

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
Macon, Georgia*

The Church at Worship

*Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 17, 2016
Eleven O'clock*



Greeting in the Name of Christ

Rev. Jimmy Towson

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us worship God.

Preparing the Service

Dr. David Keith

Meditation for Preparation

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom;
teaching and admonishing one another
in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.
Colossians 3:16

Opening Voluntary

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

The Brass at Mulberry

Call to Worship

Margaret Brogdon

Praise be to you O God,
who has awakened us to a new day of living,
and who offers us a new life
that dawns with the light of your grace and love.

**(singing) Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love,
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
opening to the sun above.**

Praise be to you O God,
who spins galaxies through the eons of time and space,
who sets the evening sky ablaze with glory,
who breathes life into the most humble.

**(singing) All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.**

Praise be to you O God,
who emptied yourself to live as our Brother and Friend,
whose heart knows no barriers to compassion and mercy,
whose holy purpose is to lift us
into the fullness of joy and unity
with you and all Creation.

**(singing) Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,
all who live in love are thine:
Teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine!**

* Hymn No.158

“Come, Christians Join to Sing”

MADRID

* Opening Prayer

Ron Knight

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Creator God,

you hear us, our words in prayer,
our silent thoughts and pleas
and each note or melody we sing and play.

May our praises today connect with heaven
and unite our hearts with the sound of eternity.

Lord, may the gifts of our voices
and melodies of our instruments
move with the work of your Holy Spirit.

May we bring light into dark places,
restore hope and vision to all who are oppressed,
and well-being and health to all those who suffer.

Today Lord, we give you our worship.

May it be a platform for you to touch our lives afresh
and build your church. **Amen.**

* Affirmation (*to be read responsively*)

Ron Knight

We are God’s work of art –
each one of us a precious gem,
a marvelous melody,
a potter’s delight.

**We are God’s handiwork –
woven together in love,
shaped with infinite compassion,
painted with incredible beauty.**

We are the church of Jesus Christ –
diverse in human qualities,
but united in our call to love God with all our heart,
mind, soul, and strength,
and our neighbor as ourself.

**We are the Body of Christ –
living in his truth, sharing his peace,
carrying his hope, embodying his love,
in the world he loved so much.**

We are here to be reminded once more who we are
and what our lives are about.

**We are here to be lifted, renewed,
and empowered to live out the miracle of who we are,
by the power of God working among us.**

Together we worship the living God.

We open ourselves to God, who makes all things new.

Reflection

Dr. David Keith

Anthem

“Come Dwell in Solomon’s Walls” Z. Randall Stroope

*When the final timber lay ‘gainst the measured stones,
With the doorposts in their place overlaid with gold.
The Lord appeared to Solomon, blessing all the house,
the temple of the ark of God, pure and whole.*

Come dwell in Solomon’s walls,

Come and dwell in the house of the Lord.

*Where the humble bow down, seeking wisdom and strength,
For the Lord dwells within and heals their land.*

Come dwell in Solomon’s walls,

Come and dwell in the house of the Lord,

Where wisdom and righteousness,

Justice and holiness,

Join at the feet of God.

When the people of this house kneel and humbly pray,

When they turn from dark to light and your will obey,

O Lord of Heaven and Lord of earth,

show favor on this house,

And heal, restore, forgive, and bless.

Lord, we pray.

Come dwell in Solomon’s walls,

Come and dwell in the house of the Lord,

Where wisdom and righteousness,

Justice and holiness,

Join at the feet of God!

(Text by Z. Randall Stroope)

Anthem

“Jesu, the Very Thought is Sweet”

Mack Wilberg

*Jesu, the very thought is sweet;
in that dear Name all heart-joys meet;
But O than honey sweeter far
the glimpses of his Presence are.
No word is sung more sweet than this;
no name is heard more full of bliss;
No thought brings sweeter comfort nigh,
than Jesus, Son of God most high.*

*Jesu, the hope of souls forlorn!
 How good to them for sin that mourn!
 To them that seek thee, O how kind!
 But what art thou to them that find?
 Jesu, thou sweetness, pure and blest,
 life's Fountain, Light of souls distress'd;
 Surpassing all that heart requires,
 exceeding all that soul desires.
 No tongue of mortal can express,
 no letters write its blessedness;
 Alone who hath thee in his heart knows,
 love of Jesus, what thou art.
 (Words by Bernard of Clairvaux)*

Offering of our Gifts Harry Ward, Violin
 "Sarabande" (Partita No. 2 in D Minor) Johann S. Bach

* Doxology LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 praise God, all creatures here below:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
 Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
 Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Reflection Dr. David Keith

Anthem Mack Wilberg
 "How Firm a Foundation"

*How firm a foundation, ye Saints of the Lord,
 Is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
 What more can he say than to you he hath said,
 Who unto the Savior, who unto the Savior,
 Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?*

*In ev'ry condition, in sickness, in health,
 In poverty's vale or abounding in wealth,
 At home or abroad, on the land or the sea
 As thy days may demand, as thy days may demand,
 As thy days may demand, so thy succor shall be.*

*Fear not, I am with thee; oh, be not dismayed,
 For I am thy God and will still give thee aid.
 I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 Upheld by my righteous, upheld by my righteous,
 Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.*

*The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
 I will not, I cannot, desert to his foes;
 That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
 I'll never, no never, I'll never, no never,
 I'll never, no never, no never forsake!
 I'll never, no never, no never forsake! Amen!*
 (Text attributed to Robert Keen, 1787)

Anthem

“A New Commandment”

Claude L. Bass

*A new commandment give I unto you:
Love one another, as I have loved you.
As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.
Remain in my love.
If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love;
Just as I have obeyed my Father and abide in his love.
By this shall all men know that you are my disciples
By this shall all men know if you have love to one another.
As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.
Remain in my love.
If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love;
These things have I spoken unto you,
that my joy might remain in you,
and that your joy might be complete.
As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.
Remain in my love.
That my joy might remain in you,
and that your joy might be complete.
This is my command:
Love as I have loved you.*

(Text adapted from Matthew 13:34, 35 and Matthew 15:9-12)

*This anthem was commissioned by the Ainsworth Choir in 2012
in honor of Cam Bishop’s thirty years of service
to Mulberry Street UMC.*

Reflection

Dr. David Keith

Anthem

“My Jesus, I Love Thee”

Dan Forrest

*My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine.
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign.
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou,
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, ‘tis now.*

*I’ll love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death,
And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath;
And say when the death dew lies cold on my brow,
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus ‘tis now.*

*In mansions of glory, and endless delight,
I’ll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright.
I’ll sing with the glittering crown on my brow,
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, ‘tis now.*

(Words by William R. Featherstone, 1864)

* Hymn

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

HYFRYDOL

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
Fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast!

Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temple leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,

serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Organ and Brass Dismissal (*seated*)

“Toccata” (Symphony V)

Charles Marie Widor

* Benediction

Dr. David Keith

* *Please stand as you are able.*



Rev. Jimmy Towson, Senior Pastor
Ainsworth Choir
Dr. David Keith, Conductor
Cam Bishop, Director of Music/Organist
John Bryant, Trumpet
Clark Hunt, Trumpet
Josh Crook, Horn
Sam LoBue, Trombone
Patrick Hinton, Tuba
Marcus Reddick, Timpani
Harry Ward, Violin
Emma Johnston, Lead Acolyte
Hayden Martin, Crucifer
Ben Jamison & Hampton Tiller, Candlelighters

*The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in
loving memory of Estelle Stevens Mason, mother,
and Dr. R. Holmes Mason, father, of Emily Estelle Mason Clisby.*