

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
Macon, Georgia*

Second Sunday of Advent

*December 4, 2016
Nine O'clock*



Greeting

Rev. Jimmy Towson

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

Sam & Barbara Henley

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.**

* Hymn No. 203

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

ELLACOMBE

* Opening Prayer

Rev. Bill Culpepper

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.**

* Gospel Lesson

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”

Invitation to the Table

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

**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.

Offering of our Gifts

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

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.**

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

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

* Hymn of Discipleship

“Arise, Your Light Is Come”

FESTAL SONG

**Arise, your light is come! The Spirit’s call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.**

**Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive’s liberty,
good tidings to the poor.**

**Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the broken-hearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.**

**Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing,
God’s power will make us strong.**

* Benediction

Rev. Jimmy Towson

* *Please stand as you are able.*



*Rev. Jimmy Towson, Senior Pastor
Rev. Bill Culpepper, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministries
Cam Bishop, Director of Music/Organist*

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

*If you would like to have a copy of
Mulberry’s Up & Coming Events and Prayer List,
please see an usher.*

*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
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