

Mulberry Street United Methodist Church  
Macon, Georgia

# *The Church at Worship*

Second Sunday of Advent  
December 8, 2019  
Eleven O'clock



## *Entrance and Praise*

**Greeting in the Name of Christ**

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

**Call to Worship**

Cathy Cox

Prepare the way!

**Deck the halls and light the candles.**

Prepare the way!

**Open the doors and sing a song of hope.**

Prepare the way!

**Make space in our hearts for a new kind of love.**

Christ is coming.

**Prepare the way!**

**Entrance Prayer**

*Wait for the Lord*

WAIT FOR THE LORD

*Please remain seated for this procession.*

**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart.**

*O Come, Emmanuel*

Alice Parker

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*Overture from Messiah*

G. F. Handel

Grave – Allegro moderato

*Comfort ye my people from Messiah*

G. F. Handel

Comfort ye my people, saith your God; speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

*And the glory of the Lord from Messiah*

G. F. Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

*Prepare Thyself, Zion from Christmas Oratorio*

J. S. Bach

Prepare thyself, Zion, with tender affection, the purest, the fairest, this day to receive.

## Prayer of Confession

Cathy Cox

**Creator God –**

**Not a day goes by when you do not invite us to be  
peacemakers and advocates,  
listeners and good Samaritans.**

**Not a day goes by when we are not asked to be a friend to a stranger  
and a neighbor to those in need.**

**Not a day goes by when we are not asked to be the people you call us to be,  
and yet, day after day, we lose sight of your hope for this world.**

**Forgive us for walking a different path,  
and grant us the strength to prepare a new way –  
*your way – here.***

**Gratefully we pray, Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon

Cathy Cox

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

Bob & Martha Veto and Rachel Chabot

### 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 Peace

### Congregational Response

*What Can't Wait*

HYFRYDOL

**Peace can't wait; she beckons brightly, softening the hardened heart.**

**Blessing all with brilliant beauty, fighting that which tears apart.**

**Violence has lost its power; now's the time for God's *shalom*.**

**Nevermore shall war devour; all the soldiers welcomed home.**

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## Children's Moment

Tom Granum

*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 11:1-10

Cathy Cox

### Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

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

### Homily

*WHAT CAN'T WAIT?*

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

*2. Repentance can't wait. (Peace can't wait.)*

## Response

\* **Hymn No. 216** *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* ES IST EIN ROS

**Response** *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* Johannes Brahms

**Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer** Rev. Julia Norman

**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

*Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light* J. S. Bach  
from *Christmas Oratorio*

*There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob* Felix Mendelssohn  
from *Christus*

There shall a star come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel;  
with might destroying princes and cities!

As bright the star of morning gleams,  
so Jesus sheddeth glorious beams  
of light and consolation.

Thy Word, O Lord,  
radiance darting,  
truth imparting,  
gives salvation;  
Thine be praise and adoration.

*For Unto Us a Child is Born* G. F. Handel  
from *Messiah*

For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder,  
and His name shall be called Wonderful! Counselor! the Mighty God! the Everlasting Father!  
the Prince of peace!

## Sending Forth

\* **Hymn No. 213** *Lift Up Your Heads* TRURO

\* **Benediction** Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

\* **Choral Response** *Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts (Psalm 96)* Camille Saint-Saëns  
from *Christmas Oratorio*

Praise ye the Lord of hosts! Sing His salvation!  
Bless His name, show forth His praise in His holy house!

Rejoice, ye heavens, and be joyful, on earth.  
Rejoice in the name of the Lord, for He cometh. Alleluia!

Rejoice, ye angels; rejoice, all ye nations,  
now in the name of the Lord, for He cometh. Alleluia!

\* 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. Julia Norman, Minister for Families & Children*  
*Cathy Cox, Reader*  
*Bob & Martha Veto and Rachel Chabot, Lighting of the Advent Wreath*  
*Tom Granum, Director of Music/Organist*  
*Caleb Esmond and Lisa Shepard, Piano*  
*Christmas Children's Choir and Katie Trotter, Director*  
*Luke Baker, Tenor*

**Ainsworth Choir**

**Soprano**

*Jack Carter Rachel Chabot Doris Granum Debbie Heller Suzanne Lee Madeleine Londa*  
*Camilla Packroff Carol Pope Lisa Shepard Lilly Singleton Katie Trotter Lynneth Whitten*

**Alto**

*Mary Kathryn Borland Susan Dann Barbara Henley Pam Huber Alice Mauer*  
*Beautiful Sheriff Beth Tripp Marth Veto Caroline Stiles Williams Carol Woodbery*

**Tenor**

*Chris Abbott Luke Baker Harold Chapman Chace Crowell Matthew Roberts Bob Veto*

**Bass**

*Greg Elliott Caleb Esmond Johnny Hathcock Chuck Huber Bill Jackson*  
*Sam Lamback Sam McDaniel*

**Orchestra**

**Violin 1**

*Anna Black Bronwyn James Allyson Cohen*

**Violin 2**

*Cheyenne King-Bails Chelsea Cline Caitlyn Clingenpeel*

**Viola**

*Emily Brandenburg Seido Karasaki*

**Cello**

*Luis Parra Sara Scanlon*

**Bass**

*Reed Tucker*

**Flute**

*Joycelyn Jackson*

**Oboe**

*Katie Smith Natalie Beckenbaugh*

**Bassoon**

*Debbie Grove John Grove*

**Piano/Organ**

*Caleb Esmond Lisa Shepard*

*The arrangement in the sanctuary is given to the glory of God  
and in honor of the Ainsworth Memorial Choir by the Flower Guild.*

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.

Today's special music is funded by support from the Crocket Odom Music Fund, the Ed and Pree Sell Music Fund, the Elsie Hambricht Music Fund, Tom and Julie McAfee, Carolyn T. McAfee Bruner, the E. L. Brooking Tree of Life Fund, and donors to the Music Fund. Thank you for your support.

## *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. 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](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 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**

### **Bake Sale**

United Methodist Women have their Christmas Bell Bakery Sale unit 12:45 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room.

### **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. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade-Older Adults.

Cost: \$215 per person Sign up Deadline/\$100 Deposit Due: January 5, 2020

Final Payment Due: January 17, 2020 Sign up online at:

<https://mulberrymethodist.org/community/youth>

### **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.

### **Mulberry's Christmas Mission: Sponsor a Family through Angel Tree**

Mulberry's Missions Committee is partnering with Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree Ministry to provide Christmas to 30 children on behalf of their incarcerated parents. If you would like to sponsor a family, please contact Rev. Jeff Cook at [jcook@mulberrymethodist.org](mailto:jcook@mulberrymethodist.org) or Rev. Trevor Ward at [tward@mulberrymethodist.org](mailto:tward@mulberrymethodist.org).

### **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**

### **Last Printed Mailed Newsletter – December 23**

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.

### **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.

### **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

### **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