

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
Macon, Georgia*

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2015

Eleven O'clock



ENTRANCE AND PRAISE

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

Embertides: Advent (Winter)

Richard Gress

Hillary Tann

Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace

Nick, Ashley, and Emma Heuman

“He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.” *(Isaiah 40:11 NRSV)*

“In keeping with his promise,
we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,
where righteousness dwells.

So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this,
make every effort to be found spotless, blameless,
and at peace with him.” *(2 Peter: 3:14-15 NIV)*

Today, we light the second Advent candle of peace.

In Advent, we are told to be at peace
and be patient as we wait for the day
when nations will live together in peace.

Let us pray.

Loving God, we are thankful for peace in our hearts
during this season of Advent.

We hear your call for us to be peace-makers in the world,
Help us today and every day to be grateful to hear your word,
and to do your will by sharing peace with others. **Amen.**

* Entrance Hymn No. 203

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

ELLACOMBE

Confession and Pardon

Rev. Tommy Perkins

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us now confess our sins before God.

**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

“Comfort Ye My People”

Ainsworth Choir

Joseph Martin

*Comfort, comfort ye my people,
Speak ye peace, thus saith the Lord.
Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning ‘neath their sorrow’s load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover,
And her warfare now is over.
Make straight what long was crooked,
Make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now on earth has been restored.
And all flesh shall see the token
That God’s word is never broken.
Alleluia, alleluia. Sing Alleluia.*

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

* Gospel Reading
Luke 2:8-15

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

Homily Rev. Jimmy Towson
Unwrapping Christmas: "The Heart of it All"

Offering of our Gifts Richard Gress
Improvisation on HYFRYDOL

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

* The Great Thanksgiving
Musical Setting A (Pages 17-18)

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup

Music at Communion

"An Advent Prayer" Allen Pote
Betsy Swanson & Peter Schultz

"There Shall Come Forth a Shoot from Jesse" Hal Hopson
Betsy Swanson & Katie Trotter

"Bethlehem, House of Bread" Robin Wolaver
Katie Trotter

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

SENDING FORTH

* Hymn of Discipleship No. 196
“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” HYFRYDOL

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

Closing Voluntary Richard Gress
“When the Salutation Gabriel Had Spoken” Marcel Dupré

* Benediction Rev. Jimmy Towson

* *Please stand as you are able.*



*Rev. Jimmy Towson, Senior Pastor
Rev. Tommy Perkins, Associate Pastor
Cam Bishop, Director of Music/Organist
Richard Gress, Assistant Organist
Ainsworth Choir
Ben & Kris Vaughn, Communion Assistants
Carol Head, Bread Baker
Sara Kate Sellers, Lead Acolyte
Jake Jamison, Crucifer
Savannah Stone, Communion Steward
Ben Jamison & Alex Stone, Candlelighters*

*The arrangement in the sanctuary is given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of John S. Warchak, Stan Warchak
and Charlie and Bertha Yancey by Aliene Warchak and family.*

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 6, 2015

Today's Sermon

Unwrapping Christmas: "The Heart of it All"

Today's Scripture

Luke 2:8-15

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

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.

***The Joy of Christmas
Celebrate the Season at Mulberry***

Sunday, December 6
Plum Pudding Festival
Children's Choir Music
5:00 pm Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 13
"A Festival of Carols and Readings"
Ainsworth Choir Christmas Music with Brass & Strings
(Joint worship service at 11:00 am only)
Sanctuary

Family Caroling
4:00 pm

Wednesday, December 16
Macon Outreach Community Christmas Celebration
11:00 am Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 20
Service of the Longest Night
5:00 pm Sanctuary
*The death of friends, family, or the stresses of life can be discouraging during the Christmas season.
This service offers prayers, music and Holy Communion.
And it is offered to all, especially those who may be struggling this season.*

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