

# MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



## The Church at Worship FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*December 21, 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](http://mulberrymethodist.org).

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

Visit [bit.ly/mul-news](http://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](http://mulberrymethodist.org/worship/bulletins).

### GIVING

You can make your offering to God by visiting [mulberrymethodist.org/give](http://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](mailto:hgodsey@mulberrymethodist.org).

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*The artwork on the cover is "Annunciation" by Henry Ossawa Tanner.*  
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54838>

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



## *Entrance & Praise*

Opening Voluntary

The Holy Boy

John Ireland

Welcome & News of the Church

Rev. Jack Varnell & Rev. Payton Stone

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Emory, Mary Charles, George & Thomas Dunn

Children's Nativity

Carols are sung by the congregation as the children present the nativity story.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;  
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in the dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Gentle Mary

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;  
There he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

The First Noel

The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

let every heart prepare him room,

and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven and heaven, and nature sing.

\* 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.

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*Proclamation & Response*

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\* Hymn

Sing, My Soul, and Magnify Him  
(Please see insert)

HYFRYDOL

Anthem

*With the Shepherds We Will Sing*  
Katie Trotter, Violin

Terre Johnson

With the shepherds I will sing,  
With the shepherds I will sing  
Songs of wonder, songs of joy  
To a newborn baby boy.  
As I care for all my lambs  
I will praise the great "I AM."

With the angels I will sing,  
With the angels I will sing  
Songs of glory fill the skies  
While the baby gently sighs.  
Sharing peace, goodwill for all  
I will join the angels' song.

With the wise men I will sing,  
With the wise men I will sing  
Songs of prophecies foretold,  
Worth our incense, myrrh and gold;  
As I follow yonder star  
I will share their song of awe.

With the village I will sing,  
With the village I will sing!  
Stars and angels showed the way  
To the manger filled with hay.  
Though the inn was cold and dark,  
I will offer him my heart.

\* Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26-38 (Pew Bible pg 831)

Rev. Varnell

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

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

Sermon

"She Said Yes"

Rev. Varnell

Morning Prayer

When prompted, the congregation responds:  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Rev. Stone

Written by Rev. Joanna Harader, from SpaciousFaith.com

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.

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### *Offering of our Tithes & Gifts*

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Offertory

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Johannes Brahms

You can make your offering to God online by visiting [mulberrymethodist.org/give](http://mulberrymethodist.org/give) or in the offering plate.

\* Doxology

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

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.

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### *Sending Forth*

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\* Closing Hymn No. 220

Angels from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

\* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Angels We Have Heard on High

arr. Daniel McIntosh



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## *News of the Church*

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### **The Longest Night Labyrinth Prayer Walk | Today | 4 - 7 pm | MSUMC Courtyard**

This afternoon, we will mark the longest night of the year with a special self-guided prayer walk through the labyrinth in the Mulberry courtyard. If you find yourself struggling this season, we invite you to come and be with these feelings and with God. We will have lighted luminaries and guided prayers for pilgrims walking through the path.

### **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.

### **End of Year Giving for 2025**

For year-end gifts to be credited to your 2025 giving record:

1) hand-deliver the gift to the church office before 12:00 p.m. on December 30  
OR

2) mail the gift with a postmark date of no later than December 31.

NOTE: Please mail checks to the church's PO Box: PO Box 149, Macon, GA 31202.

We thank you for support of Mulberry Street UMC and its many ministries!

### **Church Office - Holiday Hours**

The church office will be closed on: Thursday, December 25; Friday, December 26; Wednesday, December 31; Thursday, January 1; and Friday, January 2.

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### *Keep up with us online!*

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Stay updated on the Mulberry community by subscribing to our weekly newsletter!  
To sign up, visit [bit.ly/mulnews](http://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**

**GEORGE DUNN**

Crucifer

**THOMAS DUNN**

**& KATE EVANS**

Candle Lighters

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## *A Bicentennial Moment*

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

**125th Anniversary Mulberry Street Methodist Church  
1826 - 1926 written by James W. W. Daniel,  
continued**

After becoming senior Pastor at Mulberry, Dr. Edmund Cook analyzed the situation and set to work to better it. In a report of May 1933, he said the outstanding element in the present situation is the fact that Mulberry Street Methodist Church has "maintained a quality of life and loyalty that is far beyond the ordinary in spite of demoralizing disasters and destructive counter influences."

Two budget committees were formed and plans worked out to bring Mulberry back to her own. The congregation was much encouraged by a generous gift of some \$4,000 by Mr. A. C. Felton which made possible the payment of all local obligations and current operating expenses. It was suggested that posters be placed on the walls of the church setting forth outstanding events in her history. Towards the end of 1934, the work of the church was so heavy that an assistant pastor was appointed. At the suggestion of Mr. O. A. Park a stone boulder giving items of Mulberry's historic value was placed on the church lawn.

By May 1936, Mulberry had gained 133 new members.

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## *Season of Advent*

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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.

  
**Mulberry Street**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

719 Mulberry Street

478.745.8601

[mulberrymethodist.org](http://mulberrymethodist.org)

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

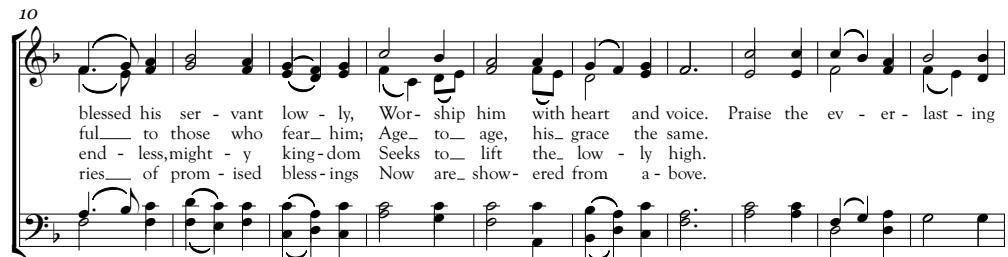
# Sing, My Soul, and Magnify Him

WORDS: Terre Johnson

TUNE: HYFRYDOL  
Roland H. Prichard



1. Sing, my soul, and magnify him; Dance my spirit and rejoice. God has  
2. Praise his might, his deeds of wonder! Holily, holily is his name! Mer- ci-  
3. All with pride-ful hearts are scattered, Rulers see their thrones de-nied. But his  
4. Good things now shall feed the hungry, See his over-flow-ing love! Cen-tu-



10  
blessed his servant low-ly, Worship him with heart and voice. Praise the ev-er-last-ing  
ful to those who fear him; Age to age, his grace the same.  
end-less, might-y king-dom Seek to lift the low-ly high.  
ries of prom-ised bless-ings Now are show-ered from a-bove.



20  
Fath-er, Wel-come his al-might-y Son,\_\_\_\_ Bless him, ev'-ry



27  
gen-er-a-tion, Gift of God's e-ter-nal love.