

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
Macon, Georgia*

Fourth Sunday of Advent

*December 18, 2016
Eleven O'clock*



Entrance and Praise

Greeting

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

Opening Voluntary

“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

J. S. Bach

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Sam & Gini Lamback

Today, we light the fourth Advent candle
as a sign of God’s love.

God’s love is perfect love.

It holds nothing back.

God, in love, gives us everything we need
to live a life of hope and peace.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son...”

Let us pray.

Loving God,

Your mercy and compassion endure forever.

Open our hearts, that we may receive your love,
and following the example of your Son,

spread that love to a love-starved world. **Amen.**

* Entrance Hymn No. 234

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”
(stanzas 1, 3, 6)

ADESTE FIDELES

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

Ainsworth Choir

“What Child”

Paul W. Lohman

*What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's Lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!
Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!
So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!*

Proclamation and Response

Canticle of Light and Darkness

Rev. Tommy Perkins

We look for light but find darkness,
for brightness, but walk in gloom.
**We grope like those who have no eyes;
we stumble at noon as in the twilight.**

If I say, “Let only darkness cover me,
and the light about me be night,”
even the darkness is not dark to you,
**the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light with you.**

Blessed be your name, O God, for ever.
You reveal deep and mysterious things;
you are light and in you is no darkness.
**Our darkness is passing away
and already the true light is shining.**

* Gospel Reading

Melinda Powell

Matthew 1:18-25

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Jimmy Towson

‘Twas the LIGHT Before Christmas:

“Heavenly Light”

Offering of our Gifts

Sara Kate Sellers, Soprano

“Gesù Bambino”

Pietro Yon

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

* *For those able, please stand.*

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

*Rev. Jimmy Towson, Senior Pastor
Rev. Tommy Perkins, Associate Pastor
Cam Bishop, Director of Music/Organist
Ainsworth Choir
Lisa Shepard, Conductor
Pam Johnston, Director of Children & Family Ministries
Melinda Powell, Lay Reader
Micah Johnston, Lead Acolyte
Savannah Stone, Crucifer
Akins Manley & Hampton Tiller, Candlelighters
Children's Nativity
Ella Magda (Mary)
Henry Carter (Joseph)
Abigail Bishop, Lawton Capps, Maggie Jamison
Marian Minton, Veronica Perkins, Martha Rauls (Angels)
Jack Carter, George Dunn, Ben Morris, Alice Rauls
Emerson Toles, James Wilson (Shepherds)
Mallory Bishop, Rand Capps, Kate Evans, Anna Cate Gardner,
Will Magda, Drew Morris, Delia Perkins (Animals)
Callie Evans, Avery Morris, Laura Wilson (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.*

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.*

Up & Coming Events & Prayer List

*Mulberry's Up & Coming Events and Prayer List
is located in the Registration Pads on your pew.*

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
December 18, 2016*

Today's Sermon

‘Twas the LIGHT Before Christmas:
“Heavenly Light”

Today's Scripture

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

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 “Listen” on top right.*

Celebrate the Season



Advent & Christmas at Mulberry

Saturday, December 24

3:00 pm Family Christmas Communion Service/Sanctuary

4:30 pm Music of the Season/Sanctuary

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Communion Service/Sanctuary

Sunday, December 25

9:30 am Sweet Rolls in Fellowship Hall

10:00-10:30 am Worship Service/Sanctuary