

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church  
Macon, Georgia*

# *First Sunday of Advent*

*December 3, 2017  
Nine 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

Rev. Jeff Cook

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

Gail Springstead

**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."**

Old Testament Lesson  
Isaiah 64:1-4

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

Sermon

Rev. Jimmy Towson

The Wonder of Christmas:  
"Wonders Beyond Our Expectations"

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  
“I Wonder as I Wander”

Lindsey Rueter, Soprano  
arr. John Jacob Niles

\* The Great Thanksgiving  
Hymnal Page 13 (*Communion responses are spoken.*)

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 the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

Rev. Jeff Cook

**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.**

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Rev. Jeff Cook

\* Hymn of Discipleship No. 479  
“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

ABERYSTWYTH

\* Benediction

Rev. Jimmy Towson

\* *Please stand as you are able.*



*Rev. Jimmy Towson, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Jeff Cook, Associate Pastor  
Pat Crowe, Organist*

## ***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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.mulberrymethodist.org).*

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December 3, 2017*

**Today's Sermon**

The Wonder of Christmas:  
“Wonders Beyond Our Expectations”

**Today's Scripture**

Isaiah 64:1-4 (CEB)

- <sup>1</sup> If only you would tear open the heavens and come down!  
Mountains would quake before you
- <sup>2</sup> 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.
- <sup>3</sup> When you accomplished wonders beyond all our expectations;  
when you came down, mountains quaked before you.
- <sup>4</sup> 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](http://www.mulberrymethodist.org)  
and click on “Sermons”.