

Mulberry Street United Methodist Church

Macon, Georgia

Epiphany of the Lord

January 6, 2019

Eleven O'clock

Entrance and Praise

Greeting in the Name of Christ

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

Voluntary

We Three Kings

Robert Powell

Call to Worship

based on Isaiah 60

Chris Abbott

Arise, shine, for your light has come!

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Let us praise the Lord together.

**The sun shall no longer be our light by day,
nor will the brightness of the moon shine on us,**

for the Lord will be our light,
and our God will be our glory.

**The Lord will be our everlasting light,
and our days of sorrow will end.**

Come, let us sing to our light and salvation!

Entrance Hymn No. 254

We Three Kings

KINGS OF ORIENT

Please remain seated for Stanzas 1-4.

Soloists will sing Stanzas 1-4. The congregation is invited to sing all the Refrains.

Please stand to sing Stanza 5 and Refrain.

Prayer

Chris Abbott

Proclamation and Response

Celebrating the Appointment of the Reverend Julia Norman, Minister to Children and Families

Children are invited to come to the chancel steps.

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

as a people committed to participate in the ministries of the Church,

by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service,

will you who celebrate this new beginning,

support and uphold Reverend Julia Norman as Director of Family and Children's Ministries?

We reaffirm our commitment to support you

with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger

who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation.

Let us pray.

**Lord God, bless the ministries of your Church.
We thank you for the variety of gifts you have bestowed upon us.
Draw us together in one Spirit,
that each of us may use our differing gifts as members of one body.
May your Word be proclaimed with faithfulness,
and may we be doers of your Word and not hearers only.
As we who have died and risen with Christ in baptism,
gather at his table, and then scatter into the world,
may we be one in service to others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

K-4 and K-5 children may leave for Children's Church; other children may return to their families.

Congregational Prayer for Illumination

Please remain seated to sing.

**O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1-5

Chris Abbott

*** Gospel Reading**

Matthew 2:1-12

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

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

Homily

Odd Baby Gifts

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

Congregational Response

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

Please remain seated to sing:

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise, the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

Thanksgiving and Communion

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Julia Norman

Brothers and sisters in Christ, the gospel tells us that God, by the leading of a star, manifested the Savior to the peoples of the earth, and, by the power that enabled Christ to change water into wine, made known his glory to the disciples. Come then to the joyful feast of the Lord and be transformed.

Confession and Pardon

**God of the Bethlehem star,
everyone is searching for your light shining in the face of Christ.
The Magi sought Christ simply to worship him.
But Herod sought him to appease his jealous anger.
We confess that our motives in seeking Jesus are not pure.
We do not come simply to worship;
we come to Christ, asking his benefits of reassurance, health, wealth;
asking him to fulfill the hundred petitions
for not-so-important requests that we heap before him.
But the Magi sought first the kingdom.
Help us, God, to follow their example, putting our own need in perspective,
worshiping the Christ in love, content to be in your presence,**

**and laying our gifts before you.
Then may we journey, trusting, that your goodness and light
will accompany us all the days of our life. Amen.**

from The Worship Sourcebook

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

Arise, Shine, for Your Light Has Come

Allen Pote

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. Arise, and shine like the sun, and all nations shall come, and all kings will be drawn to the brightness of your rising. The sun shall no longer be your light, nor the brightness of the moon by night. But the Lord shall be your everlasting light, your God will be your everlasting light. Isaiah 60:1-5

*** The Great Thanksgiving**

Rev. Jeff Cook

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Sung Communion A (pages 17-18)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

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

Now, Master,

you are letting your servants go in peace as you promised;

for our eyes have seen the salvation

that you have made ready in the sight of the nations;

a light of revelation for the Gentiles

and glory for your people, Israel.

Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Sending Forth

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

* **Hymn of Discipleship No. 245** (Stanzas 3-5) *The First Noel*

THE FIRST NOEL

* **Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

* **Congregational Response**

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Please feel free to remain seated for the closing voluntary. If departing, please be sensitive to those remaining for the concluding music.

Closing Voluntary

The First Noel

John Leavitt

* *Please rise in body or spirit.*

*Those parts of the service of worship in which the congregation participates in word or song are noted in **bold type**.*

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery, Lead Pastor

Rev. Jeff Cook, Associate Pastor

Rev. Julia Norman, Minister to Children and Families

Tom Granum, Director of Music Ministries and Organist

Ainsworth Choir

Chuck Huber, Luke Baker, and Greg Elliott, soloists

Chris Abbott, Lay Reader

Alex Stone, Lead Acolyte

Akins Manley, Crucifer

Emerson Toles & Jack Carter, Candlelighters

Ben Jamison, Communion Steward

Yancey & Whitney Mooney, Communion Servers

Freeda Chapman, Gini Lamback, and Carol Pope, Communion Bakers

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Cohen and Dot James by their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Gluten-free communion: Because our table is open to all, we serve gluten-free communion bread.

Welcome to Mulberry

Thank you for worshiping with us today! We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in Mulberry's worship and our opportunities for growing through education, fellowship, and mission. We hope you find our congregation to be a warm and caring community.

Please sign the Attendance Register as it is passed.

Nursery Care is provided for children younger than age 4. Please ask an usher for directions.

To keep up with Mulberry Street UMC's events, services, and more, we invite you to visit us at www.mulberrymethodist.org and find us on Facebook.

Please speak to one of the pastors if you are interested in knowing more about membership at Mulberry Street United Methodist Church.

Our 11:00 am worship service is broadcast live over radio station AM 940 WMAC. You can download the Sunday bulletin at <https://mulberrymethodist.org/media>.

Because of illness of church staff, we're using a different bulletin format today.