

Mulberry Street United Methodist Church  
Macon, Georgia

## Third Sunday of Advent

December 16, 2018  
Nine O'clock

*As you enter this holy space and begin to make the transition from  
"getting here" to "being here," you are encouraged to use these moments  
to become aware of the quiet places within so that you are ready to worship God.  
Please silence your cell phones.  
Come, let us worship God.*



Voluntary

Greet in the Name of Christ  
The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

Call to Worship

Marilyn Armstrong

We gather in preparation  
**for good news is about to be proclaimed.**  
We gather in expectation  
**for joy is about to explode in our midst.**  
We gather in celebration  
**for we are those people who have said  
yes to the manger,  
yes to love enfleshed,  
yes to the one incarnate for others,  
yes to the wholeness of God.**

With preparation and in expectation, let us celebrate!

\* Hymn No. 203

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

ELLACOMBE

Advent Candle Lighting

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world;  
the one who follows me will not walk in darkness  
but have the light of life."

**We light this candle as a sign  
of the coming light of Christ.**

*As we celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Silent Night  
this month, we sing:*

**Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light;  
radiant beams from thy holy face  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

Prayer

Congregational Prayer for Illumination

*Please remain seated to sing.*

*Hymn No. 204 "Emmanuel, Emmanuel"*

McGEE

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

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

**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

\* Doxology

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Epistle Reading

Marilyn Armstrong

Philippians 4:4-7

\* Gospel Reading

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

Luke 3:7-18

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

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

A Disturbing Word from the Wilderness:  
"Silent Night, Holy Night, Shepherds Quake at the Sight..."

\* Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
the third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand  
of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge  
the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\* Invitation to Christian Discipleship

\* Hymn of Discipleship No. 224

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

IN DULCI JUBILO

\* Benediction

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery



*Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery, Lead Pastor  
Tom Granum, Director of Music/Organist  
Jan Stevens, Lighting of the Advent Wreath  
Marilyn Armstrong, Lay Reader*

*The arrangement in the chapel is given to the glory of God  
and in loving memory of George, Anna and Robert Collier  
by their daughter and sister Gail McNally.*

### **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.

Chris Abbott  
Worship Chair

## *Today's Scripture*

Luke 3:7-18

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”

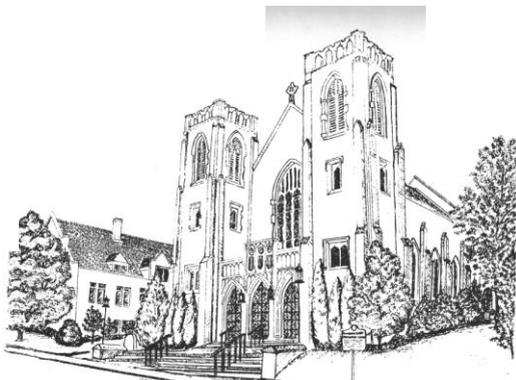
<sup>8</sup> Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup> He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with<sup>[b]</sup> the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.



## *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.

Nursery Care is provided for children younger than age 4. 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.

Please speak to one of the pastors if you are interested in knowing more about membership at Mulberry Street United Methodist Church.

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

# *Celebrating Advent and Christmas at Mulberry*

## **Advent Study**

### ***A Thrill of Hope: The Christmas Story in Word and Art***

Sunday – December 23

10:00 a.m. – Becomers Class (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)

Led by Rev. Creede Hinshaw

Wednesday – December 19

12:00 Noon – Parlor

Led by Rev. Jeff Cook

## **Sunday, December 16**

### **Family Caroling**

*All ages, voices, and instruments welcome!*

*Meet in the Atrium to spread Christmas cheer around Macon.*

*Questions? Please contact Julia Magda (478) 719-9562.*

## **Saturday, December 22**

### **Nativity Practice**

10:00-11:30 a.m. - Sanctuary

## **Sunday, December 23**

### **Children's Nativity**

11:00 a.m. Worship – Sanctuary

## **Sunday, December 23**

### ***A Carol Festival: "The Dawn of Redeeming Grace" Celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of "Silent Night"***

3:00 p.m. – Sanctuary

Tom Granum, organ

## **Monday, December 24**

### **Christmas Eve Services**

Sanctuary

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

4:30 p.m. – Christmas Eve Prelude

5:00 p.m. – Candlelight Communion Service

## **Sunday, December 30**

### **Combined Worship Service**

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

Fellowship Hall

11:00 a.m. - Sanctuary

*This will be the only worship service.*