

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church  
Macon, Georgia*

## *Third Sunday of Advent*

*December 17, 2017  
Eleven O'clock*



### *Entrance and Praise*

Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us worship God.

Pastorale 'Gesù Bambino' (on 'Adeste, fideles') Pietro Yon

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Joy

Josh, Ashley, Emily and Maggie Carroll

**Sung: “O come, thou Dayspring, come  
and cheer our spirits by thy justice here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death’s dark shadows put to flight.”**

“The LORD has done great things for us,  
and we are overjoyed...

Let those who plant with tears reap the harvest  
with joyful shouts.” (Psalm 126:3, 5 CEB)

God of Joy, you enter the wilderness of our world  
and proclaim that there is a way to reach home again.

God of Joy, you break through clouds of despair  
and sorrow to bring good news to your people.

God of Joy, you send hope into the world  
in the form of a tiny baby.

**We, God’s people, sing songs of joy with the prophet,  
“I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God.”**  
(Isaiah 61:10, NRSV)

On this third Sunday of Advent, we light this candle,  
knowing that joy is our true home.

**Sung: “Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.”**

\* Entrance Hymn No. 234 (stanzas 1, 3 & 6)  
“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

\* Opening Prayer

Rev. Jeff Cook

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Holy God,

with expectant hearts

we your people await Christ's coming.

As once he came in humility,

so now may he come in glory,

that he may make all things perfect

in your everlasting kingdom. **Amen.**

Act of Praise

"I Wonder as I Wander"

Ainsworth Choir

John Rutter

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Annie Starr Holloway

Daughter of Bryson and Catie Holloway

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church,  
reaffirm both your rejection of sin  
and your commitment to Christ?

**We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith  
and include Annie now before you in your care?

**With God's help, we will proclaim the  
good news and live according to the example  
of Christ.**

**We will surround Annie**

**with a community of love and forgiveness,**

**that she may grow in her trust of God,**

**and be found faithful in her service to others.**

**We will pray for her that she may be a true  
disciple who walks in the way that  
leads to life.**

\* Commendation and Welcome (*congregation stands*)

Members of the household of God,

We commend Annie to your love and care.

Do all in your power to increase her faith,

confirm her hope, and perfect her in love.

**We give thanks for all that God**

**has already given you**

**and welcome you in Christian love.**

**As members together with you**

**in the body of Christ**

**and at Mulberry Street**

**United Methodist Church,**

**we renew our covenant faithfully to participate**

**in the ministries of the church**

**by our prayers, our presence,**

**our gifts, our service, and our witness**

**that in everything God may be glorified**

**through Jesus Christ.**

\* Hymn of Baptism No. 611

“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”

STUTT GART

**Child of blessing, child of promise,  
baptized with the Spirit’s sign;  
with this water God has sealed you  
unto love and grace divine.**

**Child of God your loving Parent,  
learn to know whose child you are.  
Grow to laugh and sing and worship,  
trust and love God more than all.**

### *Proclamation and Response*

\* Gospel Reading

Luke 1:46b-55

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Jimmy Towson

The Wonder of Christmas: “The Wonder of Promise”

Offering of our Gifts

### *The Children’s Nativity*

*Carols are sung by the congregation  
as the children present the nativity story.*

#### **“O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;  
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in the dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

#### **“Gentle Mary”**

**Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;  
There he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.**

#### **“Angels We Have Heard on High”**

**Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

#### **“The First Noel”**

**The first Noel the angel did say was to certain  
poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.**

**“We Three Kings”**

**We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.**

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

**“Joy to the World”**

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and heaven,  
and nature sing.**

**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

Postlude

Toccata on “Joy to the World”

Wilbur Held

\* *For those able, please stand.*

**PARTICIPATING IN TODAY’S WORSHIP**

*Rev. Jimmy Towson, Senior Pastor*

*Rev. Jeff Cook, Associate Pastor*

*Pat Crowe, Organist*

*Richard Kosowski, Director of Music*

*Pam Johnston, Director of Children & Family Ministries*

*Alex Stone, Lead Acolyte*

*Jake Jamison, Crucifer*

*Wilson Brown & Graham Hefner, Candlelighters*

*Elizabeth Sellers, Baptism Aquifer*

*Children’s Nativity*

*Katherine Dent (Mary)*

*Jack Carter (Joseph)*

*Caroline Dent, Kate Evans,*

*Maggie Jamison & Marian Minton (Angels)*

*Henry Carter, Ivionna King & Will Magda (Shepherds)*

*Rand Capps, Kinley Cook, Thomas Dunn & Drew Morris (Animals)*

*Lawton Capps, George Dunn & Ben Morris (Magi)*

*The arrangement in the sanctuary is given  
to the glory of God and in loving memory of*

*Mr. and Mrs. Mack Guest*

*by their children: Mack and Camilla, Judson and Paula,  
June and Joe, David and Debbie and 10 grandchildren.*

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church  
December 17, 2017*

**Today's Sermon**

The Wonder of Christmas: "The Wonder of Promise"

**Today's Scripture**

Luke 1:46b-55 (NRSV)

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

**Sermon Notes**

**Previous Sermons Available Online**

If you are interested in listening to previous sermons,  
please visit our website at [www.mulberrymethodist.org](http://www.mulberrymethodist.org)  
and click on "Sermons".

# The Joy of CHRISTMAS

CELEBRATE THE SEASON

## *Christmas Eve Services at Mulberry*

**Sunday, December 24**

11:00 am Family Christmas Communion Service/Sanctuary

4:30 pm Music of the Season/Sanctuary

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Communion Service/Sanctuary

## *If You Are New to Mulberry*

*Please make sure you sign the Attendance Register as it is passed.*

*Welcome to Mulberry Street United Methodist Church.*

*Thank you for worshiping with us today!*

*We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in our worship, growth opportunities and service life here at Mulberry. Our hope is that you will find this church to be a warm, caring community that you can call home.*

*Nursery Care is provided for children under 4 years of age.*

*Please ask an usher for directions to the Nursery.*

*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.*

### *Joining Mulberry Street UMC*

*New Members are welcomed into the congregation during our Sunday morning worship services at 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 am.*

*You may transfer from another Methodist church, transfer from another denomination or join for the first time by Profession of Faith (committing your life to Christ).*

*For more information, please contact Karen Carter at 478-745-8601 or [kcarter@mulberrymethodist.org](mailto:kcarter@mulberrymethodist.org).*

### *Connect with us Online*

*You can learn more about our church community, staff and other events by visiting our website at [www.mulberrymethodist.org](http://www.mulberrymethodist.org).*