

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
Macon, Georgia*

The Church at Worship

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



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

“Rejoice Greatly, O My Soul”

Karg-Elert

Call to Worship

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.

* Hymn of Praise No. 384

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

BEECHER

* Opening Prayer

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

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

Betsy Swanson, Soprano

“What Does the Lord Require?”

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.*

Pastoral Prayer

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.**

Offering of our Gifts

* Doxology

OLD 100TH

**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.**

* Gospel Reading

Rev. Jimmy Towson

John 3:1-10 (NIV)

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?"

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

* Hymn of Discipleship

"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.**

OneLicense #A-712041

* Benediction

Rev. Jimmy Towson

* *Please stand as you are able.*



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

*The flowers in the chapel are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of his brother, Billy Julius
by Denny and Julie Julius.*

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

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.*

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 and click on “Listen” on top right.