

Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
Macon, Georgia

The Church at Worship

Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2019
Eleven O'clock



Entrance and Praise

Greeting in the Name of Christ

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

Voluntary

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

J. S. Bach

Call to Worship

Lilly Singleton

When the sun rises what shall we sing?

“My soul magnifies the Lord.”

And with chaos and violence echo on the screen?

“My soul magnifies the Lord.”

For our God is a God of justice and peace.

“My soul magnifies the Lord.”

So when all is wrong, or all is right,

“My soul magnifies the Lord.”

Yes, when all is wrong, or all is right,

**We will sing with joy and delight,
of the God of justice and love and peace.**

“My soul magnifies the Lord.”

* **Entrance Hymn No. 198**

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

MORNING SONG

Prayer of Confession

Alice Rauls

In front of God and this church, I confess –

I am quick to complain, quick to criticize and conform.

I am quick to forget, quick to doubt and deny.

Instead of singing praise, I often stay silent.

**May the God of shepherds and kings,
the God of starlight and new life,
offer you grace and show you the way home.**

Amen.

**In front of God and this church, we confess –
we are quick to complain, quick to criticize and conform.**

We are quick to forget, quick to doubt and deny.

Instead of singing praise, we often stay silent.

May the God of shepherds and kings,
the God of starlight and new life,
offer you grace and show you the way home.

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Alice Rauls

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.**

Advent Candle Lighting

Choral Response

Light One Candle

Natalie Sleeth

Light one candle for hope, one bright candle for hope.
He brings hope to every heart. He comes, He comes.

Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace.
He brings peace to every heart. He comes, He comes.

Light one candle for joy, one bright candle for joy.
Every nation will find salvation in Bethlehem's baby boy.

Light one candle for love, one bright candle for love.
He brings love to every heart. He comes, He comes.

Lighting the Candle for Joy

Rett & Molly Walker

Congregational Response

What Can't Wait

HYFRYDOL

**Joy can't wait; she beckons brightly, giving grace amid the gloom.
God is God of new beginnings; failed, forgiven buds will bloom.
God forgives and gives us laughter, mirth that mothers us to health.
Joy surrounds before and after; endless source of wondrous wealth.**

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Children's Moment

Rev. Trevor Ward

*Children are invited to meet on the chancel steps.
After the Children's Moment, K-4 and K-5 children are invited to Children's Church in the prayer room
and then will be escorted to the nursery. Please ask an usher for directions to retrieve your children after worship.*

Proclamation

Congregational Prayer for Illumination No. 204

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.**

Old Testament

Isaiah 35:1-10

Mickey Pope

Anthem

Magnificat in C

Charles Villiers Stanford

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior,
For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm:
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel: as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed, for ever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Gospel

Luke 1:46b-55

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

WHAT CAN'T WAIT?

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

3. Delight can't wait. (Joy can't wait.)

Response

Hymn No. 200

Tell Out, My Soul

WOODLANDS

Please remain seated for Stanzas 1-2.

Stanza 1 – soloist

Stanza 2 – choir

Please rise in body or spirit.

Stanza 3 – all

Stanza 4 – all

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Trevor Ward

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.

Offering of Our Tithes and Gifts

Tell Out, My Soul

Paul Manz

* Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Please note we are using the Doxology from Hymn No. 94.

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below:**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sending Forth

* Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

* Hymn No. 211

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

We will read the antiphons responsively before each stanza.

Stanza 1 – all

Stanza 2 – women and girls

Stanza 3 – men and boys

Stanzas 4-7 – all

* Benediction

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

* Congregational Response

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Please feel free to remain seated for the closing voluntary. If departing, please be sensitive to those remaining.

Closing Voluntary

Toccata in B minor

Eugène Gigout

* *Please rise in body or spirit.*

*Those parts of the service of worship in which the congregation participates in word or song are noted in **bold type**.*

The altar will be open if you would like to spend time in private prayer.
If you would like someone to pray with you, a member of our prayer team
will be available in the prayer room.


Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery, Lead Pastor
Rev. Trevor Ward, Minister for Families & Youth
Tom Granum, Director of Music/Organist
Ainsworth Choir
Caleb Esmond, Organ
Sam McDaniel, Organ
Christmas Children's Choir and Katie Trotter, Director
Mickey Pope, Reader
Lilly Singleton, Reader
Alice Rauls, Liturgist
Rett & Molly Walker, Lighting of the Advent Wreath
Akins Manley, Lead Acolyte
Katherine Dent, Crucifer
Campbell McIntyre & Alice Rauls, Candlelighters
Melinda Powell, Children's Church

The arrangement in the sanctuary is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mack and Sarah Guest by their children: Mack and Camilla, Judson and Paula, June and Joe, David and Debbie, 10 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Much of our liturgy for Advent comes from the worship-resource series *What Can't Wait*, developed by A Sanctified Art and complementing the lectionary for Advent. These materials are copyrighted and licensed for our use.

