

Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
Macon, Georgia

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2017
Eleven O'clock



Music of the Season

Beginning at 10:30 am
Pat Crowe, Organist

Entrance and Praise

Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.
Let us worship God.

Call to Worship

Laura & James Wilson

Praise be to God
who hears our voice.
He is our strength.
Our hearts trust
and help comes.
Our hearts leap for joy,
and with our songs we praise our God.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Tom, Julie, Zoe and Malin McAfee

**Sung: "O come, Desire of nations bind
all peoples in one heart and mind.
From dust thou brought us forth to life;
deliver us from earthly strife."**

"Our souls magnify the Lord and our spirits rejoice in God
for God has looked with favor on us, God's servants."

"God has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly.
God has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty."

God of Justice, God of Peace, we open our hearts to you.
Give us grace to be instruments of your righteousness.
Give us courage to turn away from distractions
and distortions and turn toward the home you made,
are making, and will complete through Christ.

**All: 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 fourth Sunday of Advent,
the morning of Christmas Eve,
we light this candle, turning with courage
toward the One who makes a home among us.

**Sung: "Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel."**

* Entrance Hymn No. 250
"Once in Royal David's City" IRBY

* Opening Prayer Henry Carter and Maggie Jamison

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Loving God,
we thank you for the gift of Jesus Christ
to the entire world.
Let His light shine within our hearts even more brightly
than it shines from the candles.
Help us to hear your word
and to celebrate your everlasting love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
through whom you give us all good things. **Amen.**

* New Testament Lesson Pam Johnston
Luke 2:1-20 (ESV)

The word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Homily Rev. Jimmy Towson
The Wonder of Christmas: "The Wonder of Presence"

Offering of our Gifts Ainsworth Choir
"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"
trad. Polish Carol
arr. Gerre Hancock

* Congregational Carol

**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.**

**They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.**

Creche Bearers George & Thomas Dunn
Katherine & Caroline Dent

Thanksgiving and Communion

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Jeff Cook

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin
before God and one another.

Confession and Pardon

Rev. Jeff Cook

**Almighty God, Light of the World,
you caused light to shine out of darkness
in the advent of Jesus our Christ;
you continually open to us
the ways we are to prepare.
We confess our unwillingness to see the light
and to walk in your ways.
We have not always opened our eyes
to the needs of others,
and our feet have wandered
from the paths of justice and peace.
We ask that the Spirit of Christ
be born anew within us,
that our hearts may be stirred
to glorify the nativity
with acts of compassion and service.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

All pray in silence.

Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God! Amen.**

The Peace

Rev. Jeff Cook

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

* The Great Thanksgiving

Hymnal Pages 13-14

Sung Communion A (Pages 17-18)

**Holy holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.
Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**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.**

Breaking the Bread

Giving of the Bread and Cup

*Communion will be served by intinction.
 After receiving communion,
 you are welcome to go to the altar for prayer.
 Please let an usher know
 if you need to be served in your pew.*

*Gluten-free bread and juice are available
 on the chancel steps pulpit side.*

*Please take a candle from the basket before
 returning to your seat.*

* Song of Prayer

“Night of Silence”

Dan Cantor/John Ferguson

*The congregation is invited
 to join in singing as directed.*

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm,
 all is bright round yon virgin mother and child.
 Holy infant, so tender and mild,
 sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night, wondrous star,
 lend thy light, with the angels let us sing,
 Alleluia to our King; Christ the savior is born,
 Christ the Savior is born!**

* Benediction

Rev. Jimmy Towson

* *Please stand as you are able.*

Please return the candles to baskets at each exit of the sanctuary.


Rev. Jimmy Towson, Senior Pastor
Rev. Jeff Cook, Associate Pastor
Pam Johnston, Director of Children & Family Ministries
Pat Crowe, Organist
Richard Kosowski, Director of Music
Hank & Lori Martin, Lay Communion Servers
Jack Carter, Callie Evans &
Campbell Ann Sellers, Communion Assistants
Freeda Chapman, Carol Pope & Louise Watson, Bread Bakers
Alex Stone, Lead Acolyte
Hayden Martin, Crucifer
Ben Jamison & Henry McClure, Candlelighters
Maddie McClure, Communion Steward

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.*

Mulberry Street United Methodist Church

December 24, 2017

Today's Sermon

The Wonder of Christmas: "The Wonder of Presence"

Today's Scripture

Luke 2:1-20 (ESV)

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Sermon Notes

Previous Sermons Available Online

If you are interested in listening to previous sermons, please visit our website at www.mulberrymethodist.org on the home page click on "Media" and sermons are found on the right side of the page.