

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church  
Macon, Georgia*

# *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*December 18, 2016  
Nine O'clock*



Greeting

Rev. Jimmy Towson

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 Advent Candle

Gary, Anne, Katherine & Caroline Dent

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.**

\* Hymn No. 240

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

\* Opening Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

God, our Father,

the One who comes in your name comes again  
with grace and power,  
with forgiveness and strength,  
with truth and imagination,  
with gentleness and love.

May the coming One enter the hearts  
of those who wait with quiet expectation  
for all that is good and holy and just. **Amen.**

Canticle of Light and Darkness

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.**

Act of Praise  
"Gesù Bambino"

Sara Kate Sellers, Soprano  
Pietro Yon

Prayer

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.**

Offering of our Gifts

\* Hymn of Response

“What Child is This”

GREENSLEEVES

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
come, peasant, king, to own him;  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone him.**

*Refrain*

**This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.**

\* Gospel Reading

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”

\* Closing Hymn No. 230

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

\* Benediction

Rev. Jimmy Towson

\* *Please stand as you are able.*



*Rev. Jimmy Towson, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Tommy Perkins, Associate Pastor  
Cam Bishop, Director of Music/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 18, 2016*

**Today's Sermon**

'Twas the LIGHT Before Christmas:  
"Heavenly Light"

**Today's Scripture**

Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup> 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.

<sup>19</sup> 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.<sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> 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](http://www.mulberrymethodist.org)  
and click on "Listen" on top right.*

## *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*

*If you would like to have a copy of  
Mulberry's Up & Coming Events and Prayer List,  
please see an usher.*

# 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