

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church  
Macon, Georgia*

# *Third Sunday of Advent*

*December 13, 2015  
Eleven O'clock*



Greeting in the Name of Christ

Rev. Jimmy Towson

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us worship God!

Voluntary

“Noel Suisse”

Brass Ensemble  
Louis-Claude Daquin

Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy    Betsy Swanson and Katie Trotter

Today, we light the third Advent candle as a sign of joy –  
a testimony to the Light of God  
coming into our world  
that will shatter the darkness  
and bring healing to all who suffer and mourn.

*Let us pray.*

Gracious God,  
You came to us in human flesh  
and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit.  
Fill us with your joy,  
and help us shine as light to the world. **Amen.**

Comfort Ye My People

Joseph Martin

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith the Lord.  
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.  
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;  
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits His holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord now on Earth has been restored.  
And all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

Alleluia!

\* Carol No. 234

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”  
*Please stand as directed.*

ADESTE FIDELIS

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

Reading

Jim Crisp

“Christmas Rose” *written by Ken Medema  
for Mulberry’s 2015 Festival of Lessons and Carols*

Lo, How a Rose e’er Blooming/The Rose

Craig Hella Johnson

*Katie Trotter, Soprano*

Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung.

*Some say love, it is a river that drowns the tender reed;*

Of Jesse’s lineage coming as men of old have sung.

*Some say love, it is a razor that leaves your soul to bleed;*

It came, a Flow’ret bright,

*Some say love, it is a hunger, an endless aching need;*

Amid the cold of winter

*I say love, it is a flower, and you, its only seed.*

When half-spent was the night.

*It’s the heart afraid of breaking that never learns to dance;*

*It’s the dream afraid of waking that never takes the chance;*

*It’s the one who won’t be taken who cannot seem to give;*

*And the soul afraid of dying that never learns to live.*

This Flow’r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
*When the night has been too lonely and the road has been too long;*

Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev’rywhere.

*And you think that love is only for the lucky and the strong;*

True Man, yet very God,

*Just remember in the winter far beneath the bitter snow;*

From sin and death He saves us

*Lies the seed that with the sun’s love, in the spring becomes the rose.*

And lightens ev’ry load.

Reading

Jim Crisp

From the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 2

Rejoice and Be Merry

John Rutter

Rejoice and be merry in songs and in mirth,  
O praise our Redeemer, all mortals on earth:  
For this is the birthday of Jesus our King,  
Who brought us salvation: his praises we'll sing.

A heavenly vision appeared in the sky,  
Vast numbers of angels the shepherds did spy,  
Proclaiming the birthday of Jesus our King  
Who brought us salvation: his praises we'll sing.

Likewise a bright star in the sky did appear,  
Which led the wise men from the East to draw near;  
They found the Messiah, sweet Jesus our King,  
Who brought us salvation, his praises we'll sing.

And when they were come, they their treasures unfold,  
And unto him offered myrrh, incense and gold.  
So blessed forever be Jesus our King  
Who brought us salvation: his praises we'll sing.  
Rejoice and be merry, rejoice!

The First Nowell

Mack Wilberg

The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in in fields as they lay,  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell!  
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the East beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light  
and so it continued both day and night.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell!  
Born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord  
That hath made heav'n and earth of nought,  
and with his blood mankind hath bought.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell!  
Born is the King of Israel.

Reading

Jim Crisp

“Christmas Comes” *written by Ann Weems  
from Kneeling in Bethlehem*

Cum Sancto Spiritu (Gloria)

Antonio Vivaldi

Cum Sancto Spiritu in Gloria Dei Patris. Amen.  
*With the Holy Ghost in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

Offertory Anthem

My Jesus I Love Thee

Dan Forrest

My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine.  
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign.  
My gracious Redeemer, my Saavior art Thou,  
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I'll love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death.  
And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath;  
And say when the death dew lies cold on my brow,  
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

In mansions of glory, and endless delight,  
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright.  
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow,  
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

Reading

Emma Johnston

The Canticle of Mary from the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 1

Et misericordia (Magnificat)

Jonathan Willcocks

*Betsy Swanson, Soprano*

Et misericordia ejus a progenite, in progenies, in progenies timentibus eum.  
*And his mercy is on them who fear him from generation to generation.*  
Hail Mary, full of grace, thou who didst bear the savior of our race;  
Hail Mary, Queen of heav'n, turn not from us thy face.

