

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
Macon, Georgia*

The Church at Worship

*Fifth Sunday of Lent
April 2, 2017
Nine O'clock*



Greeting in the Name of Christ

Rev. Jimmy Towson

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

Opening Voluntary

Partita on “Lord of the Dance”
(Variations 1, 3, 4, 5)

Noel Goemanne

Call to Worship

Rev. Bill Culpepper

Sometimes we say that we are a people of dry bones;
we are a people with hope.

**God says that we shall be raised from our living graves
and we shall be filled with Spirit.**

Sometimes we say that we are cut off from one another,
and our sources of joy are dried up.

**God says that we shall be at home with one another
and we shall live with celebration.**

Sometimes we come to worship aimless and fearful.

**Then God reveals wondrous works of love
and we come to know God.**

* Hymn of Praise No. 261

“Lord of the Dance”

LORD OF THE DANCE

* Opening Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Lord, open our eyes to your presence,
open our ears to your call,
open our hearts to your love;
that we may give ourselves completely to you
and walk before you as children of the light;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

* Affirmation of Faith
The Apostles' Creed

**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.**

Old Testament Lesson
Ezekiel 37:1-12 (NLT) (Selected Verses)

The word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Homily
“Giving Up Giving Up”

Rev. Jimmy Towson

Invitation to the Table

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God
and one another.

Confession and Pardon

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.

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!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God! Amen.

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Offering of our Gifts

The Great Thanksgiving Hymnal Page 13
(Communion responses are spoken.)

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

Giving the Bread and Cup

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.**

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

* Hymn of Discipleship No. 175
“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”

ST. AGNES

* Benediction

* *Please stand as you are able.*



*Rev. Jimmy Towson, Senior Pastor
Rev. Bill Culpepper, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministries
Cam Bishop, Director of Music/Organist*

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
April 2, 2017*

Today's Sermon
"Giving Up Giving Up"

Today's Scripture

Ezekiel 37:1-12 NLT (Selected Verses)

1 The LORD took hold of me, and I was carried away by the Spirit of the LORD to a valley filled with bones. 2 He led me all around among the bones that covered the valley floor. They were scattered everywhere across the ground and were completely dried out. 3 Then he asked me, "Son of man, can these bones become living people again?"

"O Sovereign LORD," I replied, "you alone know the answer to that."

4 Then he said to me, "Speak a prophetic message to these bones and say, 'Dry bones, listen to the word of the LORD! 5 This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Look! I am going to put breath into you and make you live again! 6 I will put flesh and muscles on you and cover you with skin. I will put breath into you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'" 7 So I spoke this message, just as he told me. Suddenly as I spoke, there was a rattling noise all across the valley. The bones of each body came together and attached themselves as complete skeletons. ... They all came to life and stood up on their feet—a great army...

11 Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones represent the people of Israel. They are saying, 'We have become old, dry bones—all hope is gone. Our nation is finished.' 12 Therefore, prophesy to them and say, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: O my people, I will open your graves of exile and cause you to rise again. Then I will bring you back to the land of Israel.'

Sermon Notes

Previous Sermons Available Online

*If you are interested in listening to previous sermons,
please visit our website at www.mulberrymethodist.org
and click on "Listen" on top right.*

Welcome All Visitors

*We welcome you to Mulberry Street United Methodist Church.
Please make sure you sign the **Attendance Register** as it is passed.*

***Nursery Care** is provided for children under 4 years of age.
Please ask an usher for directions to the Nursery.*

Up & Coming Events & Prayer List

*If you would like to have a copy of
Mulberry's Up & Coming Events and Prayer List,
please see an usher.*