

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
Macon, Georgia*

Third Sunday of Advent

*December 17, 2017
Nine O'clock*



Greeting

Rev. Jimmy Towson

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

Jack and Marilyn Armstrong

**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.”**

* Opening Hymn NO. 234 (stanzas 1, 3 & 6)
"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES

* Opening Prayer

Rev. Jeff Cook

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us worship God.

Lord of Love and Light,
shine through our darkness,
bringing us hope.
Open our hearts for the journey,
our eyes for the light,
our spirits for the peace which you bring.
Fill our mouths with laughter
and speech with shouts of joy
that we shall reveal the love with which
you surround us.
We offer this prayer in the name
of the One who is coming into the world
bringing your hope, love, peace and joy,
Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

* Affirmation of Faith
The Apostles' Creed

Rev. Jeff Cook

**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.**

Act of Praise

Pat Crowe, Voice & Organ

"Ah, My Savior! (from Christmas Oratorio, P. IV) J.S Bach

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Jeff Cook

The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Jeff Cook

**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.**

Offering of our Tithes and Gifts

* Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

* 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"

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Rev. Jeff Cook

* Hymn of Discipleship No. 196

HYFRYDOL

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

* Benediction

Rev. Jimmy Towson

* *Please stand as you are able.*



*Rev. Jimmy Towson, Senior Pastor
Rev. Jeff Cook, Associate Pastor
Pat Crowe, Organist*

*The arrangement in the chapel is given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of George, Anna and Robert Collier
by their daughter and sister Gail McNally.*

*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)

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

Connect with us Online

*You can learn more about our church community,
staff and other events by visiting our website at
www.mulberrymethodist.org.*