

# ***Mulberry Street United Methodist Church***

***Macon, Georgia***

*Epiphany of the Lord*

*January 6, 2019*

*Nine O'clock*

## **Voluntary**

*We Three Kings*

Robert Powell

## **Greeting in the Name of Christ**

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

*Introduction of Rev. Julia Norman, Minister to Children and Families*

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

## **Call to Worship**

*based on Isaiah 60*

Marilyn Armstrong

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!

## **\* Hymn No. 254**

*We Three Kings*

KINGS OF ORIENT

## **Prayer**

Marilyn Armstrong

## **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

Marilyn Armstrong

## **\* 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

## **Invitation to the Table**

Rev. Jeff Cook

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 know 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.

*adapted 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**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

Hymnal, pages 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**

**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.**

### **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

\* *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*

*Marilyn Armstrong, Liturgist*

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

*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](http://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.