



## *Mulberry Street United Methodist Church*

*Macon, Georgia*

*January 3, 2021*

*Epiphany Sunday*

*In-Person Sanctuary Worship*

*11:00 a.m.*

### *Gathering*

**Greeting in the Name of Christ**

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

Rev. Dr. Nita Crump

**Voluntary**

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

Robert J. Powell

**Call to Worship**

The Magi had a dream.

**They dreamed of a Messiah.**

**They dreamed of just rulers.**

**They dreamed of a new day for all people.**

Rev. Dr. Nita Crump

The Magi had a dream, and this dream led them to action.

**They journeyed to unknown places.**

**They followed a star.**

**They walked for days to get to Jesus.**

So may we be like the Magi,

**May our dreams inspire action.**

**May we worship the one true God. Amen.**

**Hymn**

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

KINGS OF ORIENT

## Prayer of Confession and Words of Forgiveness

Minister: God, I love to worship you when the stars are bright above me.  
I love to worship you when the sky is clear, and the breeze just right.  
I love to worship you when the journey to Bethlehem is an easy one.

Liturgist: Unfortunately, as you know, this journey of life, love, and faith is rarely easy.  
Now and again, the stars disappear.  
My feet get blisters, and the journey is far too long and lonely.  
On these days, forgive me for giving up quickly.

**All: Forgive me for allowing the dream to die and for taking the shortcut home.  
I want to be as brave as the Magi.  
I want to persevere.  
Guide my feet. Show me the stars. Amen.**

### *Silent Prayer*

Minister: The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.  
To all who have received him, to those who believe in his name,  
he gave the right to become children of God.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Hymn**

*The First Noel*

THE FIRST NOEL

## *Proclaiming*

**Prayer for Illumination**

Rev. Dr. Nita Crump

God of the Milky Way,  
we, like the Magi, are walking toward you.  
One foot in front of the other, we are walking toward you.  
It is our very prayer to move your way.  
So if you can, leave the light on and the front door unlocked.  
Leave a fire in the hearth and food on the stove.

**And when we start to get lost or doubt our dreams,  
give us the will to persevere.  
We are walking toward you, O God.  
So like the parent that throws open the door,  
open the door to us through this text.  
Amen.**

**Old Testament**

Isaiah 60:1-6

Sam McDaniel

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

\* **Gospel**

Matthew 2:1-12

Rev. Dr. Nita Crump

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

**Sermon**

*THOSE WHO DREAM . . . persevere*

Rev. Dr. Nita Crump

God's love transverses cultural and geographical barriers to become good news for all people. We honor that the Magi trusted their dreams and returned home another way.

# *Responding*

Solo

*The Kings*

Peter Cornelius

\* **Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in God,  
who came to this earth as a child,  
was born to unmarried teenage parents,  
and was quickly made a refugee.

We believe that this child grew up to heal the sick,  
see the poor,  
dine with outcasts,  
welcome foreigners,  
wash the feet of sinners,  
offer second chances,  
and bless the children.

And so we believe that Christmas is only the beginning.  
The dream does not end with a manger.  
The dream ends with God's promised day.  
So until all God's children are home,  
we will follow the Magi's lead—  
walking, seeking, and looking up.  
May it be so, for this we believe. Amen.

Call to Prayer

*What Child Is This*

GREENSLEEVES

**Pastoral Prayer and 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.

# *Responding*

**Invitation to Christmas Discipleship**

**Hymn**

*What Child Is This*

GREENSLEEVES

**Benediction**

**Voluntary**

*What Child Is This*

Paul Manz

\* *Please rise in body or spirit.*

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

**Worship Leadership:**

The Reverend Dr. Nita Crump, Senior Pastor  
Sam McDaniel, liturgist and soloist  
Tom Granum, Director of Music Ministries

**Credits:**

Today concludes our Advent-Christmas-Epiphany series *THOSE WHO DREAM . . .* We thank A Sanctified and the Reverend Sarah Are for giving us permission to use their copyrighted materials.

**Giving, Contact Information, and Prayer Requests**

You can give in one of the following ways: online, auto-draft, or online bill-pay.

We are thankful for your continued support of the calling and mission of our church as we strive to shine the light of Christ across our community and to help those in need.

To give online go to [mulberrymethodist.org/give](http://mulberrymethodist.org/give).

You may contact the church: 478-745-8601  
P. O. Box 149, Macon, GA 31202

**Generation to Generation (G2G)  
Community Outreach**

Saturday-Sunday, January 16-17

Generation to Generation (G2G) is a meaningful part of our congregation's life. We will continue this mission with a different emphasis for 2021 as we strive to make God's love known to the community around us here in Macon.

Please register by 5:00 p.m. today to join us during the MLK Weekend for Macon community outreach projects on Saturday-Sunday, January 16-17. Read more and register at [www.mulberrymethodist.org/serve](http://www.mulberrymethodist.org/serve)