

# Mulberry Street United Methodist Church

Macon, Georgia  
September 27, 2020

**Laity Sunday**  
Open-Air Worship  
10:00 a.m.

## Gathering

**Welcome** Rev. Dr. Nita Crump

**Announcements** Rev. Trevor Ward

**Call to Worship** Rev. Dr. Nita Crump

We are all called to recognize and join God's mission of love.

**We gather to become more like Jesus.**

We learn how grace has met other lives.

**We wait for God's empowering presence to open our eyes.**

We engage our neighbors, online and in person.

**And God's love, power, and justice help repair the world.**

**Opening Prayer** Rev. Dr. Nita Crump

Gracious God, we thank you for being ever present with us. We know that we are never alone.

Your mercies have been faithful and rich. Pour out your Spirit upon us, that we might do the work of your will. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

\* **Hymn** Tucker Poupard

**Celebration of the Work of the Laity** Rev. Dr. Nita Crump and Katie Griffis

\* **Hymn** *To God Be the Glory* TO GOD BE THE GLORY

**To God be the glory, great things he hath done!**

**So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the lifegate that all may go in.**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!**

**O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory, great things he hath done!**

**Children's Sermon** Rev. Julia Norman

## Proclaiming

**Prayer for Illumination** Greg Elliott

O God, fill us with your Spirit and humble our hearts so that we can hear your Word. **Amen.**

\* **Gospel** Matthew 21:23-32 Greg Elliott

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle** Philippians 2:1-13 Katie Griffis

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** Katie Griffis

# Responding

\* Hymn

*Amazing Grace*

AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snare, I have already come;  
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

\* Affirmation of Faith

*The Apostles' Creed*

Rev. Julia Norman

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;  
the third day he rose from the dead;

he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Call to Prayer

*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

CHILDREN PRAYING

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Nita Crump

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.

# Sending

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Rev. Dr. Nita Crump

\* Hymn

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

NETTLETON

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.

Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!

Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

**\* Blessing and Benediction**

*Leader*            Go into the world, sharing yourself,  
                         and proclaiming God's lovingkindness,  
                         justice, and peace,  
                         in words and deeds  
                         that bring life and hope.

*Pastor*            The Triune God, Creator, Redeemer, and Living Spirit  
                         is with you, today and every day, forever and always.

*All*                    **Amen.**

*\* Please rise in body or spirit.*

*Those part of the service of worship in which the congregation participates in spoken word are noted in **bold type**.*

**Worship Leadership:**

Katie Griffis, Lay Leader and guest preacher  
The Reverend Dr. Nita Crump, Senior Pastor  
The Reverend Julia Norman, Children and Family Minister  
The Reverend Trevor Ward, NewRoom Pastor and Youth Pastor  
Tucker Poupard, NewRoom Worship Leader  
Greg Elliott, liturgist  
Tom Granum, Director of Music Ministries

**Laity Sunday**

Methodism, in all its roots, has a long history celebrating and recognizing the ministry of the laity. In the early days of American Methodism, the laity served and maintained congregations between visits of the circuit riders. Today, lay people are the front line of daily ministry at the workplace, in the home and within the community.

Laity Sunday celebrates the ministry of *all* Christians to love God and all people. On Laity Sunday, we lift up the vocation of *all* (lay and clergy) to follow Jesus Christ and lead others to him. As we welcome and offer the good news of Jesus' love for all, we know that the most engaging opportunities to grow deep and wide in our faith come from relationships with those beyond the comfort and security of our church walls. The stories and situations of those struggling with fear, loss, trauma, and injustice – as well as freedom, joy, and delight – become altar calls for the wholeness and holiness work of justice, mercy, and reconciliation. This is the ministry of the “all called,” the laity. This is relational discipleship and participation in the mission of God (*mission Dei*).

Today we celebrate the work of the committed disciples of Mulberry Street UMC who support the church with their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness as they go into the world to share the good news of Jesus Christ.