

Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
Macon, Georgia

First Sunday of Advent

December 2, 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

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Paul Manz

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.

Let us worship God.

Call to Worship

Gail Springstead

O Emmanuel,

our Sovereign and Giver of Law:

Come to save us, Lord our God!

O Wisdom of our God Most High,

guiding creation with power and love:

Come to teach us the path of knowledge!

O Leader of the House of Israel,

giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:

Come to rescue us with your mighty power!

O Root of Jesse's stem,

sign of God's love for all his people:

Come to save us without delay!

We call to God saying:

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

* Hymn No. 211 (Stanzas 1-4)

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

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, 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.**

Old Testament Reading
Jeremiah 33:14-16

Gail Springstead

Gospel Reading
Luke 21:25-36

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

Homily

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery
"Before the Calm" ("Silent Night, Holy Night, All is Calm...")

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Jeff Cook

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 sins
before God and one another.

Confession and Pardon

Rev. Jeff Cook

**While we ask, Lord,
for the most meaningful Advent season ever,
we sadly confess having done so little
with so much.**

**Forgive us, Lord,
for not bending the knee,
for not reading your Word,
for not searching our hearts,
for not facing our sins.**

Forgive us according to your tender mercies, O God!

**Grant that when Christmas morning breaks
for us this year,
we may experience the dawn of redeeming grace
and go forth with a renewed resolve
to live to the praise of Christ's glory. Amen.**

adapted from The Worship Sourcebook

Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God! Amen.**

The Peace

Rev. Jeff Cook

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Offering of our Gifts

The Great Thanksgiving

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

Hymnal, pages 13 (*Communion response 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

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

Giving the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

**Strengthen us, O God, in the power of your Spirit
to bring good news to the poor
and lift blind eyes to sight,
to loose the chains that bind
and claim your blessing for all people.
Keep us faithful in your service
until Christ comes in final victory
and we shall feast with all your saints
in the joy of your eternal realm.
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

* Hymn of Discipleship No. 196

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

HYFRYDOL

* Benediction

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

* *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
Tom Granum, Director of Music/Organist
Harold Downs, Lighting of the Advent Wreath
Gail Springstead, Lay Reader*

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 21:25-36

²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”



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 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>.