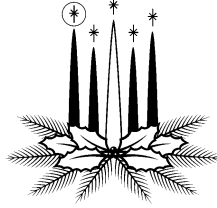


*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
Macon, Georgia*

First Sunday of Advent

*December 3, 2017
Eleven O'clock*



Entrance and Praise

Greeting in the Name of Christ

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

Fantasia on “Veni Emmanuel”

Alec Rowley

Call to Worship

Sarah Inzetta

In those days,
before the final coming of Christ in glory,
there will be mighty signs.

They will be seen in the heavens and on earth.

They will remind us
of God’s eternal presence and power.

We will all be changed in the twinkling of an eye.

Therefore, let our hearts be glad and our souls rejoice!

**God has reached out to all God’s people
with compassion and tender mercy.**

* Entrance Hymn No. 388

“O Come and Dwell with Me”

ST. MICHAEL

* Lighting of the First Advent Candle of Hope

Harold & Freeda Chapman

All Sing:

**“O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.”**

God of justice and peace, healing and comfort,
we see all that is wrong and wonder where you are.

We are a broken people, unable to work
together for our common good. We cannot see
or hear each other even within our own families
and communities.

We are a suffering world, our nations are filled
with conflict and violence. The fragile earth cries out
with longing for redemption.

**All: We, God's people, long for God's presence,
saying with the prophet: "If only you would tear
open the heavens and come down!"**

On this first Sunday of Advent, we light this candle
to remind us of our longing that God will come into
the world, bringing justice and peace,
comfort and healing.

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

Act of Praise

"E'en So Lord Jesus Quickly Come"

Ainsworth Choir

Paul Manz



*Children age 5K and under are invited
to leave for children's church after the Act of Praise.*

Proclamation and Response

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 64:1-4

Sarah Inzetta

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Wonder of Christmas:

"Wonders Beyond Our Expectations"

Rev. Jimmy Towson

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

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have not loved you
with our whole heart.**

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will,

we have broken your law

we have rebelled against your love,

we have not loved our neighbors,

and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

**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.

Offering of our Gifts

Lindsey Rueter, Soprano

"I Wonder as I Wander"

arr. John Jacob Niles

* The Great Thanksgiving

Hymnal Page 13

Sung responses Communion A.

The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Jimmy Towson

**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.*

Prayer after Communion

Rev. Jeff Cook

Let us pray.

**Eternal God,
we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Sending Forth

* Invitation to Christian Discipleship Rev. Jeff Cook

* Hymn of Discipleship No. 479
"Jesus, Lover of My Soul" ABERYSTWYTH

The Light of Christ Goes Into the World
Please be seated after the cross and light pass your pew.

Postlude on "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" Healey Willan

* Benediction Rev. Jimmy Towson

* *Please stand as you are able.*

Gluten-free Communion Wafers
*Gluten-free communion wafers are available
on the chancel steps pulpit side.*


Rev. Jimmy Towson, Senior Pastor
Rev. Jeff Cook, Associate Pastor
Pat Crowe, Organist
Richard Kosowski, Director of Music
Sarah Inzetta, Lay Reader
Creede & Bonnie Hinshaw, Lay Communion Servers
Freeda Chapman, Bread Baker
Alex Stone, Lead Acolyte
Evan Bogle, Crucifer
Micah Johnston, Communion Steward
Piper Bushway & Isabella Ewing, Candlelighters

*The arrangement in the sanctuary is given to the glory of God
and in thanksgiving for her husband, Robert Walthall Gerson,
and her daughters, Kimberly & Tim Munshower
and Allison & Victor Younkens by Naomi Gerson.*

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 worshiping 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 3, 2017*

Today's Sermon

The Wonder of Christmas:
“Wonders Beyond Our Expectations”

Today's Scripture

Isaiah 64:1-4 (CEB)

- ¹ If only you would tear open the heavens and come down!
Mountains would quake before you
- ² like fire igniting brushwood or making water boil.
If you would make your name known to your enemies,
the nations would tremble in your presence.
- ³ When you accomplished wonders beyond all our expectations;
when you came down, mountains quaked before you.
- ⁴ From ancient times,
no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any god but you
who acts on behalf of those who wait for him!

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 “Sermons”.