

Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
Macon, Georgia

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 23, 2018
Eleven 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.



Entrance and Praise

Greeting in the Name of Christ

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

Please sign the Attendance Pad as it is passed, and then return it to the center aisle, noting the names of those who are seated on your pew.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Voluntaries

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Michael Burkhardt
& Paul Manz
James Murray

"Away in a Manger"

Call to Worship

Harold Chapman

Jesus, Son of the living God,
splendor of the Father, eternal light.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Jesus, King of glory,
son of justice, son of the Virgin Mary.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, everlasting Lord,
Prince of Peace.

Come, Lord Jesus.

* Entrance Hymn No. 246
"Joy to the World"

ANTIOCH

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 200th anniversary of Silent Night
this month, the youth and children sing:*

*Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

*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 Response

Soloist:

*Light dawns on a weary world
when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world:
the promised day of justice comes.*

Please remain seated and sing:



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun-tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

*Light Dawns on a Weary World, Mary Louise Bringle © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc.,
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Act of Praise

“The Holly and the Ivy”

Cherub Choir
English Carol

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Wright Christopher McLendon
Son of Taylor and Mary Priestly McLendon

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church,
reaffirm both your rejection of sin
and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith
and include Wright now before you in your care?

**With God's help, we will proclaim the
good news and live according to the example
of Christ.**

**We will surround Wright
with a community of love and forgiveness,
that he may grow in his trust of God,
and be found faithful in his service to others.**

**We will pray for him that he may be a true
disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.**

Commendation and Welcome

Members of the household of God,
we commend Wright to your love and care.
Do all in your power to increase his faith,
confirm his hope, and perfect him in love.

**We give thanks for all that God
has already given you
and welcome you in Christian love.
As members together with you
in the body of Christ
and at Mulberry Street
United Methodist Church,
we renew our covenant faithfully to participate
in the ministries of the church
by our prayers, our presence,
our gifts, our service, and our witness
that in everything God may be glorified
through Jesus Christ.**

Hymn of Baptism No. 611

“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”

STUTTGART

**Child of blessing, child of promise,
baptized with the Spirit’s sign;
with this water God has sealed you
unto love and grace divine.**

**Child of God your loving Parent,
learn to know whose child you are.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship,
trust and love God more than all.**

Proclamation and Response

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.**

Prayers of the People

Rev. Creede Hinshaw

All the end of the earth
have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia!

Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Alleluia!

O Christ, splendor of God’s eternal glory,
the mighty Word, sustaining the universe:
Renew our lives by your presence.

Lord have mercy.

O Christ, born into the world in the fullness of time
for the liberation of all creation:

Release all into your promised freedom.

Lord, have mercy.

O Christ, begotten of the Father before all time,
born in a stable at Bethlehem:

May your church be a sign of hope and joy.

Lord, have mercy.

O Christ, truly God and truly human,
born to a people in fulfillment of their expectations:
Fulfill our desires in you.

Lord, have mercy.

O Christ, born of the Virgin Mary,
child of wonder and splendor,
Mighty God of all ages, Prince of Peace:
May the whole world live in peace and justice.

Lord, have mercy.

From The Worship Sourcebook

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.**

Old Testament Reading
Micah 5:2-5a

Harold Chapman

* Gospel Reading
Luke 1:39-45

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

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

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

Among Us:

“Silent Night, Holy Night...Christ the Savior is born!”

Offering of our Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

“Away in a Manger” arr. Robert Shaw & Alice Parker

*Away in a manger, no crib for His bed.
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes:
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle to watch lullaby.*

The Children's Nativity

*Carols are sung by the congregation
as the children present the nativity story.*

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in the dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

“Gentle Mary”

**Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
There he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

**Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

“The First Noel”

**The first Noel the angel did say was to certain
poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.**

“We Three Kings”

**We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

“Joy to the World”

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and heaven, and nature sing.**

* Benediction

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

* Congregational Response

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Families are invited to come forward and take photos.

Closing Voluntary

“Joy to the World”

Hugo Gehrke

* *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**.*


Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery, Lead Pastor
Rev. Jeff Cook, Associate Pastor
Rev. Creede Hinshaw, Senior Pastor Emeritis
Tom Granum, Director of Music/Organist
Ainsworth Choir
Cherub and Wesley Choirs with youth assistants
Katie Trotter, Cherub Choir Director
Harold Chapman, Liturgist
Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Kyle and Cater Starling
Matt Newberry, Lead Acolyte
Ben Jamison, Crucifer
Ella Magda & Alice Rauls, Candlelighters

*The arrangement in the sanctuary is given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of their parents, Mr. & Mrs. Sam Lamback
and Mr. & Mrs. Harry Harshbarger by Sam and Gini Lamback.*

Welcome to Mulberry

Thank you for worshipping 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 and find us on Facebook.

Share your photos from today on Facebook and instagram and tag Mulberry Street UMC!

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

Sunday, December 23

A Carol Festival: "The Dawn of Redeeming Grace"
Celebrating the 200th 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.