



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sharing the heart of God from the heart of downtown Macon.



The Church at Worship SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 12, 2026 | Eleven O'clock

Welcome to Mulberry Street UMC!

WELCOME TO THIS SERVICE OF WORSHIP!

We are a church on a mission to share the heart of God from the heart of downtown Macon. This year we are celebrating 200 years of this Church worshipping on this corner of First & Mulberry. To learn more about our Bicentennial year and how we're celebrating this milestone, visit mulberrymethodist.org/bicentennial.

Check out the back of the bulletin to see the news of the church!

CONNECT WITH US

Please fill out a Connection Card found in the back of the pew if you are visiting with us, would like to sign up for upcoming events, have a prayer request, or need to update your contact information.

We invite you to visit us at mulberrymethodist.org.

Stay updated on the Mulberry community by subscribing to our weekly newsletter! Visit bit.ly/mul-news to sign up.

Our 11:00 a.m. worship service is livestreamed on Facebook & YouTube. You can download the Sunday bulletin at mulberrymethodist.org/bulletins.

GIVING

You can make your offering to God by visiting mulberrymethodist.org/give or by scanning the QR code, which will take you directly to our church's secure giving website.



ACCESSIBILITY

Hearing Assistive devices are available and can be found in the narthex by the usher station. Please ask an usher for assistance locating them.

For information or comments on accessibility, contact Hunter Godsey at hgodsey@mulberrymethodist.org.

The flowers on the altar are given for the Glory of God and in loving memory of his mother, Rita Herger, by Harold Downs.

The artwork on the cover is "The Incredulity of Saint Thomas" by Caravaggio.
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Caravaggio_incredulity.jpg

*Please rise in body and/or in spirit. **Bold Type** indicates congregational participation

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be;
world without end. Amen.

Proclamation & Response

Anthem

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

Claude L. Bass

Jesus, Thou joy of loving hearts,
Thou fount of life, Thou light of men,
from the best bliss that earth imparts,
we turn unfilled to Thee again.

Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood;
Thou savest those that on Thee call;
to them who seek Thee, Thou art good,
to them who find Thee all in all.

Our restless spirits yearn for Thee,
where'er our changeful lot is cast;
glad when Thy gracious smile we see,
blest when our faith can hold Thee fast.

O Jesus, ever with us stay,
make all our moments calm and bright;
chase the dark night of sin away;
shed o'er the world Thy holy light.
- *Bernard of Clairveaux*

* Scripture Reading

John 20:19-31 (*Pew Bible pg 883*)

Rev. Stone

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

This is the word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Reach Out and Touch”

Rev. Stone

Thanksgiving & Communion

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Stone

Confession and Pardon

Rev. Stone

All: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All pray in silence.

One: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God’s love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

Offertory

Let Us Break Bread Together

arr. Gilbert Martin

Make your offering to God online by visiting mulberrymethodist.org/give or in the offering plate.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Sung Communion A (pages 17-18)

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

...as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

...all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Breaking the Bread

Children are welcome to receive communion at the discretion of parents.

Let an usher know if you wish to be served in the pew.

Gluten free bread is available on the pedestal at the base of the steps.

An offering plate along the sanctuary wall is available for a communion offering, which is designated for the pastor's discretionary fund.

Prayer after Communion

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending Forth

* Closing Hymn No. 318

Christ Is Alive

TRURO

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Stone

Closing Voluntary

Christ Is Alive!

arr. Jonathan Reuss



News of the Church

Second Sunday Lunch | Today, April 12 | 12 pm | Fellowship Hall

Everyone is invited to meet in the Fellowship Hall after Worship for our monthly potluck lunch. Come enjoy great food, laughter, and fellowship around the table!



Found Faithful at Mulberry & First: Celebrating 200 Years

This year we are celebrating 200 years of this Church worshiping and serving our community on this corner of First and Mulberry. To learn more about our Bicentennial year and how we're honoring our past, celebrating our present, and envisioning our future together, visit mulberrymethodist.org/bicentennial.

Important Spring Dates:

Sunday, April 26 - Bicentennial Celebration Sunday

Saturday, April 25 - The Mozart Requiem featuring the Ainsworth Choir

Saturday, April 25 - 200 Remarkable Years: A 1-Hour History Stroll with Creede Hinshaw

Keep up with us online!



Stay updated on the Mulberry community by subscribing to our weekly newsletter!

To sign up, visit bit.ly/mulnews or scan the QR code.

You can find us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube at [@MulberryMethodist](https://www.instagram.com/MulberryMethodist)

Visit our website at mulberrymethodist.org for our calendar, service recordings, newsletter archives, and more!

REV. JACK VARNELL
Senior Pastor

REV. PAYTON STONE
Associate Pastor

ELISA REECE
Director of Family Ministries

DR. TERRE JOHNSON
Director of Music

DANIEL MCINTOSH
Organist

MILLIE THOMPSON
Director of Communications

THE AINSWORTH CHOIR

GEORGE DUNN
Crucifer

**EMILY CARROLL
& THOMAS DUNN**
Candle Lighters

REV. DR. RICK LANFORD
KIM LANFORD
AMY MORGAN
Communion Servers

A Bicentennial Moment

In conjunction of Mulberry's upcoming Bicentennial Celebration in 2026, the Leonard Hill Cochran Historical Room presents a moment of Mulberry history.
Carolyn Kennedy Dominy, Church Historian

Music at Mulberry continued:

In May 1950 as part of the Celebration of Mulberry's 150th anniversary, James C. Cripps, Organist-Director of Music at Mulberry Street UMC, presented at concert that included works of Bach, Messiaen, Handel and Listz. March 1987, the Ainsworth Choir presented at program of Sacred Music dedicated to the memory of Crockett Odom, long time Music Director and organist at Mulberry. From the age of 6, Mr. Odom studied music with various teachers all through his boyhood and young manhood. During his military career (1942-1945) when station at Harvard teaching naval communications, he shared his talents by playing the organ in the chapel and at the death of President Franklin Roosevelt, he was honored by being asked to play for the memorial service held in the Chapel. Upon his return to Macon, he continued as Mulberry's organist until the mid-1970s, always an encouragement to young musicians in the area, especially students at Wesleyan College.

There were many musical events during the 1980s presented by the young and older members of Mulberry. May 1989 "Uniquely Yours" was presented which was an attempt to help teenagers move a few steps along the path to a mature Christian faith. "A Lenten Evensong" was performed February 1988 at 6:30 p.m. A "Pops Concert" was held May, 1985 with such songs such as "Waiting for the Robert E. Lee, Alexander's Ragtime Band," and selections from the plays "South Pacific" and "The Music Man."
(to be continued)

Eastertide

The Easter Season begins on Easter Day and ends on Pentecost. It focuses on Christ's resurrection and ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit. The paraments in the sanctuary are white to represent purity & joy.


Mulberry Street
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

719 Mulberry Street
478.745.8601
mulberrymethodist.org
Office Hours M-Th 8:30am - 5pm