

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
Macon, Georgia*

Fourth Sunday of Advent

*December 20, 2015
Eleven O'clock*



ENTRANCE AND PRAISE

Greeting

Rev. Jimmy Towson

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

Opening Voluntary
“In dulci jubilo”

Cam Bishop
Wilbur Held

Lighting the Advent Candle
Joe, Christina and Anna Jane Stephens

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. 250
“Once in Royal David’s City”

IRBY

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

“O Hearken Ye”

Alfred Burt

*O hearken ye who would believe, the gracious tidings now receive:
Gloria, gloria, In excelsis Deo.*

*The mighty Lord of heav'n and earth, today is come to human birth.
Gloria, Gloria, In excelsis Deo.*

*O hearken ye who long for peace, your troubled searching now may cease.
Gloria, Gloria, In excelsis Deo*

*For at his cradle you shall find God's healing race for all mankind.
Gloria, gloria, In excelsis Deo.*

*O hearken ye who long for love, and turn your hearts to God above.
Gloria, Gloria, In excelsis Deo.*

*The angel's song the wonder tells: now Love Incarnate with us dwells!
Gloria, Gloria, In excelsis Deo.*

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

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.**

* Gospel Reading

John 1:1-5; 9-14 (NIV)

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Jimmy Towson

Unwrapping Christmas: Rescue Mission

Offering of our Gifts

Sara Kate Sellers, Soprano

“Silent Night”

arr. Mark Hayes

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.**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

**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.**

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

* Congregational Carol No. 240
“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

* 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

Pam Johnston, Director of Children & Family Ministries

Sara Kate Sellers, Lead Acolyte

Conner Hefner, Crucifer

Olivia Mann & Georgia Mercer, Candlelighters

Children’s Nativity

Emerson Toles (Mary)

Jack Carter (Joseph)

Callie Evans, Ella Magda, Hannah Mayfield, Avery Morris,

Alice Rauls, Laura Wilson (Angels)

Abigail Bishop, Henry Carter, George Dunn, Owen Mayfield, Martha

Rauls, James Wilson (Shepherds)

Mallory Bishop, Kate Evans, Harper Rose Mayfield, Marian Minton

Delia Perkins (Animals)

Lawton Capps, Ben Morris, Ronnie Perkins (Magi)

*The flowers 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.*

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

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 service offers prayers, music and Holy Communion. And 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

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Today's Sermon

Unwrapping Christmas: "Rescue Mission"

Today's Scripture

John 1:1-5; 9-14 (NIV)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

...

9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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.*