbyterian Church (USA) was formed by the reunion of the northern and southern strands of Presbyterianism that divided before the Civil War. The statement offers one of the fullest descriptions of the Holy Spirit found in our denomination's Book of Confessions, emphasizing the Spirit's work in our present-day world.*

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer For Illumination **David Ericson**

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:1-8, 12-21

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

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:22-27

Sermon: "Spirit" **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Thanksgiving

✠**Hymn 279** *Come Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove*
ST. AGNES

✠**Affirmation of Faith:** From "A Brief Statement of Faith"
In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.
We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.
The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.
In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

✠Response *Three-fold Amen*
Eugene Butler; arr. Chris Nemec

Offering

Offertory *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*
Harold Friedell

The Sanctuary Choir

Text: No. 529 in The Hymnal

✠Response | Hymn 609 *Doxology*
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!

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.*

Prayer of Intercession and 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.

✠Hymn 66 *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*
PENTECOST

Sending

✠Benediction **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**

Postlude *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*
arr. Richard Elliott

Sunday, May 26

Next Sunday, May 26, the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar will preach on John 3:1-17, and her sermon titled "God So Loved the World." Choral music will include Ron Harris' "In This Very Room," and a rousing setting of Psalm 103, "Bless the Lord, O My Soul" by Ruth Watson Henderson, sung by the Sopranos and Altos of The Sanctuary Choir.



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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 with gratitude in honor of
Harriett Boster,
for her many years of faithful servanthood
in delivering memorial flowers each week
to various individuals.

Calendar of Events

TUESDAY, MAY 21

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.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

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

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: 6 p.m. in the Choir Room.

THURSDAY, MAY 23

PW Spring Gathering: 5:30 p.m. in the Guesnard House. The Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar will lead the Bible study. Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

COMING UP

Book Club: Meredith Johnston is leading a book discussion/club, which meets each month in the Church Library and via Zoom. The focus is on books about church history and biography. The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, May 28, at 5:30 p.m.** View the readings online in the May 15 e-newsletter. For more information, contact Meredith Johnston via email or at 251-323-5954.

Mark your calendars! Vacation Bible School is planned for the week of June 17-24.

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.