Reading

Jim Crisp

“First Coming” *written by Madeleine L'Engle*  
*from A Cry Like a Bell*

Glory Be to God on High

K. Lee Scott

Glory be to God on High and to the earth be Peace:  
God comes down: He bows the Sky; He shows himself our Friend!  
God th'Invisible appears, God the Blest, the Great I AM  
Sojourns in this Vale of Tears, and JESUS is his Name.

Him the Angels all ador'd, their Maker and their King:  
Tidings of their Humbled LORD they now to Mortals bring:  
Emptied of his Majesty, of His dazzling Glories shorn,  
Being's Source begins to BE, and God himself is BORN!

See th'Eternal Son of GOD a Mortal Son below,  
Dwelling in an Earthly Clod, whom Heav'n cannot contain!  
Stand amaz'd ye Heav'ns at This!  
The LORD of Earth and Skies Humbled to the Dust He is,  
And in a Manger lies!

We the Folk on Earth rejoice, the Prince of Peace proclaim,  
With heaven's Host lift up our Voice and shout Immanuel's Name;  
Knees and Hearts to Him we bow; of our Flesh, and of our Bone,  
JESUS is our Brother now, and GOD is All our own.

\* Congregational Carol  
Joy to the World

ANTIOCH  
arr. Mack Wilberg

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King!  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns: let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground:  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

\* Benediction

Rev. Jimmy Towson

\* *For those able, please stand.*



*Rev. Jimmy Towson, Senior Pastor  
Cam Bishop, Director of Music/Organist  
Dr. David Keith, Conductor  
Ainsworth Choir  
Jim Crisp, Reader  
Sara Kate Sellers, Lead Acolyte  
Emma Johnston, Crucifer & Reader  
Elizabeth Sellers, Candlelighter*

*Trumpets*

*Paul Poovey Rolando Fernandez Jeremiah Kersting*

*Trombones*

*Keith Fitzgerald Andrew Braley Lee Watts*

*French Horns*

*David McCurley Sada Harris*

*Tuba*

*Patrick Young*

*Strings*

*Nelson Galarraga, Violin*

*Leslie Conner, Violin*

*Phil Hall, Viola*

*Grace Sommer, Cello*

*We are grateful to the Fickling Family Foundation and the  
Martin Foundation for funding the instrumentalists in today's service.*

*In honor of Camille Bishop,  
members of the Ainsworth Choir have purchased and dedicated the anthems  
"Lo, How a Rose/The Rose and "The First Nowell"  
which are being sung in today's service.*

*In honor of Dr. C. David Keith,  
members of the Ainsworth Choir have purchased and dedicated  
Jonathan Willcock's choral setting of "Magnificat"  
which is also being used in today's service.*

## **Flowers**

*The arrangement in the sanctuary is given  
to the glory of God and in honor of the  
Ainsworth Memorial Choir by the Flower Guild.*

## **The Joy of Christmas** **Celebrate the Season at Mulberry**

**Sunday, December 13**

***Family Caroling***  
4:00 pm

**Wednesday, December 16**

***Macon Outreach Community Christmas Celebration***  
11:00 am Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, December 20**

***Service of the Longest Night***  
5:00 pm Sanctuary

*The death of friends, family, or the stresses of life can be discouraging during the  
Christmas season. This brief, contemplative service offers prayers,  
music and Holy Communion.  
It is offered to all, especially those who may be struggling this season.*

**Thursday, December 24**

***Christmas Eve Services/Sanctuary***  
3:00 pm Family Christmas Eve Communion Service  
4:30 pm Music of the Season  
5:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

## **Welcome All Visitors**

*We welcome you to Mulberry Street United Methodist Church.  
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.*