

Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
Macon, Georgia

Second Sunday of Advent

December 9, 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

Greeting in the Name of Christ

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Call to Worship

Harold Downs

A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

As we worship today,

**let us prepare to welcome God's dramatic work
in our midst,
in our hearts, in our community,
and in all of creation.**

Let us worship God.

* Hymn No. 626 (Stanzas 1-2)

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

PICARDY

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.**

Pastoral Prayer and 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.**

Offering of our Tithes and Gifts

* Doxology

OLD 100TH

**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.**

Old Testament Reading
Malachi 3:1-4

Harold Downs

* Gospel Reading
Luke 3:1-6

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

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

Homily

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

The Dawn of Redeeming Grace:
"Silent night, holy night . . . with the dawn of redeeming grace . . ."

* 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. 213

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

TRURO

* 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
Tom Granum, Director of Music/Organist
Jerry & Jackie Stinchcomb, Lighting of the Advent Wreath
Harold Downs, Lay Reader*

*The arrangement in the chapel is given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. W. P. Simmons by the family.*

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 3:1-6

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler^[a] of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler^[b] of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler^[c] of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”



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>.

Celebrating Advent and Christmas at Mulberry

Advent Study

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

Sundays – December 16 & 23
10:00 a.m. – Becomers Class (3rd Floor)
Led by Rev. Creede Hinshaw

Wednesdays – December 12 & 19
12:00 Noon – Parlor
Led by Rev. Jeff Cook

Saturday, December 15

CHRISTmas Camp

Ages 4K-5th Grade
4:00-7:00 p.m.

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.

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 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.