

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.*

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.*

Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, November 30, 2025 | 10:30 A.M.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Preparation for Worship

PRELUDE *Veni Emmanuel*
Leslie Betteridge

WELCOME **REV. REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR**

INTROIT *Gloria!*
Chris Nemec

The Sanctuary Choir
Translation: Glory to God in the Highest

✠CALL TO WORSHIP AND THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *(Responsive)*

RUSS, BLAIR, AND SALLY ETHERTON

In days of waiting and longing, God meets us here.
When prayers feel unanswered and hope feels far away, we bring our faith, fragile though it may be.
Like Mary, we bring our willingness to say "yes" and offer our whole hearts, our burdens, our surrender, our love.
We come, not to hide what weighs us down, but to lay it before the One who bears all burdens and brings hope to a weary world.
Today we light the candle of hope. May its light remind us that God draws near to the brokenhearted, and that we place our trust in Jesus Christ as we prepare for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus — light of the world, bearer of our burdens, hope of all who wait.

✠HYMN 401 *Here in This Place*

GATHER US IN

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Unison)*

Gracious God,

We enter this Advent season with our fears, our weariness, our grief, and our doubts. We long for wholeness, but we hesitate to stretch out our hands. We convince ourselves that our wounds are too deep, our stories too complicated, our faith too small to matter. Forgive us, Lord, when we fail to trust your promises. Hear our silent prayers of confession.

(Silence)

Have mercy on us, Lord. Lift the weight we carry and open our hearts to your mercy, and give us courage to reach for you again. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

✠ASSURANCE OF PARDON

✠PASSING OF THE PEACE

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.*

✠Response | Hymn 581 *Glory Be to the Father*
GLORIA PATRI

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination **Bligh Jones**

First Reading: I Kings 19:1-18

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon **Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar**
Wee Worship Leaders: Emily Watson and Stella Jackson

Second Reading: Mark 5:25-34

Homily: "Bringing Our Burdens" **Rev. Lamar**

Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 803 *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*
RESIGNATION

✠Affirmation of Faith *(From A Declaration of Faith; unison*) **Bligh Jones**

We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended. The world appears to be dominated by people and systems that do not acknowledge his rule. But his lordship is real. It demands our loyalty and sets us free from the fear of all lesser lords who threaten us. We maintain that ultimate sovereignty now belongs to Jesus Christ in every sphere of life.

Jesus is Lord. He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord.

Offering

Offertory *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*
Taylor Davis

The Sanctuary Choir

Text: No. 82 in The Hymnal

✠Response | Hymn 143 *Angels, From the Realms of Glory (Verse 4)*
REGENT SQUARE

All creation join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son, ever more your voices raising to the eternal Three in One: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

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.*

Visiting? Welcome to GSPC, *where we hope you'll find our worship meaningful, our fellowship warm and our ministry exciting. Come again! 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.*

Next week at GSPC: *Join us next Sunday, December 7, as Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar continues her sermon series "Come, Emmanuel" with a sermon titled "PEACE: Quiet in the Chaos" using the texts Isaiah 43:1-2 and Mark 4:35-41. Music includes the Children's Choir singing "The First Nowell," the Handbell Choir playing settings of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" and "O Come, All Ye Faithful" and the Sanctuary Choir singing John Ness Beck's "Every Valley."*

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✠Prayer of Thanksgiving

✠Hymn 851 *Come, Bring Your Burdens to God*
WOZA NOTHWALD WAKHO

Bringing our burdens 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.

Sending

✠Hymn 86 *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*
GENEVAN42

✠Benediction **Rev. Lamar**

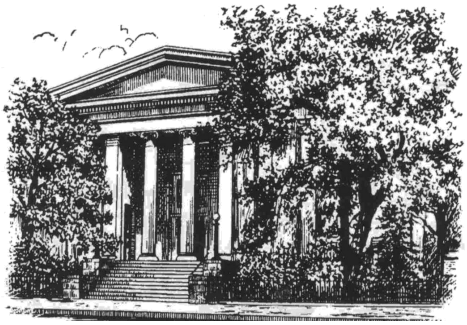
Postlude *Improvisation on "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*
HYFRYDOL

Holiday Giving

The congregation is invited to purchase Christmas gifts for 40 children on the Angel Tree in the Jackson Street foyer. The tree will be on display through December 7. Please deliver your unwrapped gifts to the church before December 9.

The congregation is invited to order Christmas poinsettias in memory of or in honor of a loved one. Please use the form below. You may also call the church office to place an order. Please make checks to GSPC.





300 Government Street
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251-432-1749 | gspcmobile.org
Member PC (USA)

CHURCH STAFF

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Willie Mae King
Director of Food Services
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Marilyn Mills
Arthur Lewis
Sexton(s)

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
Mr. John B. Waterman
Mrs. Annie Louise Waterman
Mr. Thaddeus Harrison
Mr. Carroll B. Waterman
Mrs. Helen Waterman Van Aken
Mr. Thaddeus H. Waterman
Mr. John B. Waterman, II
by their descendants, Melissa Waterman Inge
and Annie Waterman Uphaus.

Calendar of Events

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2
Theology on Tap, 5:30 p.m.: Join us for Bible study and fellowship in the Guesnard House. The facilitators are Casi and Jarrett Callaway. All are welcome.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3
Advent Wednesday Service, noon: Join us in the sanctuary for the first Advent mid-week service. The Advent Wednesday Services will continue on December 10 and December 17.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4
Interfaith Bible Study, 5:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church: Join "Two Pastors and a Rabbi," the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar, the Rev. Trey Doyle and Rabbi Ed Boraz, for Bible study and fellowship. All are welcome.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7
Christmas Sunday Luncheon: All of the Dinner Clubs are invited to the annual Christmas luncheon in the Guesnard House following worship. Please bring a side dish; the meat will be provided.

A NOTE FROM THE STAFF COMMITTEE
Thanksgiving is a good time to pause and, well, give thanks. As such, please consider the tremendous efforts of our rather small staff here at GSPC. Their dedication and devotion each week throughout the year are truly a blessing, so please consider a contribution to the Staff Christmas Love Gift, which will be divided up among our church employees. Checks should be payable to GSPC and marked "For Staff gift" and directed to Dawn Hearn, our financial secretary, by December 15.
Thank you – GSPC Staff Committee; Harris Oswalt, Chair

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 in January and February. 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.

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.