

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church  
Macon, Georgia*

# *The Church at Worship*

*Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Confirmation Sunday  
April 24, 2016  
Eleven O'clock*



## **ENTRANCE AND PRAISE**

Greeting in the Name of Christ

Rev. Jimmy Towson

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

Opening Voluntary

“The Kingsfold Trumpet”

Alfred Fedak

Call to Worship

Gunn Bush

Praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights!  
**All the shining stars praise you, O God,  
for you commanded and they were created.**  
Praise the Lord from the earth,  
young men and women alike,  
old and young together!  
**Let everyone praise the name of the Lord,  
for your glory is above earth and heaven.**

\* Entrance Hymn No. 89

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

HYMN TO JOY

\* Opening Prayer

Rev. Bill Culpepper

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

God, you are the source of our life.  
Gather us now together, we pray.  
Form us into a holy community of your own people.  
Mold us by the breath of your holy spirit.  
Reveal in this corporate body  
the face of your anointed Christ. **Amen.**

Act of Praise

“Be Thou My Vision”

Ainsworth Choir

Alice Parker

*Children age 5K and under are invited to leave  
for children's church after the act of praise.*

## **THE SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION**

Introduction

Rev. Jimmy Towson

Presentation of Candidates

Pam Johnston

*Cooper David Baskette  
Seth Gunn Bush  
Austin Edward Carter, Jr.  
Olivia Jones Coleman  
Isabella Maria Ewing  
Madelyn McCard Fackler  
Langley Patrick Fickling  
Carys Josephine Fonner  
Benjamin Coleman Jamison  
Graham Vaughn Johnston  
Akins Francis Manley  
Olivia Churchwill Mann  
Georgia Hall Mercer  
Niklas Vaughn O'Dette*

Confirmation Mentors

*Emory Dunn  
Baxter James  
Gordon Johnston  
Paige Mann  
Brooke Kinross  
Marianne Lokey  
Rob Evans  
Freeda Chapman  
Paul Riley  
Creede Hinshaw  
Rader Sellers  
Courtney Baskette  
Nita Smith  
Becky Kerner*

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

\* Affirmation of Faith (*Written by the 2016 Confirmation Class*)

*Let us join together in professing our Christian faith.*

*Do you believe in God the Father?*

**We believe in God the Father,  
Creator and giver of all things,  
The omniscient protector who  
Forgives and loves us beyond our imagination.  
His power builds our faith and brings us together.**

*Do you believe in Jesus Christ?*

**We believe in Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God,  
who was crucified,  
buried and rose after 3 days.  
What a miracle that He, 100% God and 100% human,  
is our Teacher, Healer, Redeemer and friend.**

*Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?*

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, who came down as a dove,  
and whose power, like wind and fire,  
can change us.**

**The spirit inside sustains us and brings strength  
and wisdom to make good choices.**

**All these give us purpose,  
enabling us to be kind to others,  
be patient helpers and do God's work on Earth.**

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

\* Hymn No. 606

“Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine”

KINGSFOLD

**Come, let us use the grace divine, and all with one accord,  
in a perpetual covenant join ourselves to Christ the Lord;  
give up ourselves, thru Jesus’ power, his name to glorify;  
and promise, in this sacred hour, for God to live and die.**

**The covenant we this moment make be ever kept in mind;  
we will no more our God forsake, or cast these words behind.**

**We never will throw off the fear of God who hears our vow;  
and if thou art well pleased to hear, come down and meet us now.**

Confirmation with Laying on of Hands

Reception into Membership

Rev. Jimmy Towson

Congregational Commendation and Welcome

Members of the household of God,  
We commend these Confirmands to your love and care.  
Do all in your power to increase their faith,  
confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you  
and we welcome you in Christian love.  
As members together with you in the body of Christ  
and in this congregation  
of the United Methodist Church,  
we renew our covenant faithfully to participate  
in the ministries of the church  
by our prayers, our presence,  
our gifts, our service, and our witness,  
that in everything God may be glorified  
through Jesus Christ.**

Blessing

Rev. Jimmy Towson

The God of all grace,  
who has called us to eternal glory in Christ,  
establish you and strengthen you  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
that you may live in grace and peace. **Amen.**

Hymn No. 606 (*remain seated*)

“Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine”

KINGSFOLD

**Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, let all our hearts receive,  
present with thy celestial host the peaceful answer give;  
to each covenant the blood apply which takes our sins away,  
and register our names on high and keep us to that day!**

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

New Testament Reading  
Acts 8:26-38 (NIV)

Pam Johnston

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

Sermon  
“Chariot Riders”

Rev. Jimmy Towson

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offertory Prayer

Rev. Tommy Perkins

Offering of our Tithes and Gifts

“Come, Blessed Savior”

Camille Saint-Saëns

Nicholas Spooner, Tenor     James Hoskins, Baritone

*Come, blessed Savior.  
Grant us Thy blessing, we implore Thee.  
Come, weary of striving.  
We kneel before Thee. O blessed Savior.  
Grant us now thy peace and mercy.  
Souls faint with longing, pray for thy healing,  
balm of heavenly grace.  
Hear, O Lord, our prayer.  
Come, blessed Savior. Grant us thy blessing.  
We wait before Thee. Hear our humble prayer. Amen.*

\* 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.**

\* Invitation to Confirmation Reception  
in Parlor

Rev. Jimmy Towson

\* Hymn of Discipleship No. 159

“Lift High the Cross”

CRUCIFER

The Light of Christ Goes Into the World

*Please be seated after the cross and light pass your pew.*

Closing Voluntary

“Lift High the Cross”

Burkhardt

\* Benediction

Rev. Jimmy Towson

\* *Please stand as you are able.*



*Rev. Jimmy Towson, Senior Pastor*  
*Rev. Tommy Perkins, Associate Pastor*  
*Rev. Bill Culpepper, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministries*  
*Cam Bishop, Director of Music/Organist*  
*Ainsworth Choir*  
*Pam Johnston, Director of Children's & Family Ministries*  
*Emma Johnston, Lead Acolyte*  
*Hayden Martin, Crucifer*  
*Matt Newberry & Davis Uren, Candlelighters*

*The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God  
and in loving memory of Lucy Hall Gordon by her son,  
Don R. Gordon and his family.*

## **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**

*Mulberry's Up & Coming Events and Prayer List  
is located in the Registration Pads on your pew.*

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church*

*April 24, 2016*

**Today's Sermon**

“Chariot Riders”

**Today's Scripture**

Acts 8:26-38 (NIV)

<sup>26</sup> Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” <sup>27</sup> So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, <sup>28</sup> and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. <sup>29</sup> The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

<sup>30</sup> Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

<sup>31</sup> “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

<sup>32</sup> This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,  
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

<sup>36</sup> As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” <sup>37</sup> <sup>38</sup> And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

**Sermon Notes**

***Previous Sermons Available Online***

*If you are interested in listening to previous sermons,  
please visit our website at [www.mulberrymethodist.org](http://www.mulberrymethodist.org)  
and click on “Listen” on top right.*