



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



The Church at Worship

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

November 23, 2025 | 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 by fostering healing for the broken places of life. Methodists have been worshipping Father, Son, & Holy Spirit on this corner since 1826.

You are invited to become a living part of this vital congregation.
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.

If you are visiting with us for the first time, please find an usher to receive a welcome gift!

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. You can download the Sunday bulletin at mulberrymethodist.org/worship/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 honor of Naomi Gerson, given by the Lamback Small Group.

The artwork on the cover is "Still Life—Flowers and Fruit in White and Pink Bowl".
<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/18006>

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary

Prelude on Kremser

arr. Dale Wood

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.

Open your hearts that the King of glory may come in.

Our hearts are open to King Jesus.

Open your minds that the King of truth may come in.

Our minds are open to his truth and Word.

Open your spirits that the King of love may come in.

Our spirits are open to the King's love and goodness.

On this day we celebrate Christ as the King.

Christ is the King today, tomorrow, and forever.

Let us give thanks and worship!

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.

* Opening Hymn No. 694

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

* 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.

**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

First Reading

Colossians 1:11-20 (Pew Bible pg 956)

Rev. Stone

May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent. For in him all the fulness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

* Hymn No. 131

We Gather Together

KREMSER

Anthem

Pilgrim Song

American Hymn,
Arr. Ryan Murphy

My brethren, I have found
a land that doth abound
with fruit as sweet as honey;
The more I eat, I find,
The more I am inclined
To shout and sing hosanna.
My soul doth long to go where I may fully know
The glory of my Savior;
And as I pass along I'll sing the Christian song,
I'm going to live forever.

Perhaps you think me wild,
or simple as a child;
I am a child of glory;
I am born from above,
my soul is filled with love;
I love to tell the story.
My soul doth long to go where I may fully know
The glory of my Savior;
And as I pass along I'll sing the Christian song,
I'm going to live forever.

My soul now sits and sings
and practices its wings,
and contemplates the hour
When the messenger shall say,
'Come quit this house of clay,
and with bright angels tower.'
My soul doth long to go where I may fully know
The glory of my Savior;
And as I pass along I'll sing the Christian song,
I'm going to live forever.

Second Reading

Psalm 118:1-9, 28-29 (Pew Bible pg 492)

Rev. Varnell

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures for ever!
Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures for ever." Let the house of Aaron
say, "His steadfast love endures for ever." Let those who fear the Lord say,
"His steadfast love endures for ever." Out of my distress I called on the Lord;
the Lord answered me and set me free. With the Lord on my side I do not fear.
What can man do to me? The Lord is on my side to help me; I shall look in
triumph on those who hate me. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than
to put confidence in man. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to put
confidence in princes.

Thou art my God, and I will give thanks to thee; thou art my God, I will extol
thee. O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures
for ever!

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

Sermon

"The Only Way To Live"

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

Nun danket Alle Gott

arr. Eric H. Thiman

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. 102

Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Postlude on Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

arr. Jason Payne



News of the Church

A Message from Our Stewardship Committee Chair:

I echo Jack's gratitude for your generosity and faithfulness to support God's work at Mulberry. So far, 81 pledges are in place for annual giving of \$613,570. This is a terrific start toward our goal of 100 pledges for the 2026 giving year. God's future for Mulberry is bright!

Melissa Anderson, Stewardship Committee Chair

Office Closed for Thanksgiving | November 26-28

The Church Office will be closed Wednesday, November 26 through Friday, November 28 in observance of Thanksgiving. Regular office hours will resume Monday, December 1.

For emergencies, please call the church on-call number: 478-219-9926

UWF Coffee & Chocolate Sale | Sundays in the Atrium

The United Women in Faith will be selling Equal Exchange products on Sundays in the Atrium. They will have Coffee, Chocolate Bars, Hot Cocoa Mix, & Tea. Help support small farmers & local agencies providing help & healing!
Selling on November 23 & December 7.

Worship & Prayer | Wednesday, December 3 | 5:30 pm | Fellowship Hall

Come prepare your hearts and minds for Christmas and the birth of Christ with this special Advent Worship & Prayer service! This time of intentional contemplation, prayer, and music will help you start the season well. We will meet at 5:30 for dinner, and the service begins at 6:15.

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**

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

HENRY CARTER

Crucifer

REYNOLDS HEFNER

Candle Lighter

— *A Bicentennial Moment* —

In anticipation of Mulberry's upcoming Bicentennial Celebration in 2026, the Leonard Hill Cochran Historical Room presents a moment of Mulberry history:

Excerpts from "125th Anniversary Mulberry Street Methodist Church 1826-1926" booklet written by James Walter Wright Daniel, Professor Emeritus of History, Wesleyan College.

Founded in 1826, Mulberry Street Methodist Church of Macon, Georgia, now a century and a quarter old has a record of which its members are justly proud. The ground on which the church now stands has never been used for other than religious purposes. The original building was of logs, and the present one is the 4th constructed on the original site dating back to 1894. It was remodeled in 1928 when the large educational building was erected. At the meeting of the 1st Quarterly Conference in February 1925, a resolution was approved calling for a building and expansion program as the most fitting way to celebrate Mulberry's Centennial birthday. The time seemed propitious with recovery from World War 1 rapidly being achieved and prosperity seemed not just around the corner but on main street. Business was booming, stocks were selling fast.

The six-day celebration of the Centennial ended Sunday, April 11, 1926 and on that day \$134,000 was subscribed for the building fund. By November of 1926, subscriptions to the fund payable over a period of 5 years reached a total of \$150,000, the largest amount ever raised in any one year by the congregation. To be continued.

— *Christ the King Sunday* —

Christ the King Sunday is the concluding Sunday of the liturgical year, and marks the last Sunday before Advent begins. On this Sunday, we remember that the crucified Christ is the same Christ who came as a humble infant in a manger on Christmas.


Mulberry Street
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

719 Mulberry Street

478.745.8601

mulberrymethodist.org

Office Hours M-Th 8:30am - 5pm