

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church  
Macon, Georgia*

## *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*December 20, 2015  
Nine O'clock*



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  
Tom, Liz, and Carys Fonner

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.**

\* Carol No. 238  
“Angels We Have Heard on High”

GLORIA

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.**

### 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

"Silent Night"

Sarah Kate Sellers, Soprano

arr. Mark Hayes

Pastoral 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.  
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

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

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

\* Closing Hymn No. 240

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

\* Benediction

\* *Please stand as you are able.*



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

*The flowers in the chapel are given to the glory of God  
and in loving memory of their parents,  
Sage and Robbie Harper and Arthur and Delores Curran  
by Ken and Jackie Harper.*

***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*

**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 20, 2015*

**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](http://www.mulberrymethodist.org)  
and click on "Listen" on top right.*

## **Poinsettias for Advent**

- In loving memory of Bill Hurdle by Betty Hurdle*  
*In loving memory of Charlotte & Stuart Nunnally  
and Marvelle & Bill Smith  
by Beth, Vaughan, Mary Stuart and Will Smith*  
*In loving memory of our parents, Ed & Pree Sell  
and Clyde & Bettie Smith by Ed & Lenore Sell*  
*In loving memory of Charles McCrary by Lil Cross*  
*In loving memory of Maurice B. Wynn, Jr. by Gloria M. Wynn*  
*In loving memory of George & Sarah Grier and Brooks  
and Mary Beth Gaudry by Frank & Mary Anne Gaudry*  
*In loving memory of Howard Bennett by Betsy Bennett*  
*In loving memory of Jim Crawford by Zenna Crawford*  
*In loving memory of Wendell Barnes by Betty Barnes & family*  
*In loving memory of Charles W. Dye, Sr.  
by Steve & Dottie Nix & Layton Smith*  
*In loving memory of Madge & Harold Chapman Sr.  
and Alouise & Albert Ray, Sr.  
by Freeda & Harold Chapman, Jr.*  
*In loving memory of Alton D. Greenway by Shirley Greenway*  
*In loving memory of Walter W. Cox by Betty Cox*  
*In loving memory of Joan Sue Bogle  
by son Brian Bogle & family and Charlotte & Evan Bogle*  
*In loving memory of Connie Bowen Hart by  
Sister Charlotte Bowen Bogle & family and Brian & Evan*  
*In loving memory of Frank & Margaret Jamison by The Jamisons*  
*In loving memory of Jack Castellaw by  
Eleanor Castellaw, Beth Castellaw & Betty Morris*  
*In honor of Bruce & Cam Bishop by Bill & Norma Tucker*  
*In honor of Harriet, Caroline, Billy and John Hurdle by Betty Hurdle*  
*In honor of Jackson & Olive Kinross  
and Walden Weatherford by Jean & Jimmy Weatherford*  
*In honor of Becky Donovan by Charles & Carol Dunn*  
*In honor of Anne McCrary & Betty Hurdle by Lil Cross*  
*In honor of Stephen Hogue  
by Geraldine Hogue, Suzanne Lee & Cindy Hulzey*  
*In honor of Anne McCrary & Roberta Johstono  
by Tim & Melissa Anderson*  
*In honor of Eleanor Castellaw by Mr. & Mrs. Austin Carter*  
*In honor of Dorothy S. Dye  
by Steve & Dottie Nix and Layton Smith*  
*In honor of our grandchildren: Leah, Joseph, Ellie, Nicholas, Beau,  
Andrew & Stella Kate  
by Freeda & Harold Chapman, Jr.*  
*In honor of Mrs. Christine Harshbarger by Ashley & Mary Hurt*  
*In honor of Melis Jamison by Ames, Jake, Ben & Maggie*  
*In honor of our grandchildren: Hallie & Winn Murray  
by Larry & Millie Murray*