Welcome to Mulberry

Thank you for worshiping with us today! We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in Mulberry's worship and our opportunities for growing through education, fellowship, and mission. We hope you find our congregation to be a warm and caring community.

Please sign the Attendance Register as it is passed. The church newsletter is sent out electronically to all members for whom we have email addresses. If you are not receiving the electronic newsletter, please share your email address on the Attendance Register as it is passed. You may also include other changes or additions for contact information.

Children's church is open to children in Kindergarten and under after the Children's Moment each week. Please see our nursery staff or volunteer on the front row to check your child in and receive your Nursery pickup tag. Nursery is available for the entire service for children below Prekindergarten. Please see an usher for assistance in locating our 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.

Please speak to one of the pastors if you are interested in knowing more about membership at Mulberry Street United Methodist Church. Our next joining Sunday will be January 12.

Our 11:00 a.m. worship service is broadcast live over radio station AM 940 WMAC. You can download the Sunday bulletin at <https://mulberrymethodist.org/worship/worship-online>.

Why Blue for Advent?

Blue reminds us of the predawn sky and symbolizes the heavens where the angels proclaimed Jesus' birth. We use deep blue for Advent to shade the season with a hint of expectation and anticipation of the dawn of Christ.

Advent is a time to recommit to our faith to our God. Surely penitence and spiritual discipline are part of the traditional Advent observance, and this is why so many of us are using Advent wreaths and devotionals to mark the days of Advent. But Advent involves more than penitence and by using deep blue we err on the side of emphasizing the church's hope-filled and faithful watch for Christ. The deep blue of Advent is meant to inspire in us the hope of faith, and to encourage us to keep watch for the promised light of Christ to break over the horizon, changing night into day, darkness into light, and filling our lives and our world with a holy and righteous splendor.

Giving Opportunities

Christmas Offering

In 2020, several of our fellow United Methodist churches in Macon are participating in a new build in Pleasant Hill, in partnership with the Mayor's Clergy Council and the Beloved Community Paired Clergy Group. This year, you are invited to consider making your special offering in support of this ecumenical initiative to provide affordable housing through Habitat for Humanity to another family in our community. You may do so by marking your gift "2019 Christmas Offering" or by selecting the special offering option when giving online at www.mulberrymethodist.org/give.

Generation to Generation (G2G) Mission Trip – January 17-20, 2020

Join us for our annual trip to Hinton Rural Life Center. From one generation to the next we travel as one church to reach the rural community surrounding the center by offering our skills, time, energy, and efforts to bless and serve the families of the local area. This trip has continued to be an amazing time of fellowship as well as outreach and mission. 6th Grade-Older Adults.

Cost: \$215 per person Sign up Deadline/\$100 Deposit Due: January 5

Final Payment Due: January 17 Sign up online at: <https://mulberrymethodist.org/community/youth>

Macon Outreach Cold Weather Drive

We are collecting gloves, hats, and shoe insoles for our Macon Outreach for the cold weather months. Please drop off your donation in the atrium.

Mentor's Project Pantry and Christmas Drive

Vibrant Ministry is partnering with the Mentor's Project to stock their food pantry and provide Christmas gifts for at-risk youth in Bibb County schools. Lists of needed items are in the newsletter and in the atrium.

Church News

Prayer Can't Wait

You are invited to bring your prayer concerns and pray with Prayer Team members following today's services. Please come to the altar following 9 a.m. Chapel Worship and to the Parlor following the 11 a.m. worship services.

Caroling – December 15 – 4 p.m.

Meet at Springdale Elementary School, 4965 Northside Drive, to caravan with others to carol. Dutch-treat dinner follows at Ingleside Village Pizza. Contact Rev. Julia Norman for more information.

Last Printed Mailed Newsletter – December 22

Email newsletters will continue as usual. If you need to be added to the email distribution list, please contact Linda Parker at the church office. If you have no electronic means to receive a newsletter, please contact the church office to opt in to receiving a printed copy.

This change will save the church \$15,600 per year.

Sunday, December 22

Birthday Party for Jesus - 10:00 a.m. in the Blue Room

Please bring donation of a baby item to be given to The Methodist Home Embrace Program, which is a cottage for teen mothers and their babies. They especially need diapers (size 3-4), wipes, clothes (9 months to 1 year, all seasons), etc.

Children's Nativity

11:00 a.m. Worship – Sanctuary

Youth Christmas Party

5:00-7:00 p.m. – Youth Room

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Services – Sanctuary

3:00 p.m. – Candlelight Communion Service (*especially mindful of children*)

5:00 p.m. – Candlelight Communion Service (with 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Prelude)

Sunday, December 29

One Worship Service @ 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

10:00 a.m. – Fellowship for All – Sweet Rolls & Coffee – Fellowship Hall