



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



The Church at Worship THIRD SUNDAY IN EASTER

April 19, 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 to the glory of God and in loving memory of Charles and Mary Jean Yates by their three daughters Avan Moore, Jeanna Wright and Julie Yates

*The artwork on the cover is "Irises" by Vincent van Gogh.
<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/436528>*

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary *Rejoice the Lord is King* arr. Henry Coleman

Welcome & News of the Church Rev. Jack Varnell & Rev. Payton Stone

Greeting & Call to Worship Rev. Stone

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

The good news of Easter continues: Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

We continue to celebrate all that Easter means for us.

We thank God for new life and forgiveness and resurrection.

Today, we worship the one who makes this all possible.

Praise be to God and our risen Savior Jesus Christ.

We are Easter people this day and forevermore!

* Opening Hymn No. 66 *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* LAUDA ANIMA

* Affirmation of Faith *The Apostle's Creed* Rev. Stone

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

* Gloria Patri GREATOR EX

**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.**

Children 5th grade and under are invited to leave for Godly Play at this time.
 Children may be picked up on the 2nd Floor in the Godly Play classroom after the service.

Proclamation & Response

First Reading

Psalm 16 (Pew Bible pg 430)

Rev. Stone

Preserve me, O God, for in thee I take refuge. I say to the Lord, "Thou art my Lord; I have no good apart from thee." As for the saints in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight. Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows. The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; thou holdest my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage.

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also dwells secure. Thou dost show me the path of life; in thy presence there is fulness of joy, in thy right hand are pleasures for evermore.

* Hymn No. 396

O Jesus, I Have Promised

ANGEL'S STORY

Anthem

O Praise Ye the Lord!

Parry, Arr. Lohman

Antiphonal Quartet: Katie Trotter, Sierra Sanders, Morgan Whitley, William Little

O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height;
 rejoice in his word, ye angels of light;
 ye heavens adore him by whom ye were made,
 and worship before him, in brightness arrayed.

O praise ye the Lord! Praise him upon earth,
 in tuneful accord, ye sons of new birth;
 praise him who hath brought you his grace from above,
 praise him who hath taught you to sing of his love.

O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving and song
 to him be outpoured all ages along:
 for love in creation, for heaven restored,
 for grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord!
 Amen.

- Henry Williams Baker

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For he who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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

Sermon

"The Newness of Life"

Rev. Varnell

Morning Prayer

Rev. Stone

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.

Offering of our Tithes & Gifts

Offertory

Organ Sonata No. IV in B-flat Major Op. 65
II. Andante religioso

Felix Mendelssohn

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

* Doxology

OLD 100TH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Sending Forth

* Closing Hymn No. 580

Lead On, O King Eternal

LANCASHIRE

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Hymn to Joy

arr. Albert L. Travis



News of the Church

Tour the Mulberry Organ with Daniel | Today | Following worship

Today after worship, our organist Daniel McIntosh will be leading a tour of Mulberry's organ. This is the last tour Daniel will lead before the restoration of the organ begins - come ask questions and learn about what the restoration will entail. Meet at the front of the sanctuary following worship to get a behind-the-scenes view of our beautiful organ!



Found Faithful at Mulberry & First: Celebrating 200 Years

This year we are celebrating 200 years of this Church worshipping 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.

200 Remarkable Years: A 1-Hour History Stroll

Uncover Mulberry's holy and hidden, faith-filled and forgotten history.

Saturday, April 25 • 11 am • Begins on Mulberry's front steps.

Reservations encouraged - call the church at 478-745-8601.

The Mozart Requiem: A Concert in Memory of Our Methodist Forebears

Featuring Mulberry's Ainsworth Choir, the Georgia Southern Chorale and full orchestra

Saturday, April 25 • 7 pm • MSUMC Sanctuary

Bicentennial Celebration Sunday

Celebrating 200 years through prayer, song and praise! Bishop Robin Dease, preaching

Sunday, April 26 • 11 am Sanctuary Worship • Luncheon following in Fellowship Hall

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

BEN MORRIS
Crucifer

**DREW MORRIS
& RAMZI HARLEY**
Candle Lighters

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 1982, Macon's first Cherry Blossom Festival began as a small three-day event at Wesleyan College. Because it was so popular, it quickly became an annual tradition. As part of the festivities, Mulberry Methodist has been a huge part of musical events during the weeklong celebrations. In 1995, the Macon Symphony Youth Orchestra performed on a Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. in Mulberry's sanctuary. The Youth Orchestra was in its fourth season with over sixty members and open to students of middle school through college age and consisted of students from fourteen different schools in the Middle Georgia area, as well as home educated students. Over the years during the Cherry Blossom Festival, Mulberry and the Macon chapter of the American Guild of Organist have sponsored weeklong, daily concerts. Some of talented musicians who have taken part in this popular event during the festival are Gerald Carper, Chris Henley, Valentina Huang (student at Wesleyan College, native of China), Camille Bishop, Dennis Cleary, Bruce Bishop, trombonist, Roy Johstono, trumpet, and Susan McDuffie.

In 2022, Mulberry's own Terre Johnson and the Ainsworth Choir, performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City with other singers and a symphony orchestra performed Johnson's "Magnificat", a new 30-minute work for choir and orchestra commissioned by the Holy Innocents Episcopal Church in Sandy Springs Georgia to commemorate their 150th anniversary.

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