

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church  
Macon, Georgia*

# *The Church at Worship*

*Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
August 23, 2015  
Eleven O'clock*



## **ENTRANCE AND PRAISE**

Gathering and Greeting Rev. Jimmy Towson

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us worship God!

Opening Voluntary

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Paul Manz

Call to Worship

Heidi Ream

O sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth!

**Sing to the Lord, bless God’s name;  
proclaim God’s salvation from day to day.**

Declare the Lord’s glory among the nations,  
the Lord’s marvelous works among all the people!

**For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.**

\* Entrance 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 temples 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.**

\* Opening Prayer

Rev. Tommy Perkins

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

Great and loving God,  
we come before you emptied of all that would distract,  
seeking all that would redeem.  
Let these moments not become so routine  
as to be predictable,  
nor so familiar as to be conventional.  
Prepare us for the unexpected.  
Open us to the movement of the Holy Spirit  
in praise of our Savior. **Amen.**

Confession and Pardon

Rev. Tommy Perkins

We cannot come before God  
unless we are first honest with ourselves  
about who we are,  
about the mistakes we make,  
and about how well or poorly we care for others.  
In this spirit, let us offer our prayers to God.

**Almighty God,**  
we confess how hard it is to be your people.  
**You have called us to be the church,  
to continue the mission of Jesus Christ  
to our lonely and confused world.**  
Yet we acknowledge we are more  
**apathetic than active,  
isolated than involved,  
callous than compassionate,  
obstinate than obedient,  
legalistic than loving.**

**Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins.  
Remove the obstacles preventing us  
from being your representatives to a broken world.  
Awaken our hearts to the promised gift  
of your indwelling Spirit.  
This we pray in the powerful name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*Silent Confession*

Hear the good news:

This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,  
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.  
He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,  
that we might be dead to sin,  
and alive to all that is good.

I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ,  
you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

Act of Praise

“What Does the Lord Require?”

Ainsworth Choir

Allen Pote

*What does the Lord require of you?  
With what shall you come to worship your God?  
What does the Lord require?  
Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.  
Sing to the Lord and take delight, sing with joy in your heart.  
Trust in the Lord and lean not upon your own understanding.  
In all your ways acknowledge him  
and you will be shown the right way.  
The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
is slow to anger and abounding in love.  
As a father shows compassion to his children,  
so the Lord will show compassion to the faithful.*

## **PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

Children’s Moments

Pam Johnston

*Children are invited to meet Pam on the chancel steps.  
K-4 and K-5 children will leave for  
Children’s Church after Children’s Moments.*

\* Gospel Reading

John 3:1-10 (NIV)

Heidi Ream

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Jimmy Towson

Not a Fan: Completely Committed Follower  
“Decision or Commitment?”

\* Hymn of Response

“Come, All Christians, Be Committed”

BEACH SPRING

**Come, all Christians, be committed  
to the service of the Lord.  
Make your lives for Him more fitted,  
tune your hearts with one accord.  
Come into His courts with gladness,  
each your sacred vows renew,  
turn away from sin and sadness,  
be transformed with life anew.**

**God’s command to love each other  
is required of everyone.  
Showing mercy to another  
mirrors His redeeming Son.  
In compassion He has given  
of His love that is divine;  
on the cross sins were forgiven;  
joy and peace now fully shine.**

**Come in praise and adoration,  
all who on Christ’s name believe.  
Worship Him with consecration,  
grace and love you will receive.  
For His grace give Him the glory,  
for the Spirit and the Word,  
and repeat the gospel story  
till the world His name has heard.**

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Prayer

Rev. Bill Culpepper

The Lord’s Prayer

Offering of our Gifts

“Rejoice Greatly, O My Soul”

Karg-Elert

\* 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!**

\* Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Rev. Bill Culpepper

## SENDING FORTH

- \* Hymn of Discipleship No. 389  
“Freely, Freely”

FREELY, FREELY

- \* The Light of Christ Goes Into the World

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

*As the light of Christ is carried out into the world,  
you are invited to remain seated for a few minutes  
of personal reflection to prepare to re-enter that world.*

*Consider prayerfully how God has been present to you  
in worship this morning and how you can be present  
for him in the world this week.*

*“Lift High the Cross” Donald Busarow*

- \* 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 of Youth Ministries*

*Cam Bishop, Director of Music/Organist*

*Ainsworth Choir*

*David Keith, Conductor*

*Pam Johnston, Director of Children's & Family Ministries*

*Heidi Ream, Lay Reader*

*Savannah Stone, Lead Acolyte*

*Micah Johnston, Crucifer*

*John Morgan Manley & Maddie McClure, Candlelighters*

*The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God  
and in loving memory of Bud S. Moss by his wife Jace Moss,  
Carter and Susan Moss,  
the grandchildren and great grandchildren.*

### **Welcome All Visitors**

*We welcome you to Mulberry Street United Methodist Church.*

*We are glad you have joined us this morning and hope  
that through word, music, fellowship and prayer,  
you will experience the presence of God today.*

*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.*

**Gospel Reading for the Week**

*Mark 10:46-52*

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church*

*August 23, 2015*

**Today's Sermon**

Not a Fan: Completely Committed Follower  
“Decision or Commitment?”

**Today's Scripture**

John 3:1-10

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

“How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things?”

**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.*