

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church  
Macon, Georgia*

## *Second Sunday of Advent*

*December 4, 2016  
Eleven O'clock*



### *Entrance and Praise*

Greeting

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your heads, O gates!

**and be lifted up, O ancient doors!  
that the King of glory may come in.**

Opening Voluntary

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

David Cherwien

Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace

Jason, Allison & Benjamin Hawkins

A prophet speaks, and a psalmist sings,  
telling us how God will come:

Comfort my people, bring comfort to them,  
says your God...

Clear a road through the wilderness...

Prepare a highway across the desert for our God...

Then will the glory of God be revealed  
and all humankind shall see it...

Love and faithfulness will come together.

Justice and peace will embrace.

We light our second candle

as a prayer of hope and longing,  
that God's glory may be revealed on earth,  
through justice, peace, and faithful love.

*Let us pray.*

Living God, come to our world.

Help us to recognize your presence

wherever people make peace,  
show kindness, keep their promises,  
and do what is right. **Amen.**

\* Entrance Hymn No. 203

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

ELLACOMBE

\* Opening Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Merciful God,

you sent your messengers the prophets  
to preach repentance and prepare the way  
for our salvation.

Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins,  
that we may celebrate aright  
the commemoration of the nativity,  
and may await with joy  
the coming in glory of Jesus Christ our Redeemer;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
One God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Confession and Pardon

Rev. Bill Culpepper

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

**O promised Christ:**

**We are a world at war.**

**Our peace depends on your coming.**

**We are a sinful people.**

**Our pardon depends on your coming.**

**We are full of good intentions**

**but weak at keeping promises;  
our only hope of doing God’s will  
is that you should come and help us do it.**

**Lord Christ, Word made flesh,**

**our world waits for your peace,  
for your pardon,  
and for your grace.**

**Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

*Silent Confession*

The Good news of this Advent season  
is forgiveness of sin and new life.

Let us commit our lives to Christ’s way of hope and peace.

Thanks be to the Advent God,  
who comes among us,  
setting us free to love and serve.

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Act of Praise Ainsworth Choir  
"Break Forth, O Beauteous, Heavenly Light" J.S. Bach

*Break forth, O beauteous, heavenly light, and usher in the morning;  
Ye shepherds, shrink not with affright, but hear the angel's warning.  
This child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be,  
the power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.*

***Children age 6 and under are invited to leave for  
children's church at this time.***

### ***Proclamation and Response***

\* Gospel Lesson Kelly Stone  
Matthew 3:1-12 (NIV)

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

Homily Rev. Jimmy Towson  
'Twas the LIGHT Before Christmas:  
"Firelight"

Offering of our Gifts Nick Spooner, Tenor  
"Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming" arr. Mark Hayes

### ***Thanksgiving and Communion***

\* The Great Thanksgiving Rev. Jimmy Towson  
Musical Setting A (Pages 17-18)

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup

Music at Communion

"I Wonder as I Wander" John J. Niles  
*(Krysta Therieau, Soprano)*

"Mary, Did You Know" Buddy Green  
*(Lindsey Rueter, Soprano)*

"Bethlehem, House of Bread" Bill Wolaver  
*(Katie Trotter, Soprano)*

Prayer after Communion Rev. Tommy Perkins

Let us pray.

**O amazing God,  
you come into our ordinary lives  
and set a holy table among us,  
filling our plates with the bread of life  
and our cups with salvation.  
Send us out, O God, with tenderheartedness  
to touch an ordinary everyday world  
with the promise of your peace. Amen.**

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

## *Sending Forth*

\* Hymn of Discipleship No. 209

“Blessed Be the God of Israel”

MERLE’S TUNE

The Light of Christ Goes Into the World

*Please be seated after the cross and light pass your pew.*

Closing Voluntary

“Voluntary on ELLACOMBE

Al Travis

\* Benediction

Rev. Jimmy Towson

\* *Please stand as you are able.*



*Rev. Jimmy Towson, Senior Pastor*

*Rev. Tommy Perkins, Associate Pastor*

*Rev. Bill Culpepper, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministries*

*Cam Bishop, Director of Music/Organist*

*Ainsworth Choir*

*David Keith, Ainsworth Choir Director*

*Kelly Stone, Lay Reader*

*Freeda Chapman, Bread Baker*

*Gregory & Angie Bushway, Communion Assistants*

*Savannah Stone, Communion Steward*

*Micah Johnston, Lead Acolyte*

*Jake Jamison, Crucifer*

*Cooper Baskette & Ben Jamison, Candlelighters*

*The arrangement in the sanctuary is given to the glory of God  
and in honor of Ann Brannen Wilkes on her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday  
of December 9 by her daughter and son-in-law  
Nancy B. and Chris Kelley and her grandchildren  
Elizabeth and Joseph Kelley.*

*The rose on the altar is in honor of the birth of  
Harris Matthews Allen  
son of Robbie and Marie Allen  
born on November 25, 2016.*

## *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 4, 2016*

**Today's Sermon**

'Twas the LIGHT Before Christmas:  
"Firelight"

**Today's Scripture**

Matthew 3:1-12 (NIV)

1 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

3 This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' "

4 John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.

5 People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan.

6 Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"

8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

9 And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.

10 The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

**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.*

# Celebrate the Season



## *Advent & Christmas at Mulberry*

Sunday, December 4  
*Plum Pudding Festival*  
5:00 pm – Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 11  
*Sounds of the Season*  
presented by Mulberry's Ainsworth Choir  
with Brass, Timpani, Strings & Organ  
Dr. David Keith, Conductor  
11:00 am Worship

*Family Caroling*  
4:00 pm

Sunday, December 18  
*NewRoom Brunch*  
(immediately following 10:00 am service  
at the Library Ballroom)

*Children's Nativity*  
11:00 am Worship

Saturday, December 24  
3:00 pm *Family Christmas Communion Service/Sanctuary*  
4:30 pm *Music of the Season/Sanctuary*  
5:00 pm *Christmas Eve Communion Service/Sanctuary*

Sunday, December 25  
9:30 am *Sweet Rolls in Fellowship Hall*  
10:00-10:30 am *Worship Service/Sanctuary*