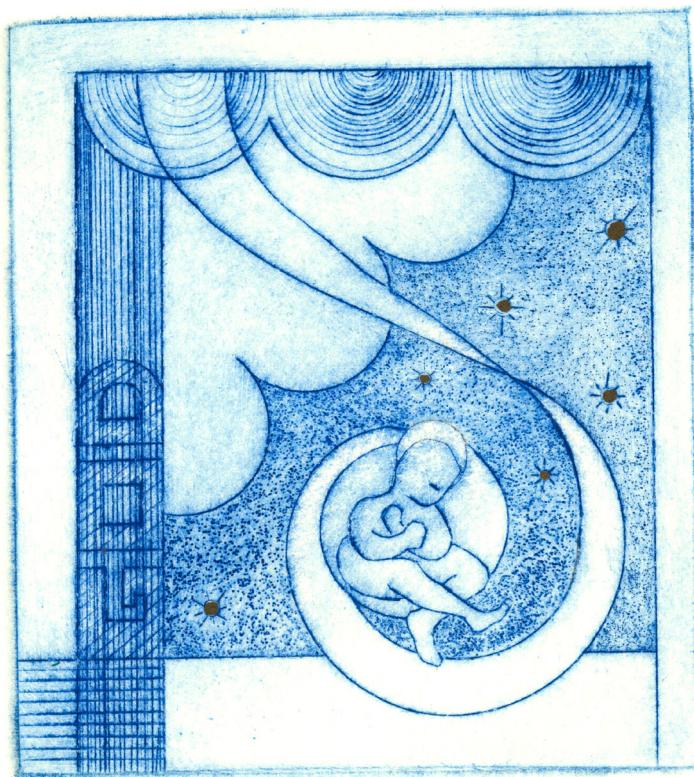


MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



The Church at Worship SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 7, 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 artwork on the cover is "The Word became Flesh" by Edie Mae Herrel.
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59789>

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

arr. Albert L. Travis

Welcome & News of the Church

Rev. Jack Varnell & Rev. Payton Stone

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Chris & Jennie Caldwell

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. 626

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY

* 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

GREATOREX

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

O Come, Emmanuel
Katie Trotter, Violin

Elaine Hagenberg

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine Advent here,
And drive away the shades of night, and pierce the clouds and bring us light!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!
O come, desire of nations, bind all people in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease, and fill the world with heaven's peace.
O rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!
- Latin, tr. John Neale (st. 1-2); Henry S. Coffin (st. 3)

* Scripture Reading

Matthew 4:12-17 (Pew Bible pg 785)

Rev. Varnell

Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

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

Communion Meditation

"The Gift of Jesus"

Rev. Varnell

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

Meditation on O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Paul Fey

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

* The Great Thanksgiving

Rev. Varnell

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.

Communion Music

IV. "...beside the still waters"
from Windows of Comfort (Based on Psalm 23)

Dan Locklair

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. 206 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

HOUSTON

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland BWV 599

J.S Bach



News of the Church

Christmas Caroling | Today! Sunday, December 7 | following Worship

Let's spread some holiday cheer! We will meet after Worship today and go over to PruittHealth Lakeside Nursing Home to sing our favorite traditional carols with the residents. We hope you'll join us for this fun annual tradition! Carolers, we will gather in the atrium before heading out.

Carols and Keyboards with the Ainsworth Choir | December 14 | 11 am Worship

The Ainsworth Choir will present a special musical performance as part of their Advent and Christmas observance. Come hear this celebration of the season during our 11:00 worship hour.

Second Sunday Lunch | December 14 | 12 pm

Bring a side dish or dessert to share and enjoy great food, laughter, and fellowship around the table! This monthly potluck is a great opportunity to connect with each other and with God while sharing a delicious meal.

Christmas Eve at Mulberry

• The ABCs of Christmas | 11:00 am | Fellowship Hall

Join us for this kid-friendly service in the Fellowship Hall! This program is designed with children in mind, and everyone is invited to participate in this interactive service that invites us all to be a part of the Christmas story.

• Evening Candlelight Service | 5:00 pm | Sanctuary

A joyous occasion featuring communion and singing by candlelight. Mark the highlight of the Advent season by joining together in worship!

Music of the season begins at 4:30 pm.

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

SPENCER & MEGAN SMITH

Lay Communion Servers

WILL MAGDA

Crucifer

EMILY STANSFIELD

& RUTH STANSFIELD

Candle Lighters

— *About Our Worship* —

Worship begins with God. When we gather for worship, God meets us and speaks to us, and we listen to God and respond. At Mulberry, our order of worship (liturgy) is divided into four movements.

In our “**Entrance and Praise**,” we come together in response to God’s invitation and prepare ourselves to hear God’s Word.

In our “**Proclamation and Response**” we are addressed by God through Scripture and our musical anthem; in this movement, we listen to readings from the Bible as well as a sermon, wherein God’s word is interpreted for the gathered community.

Once a month, we participate in “**Thanksgiving and Communion**.” In this movement, we come to the Table to celebrate what God has done in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, and we’re nourished by the special outpouring of grace offered in this sacred act.

The fourth and final movement is the “**Sending Forth**,” where we are blessed and sent into the world to share the heart of God with a world in need.

— *Season of Advent* —

The season of Advent, which is the four Sundays leading up to Christmas, is a time of preparation and anticipation for the coming of Christ. It is also the beginning of the church year. The color of the paraments is blue to represent the hope and expectation that define Advent.