

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
Macon, Georgia*

The Church at Worship

*Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 12, 2017
Eleven O'clock*



Entrance and Praise

Greeting in the Name of Christ

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us worship God.

Opening Voluntary

“The God of Abraham Praise”

Richard Proulx

Call to Worship

Kelly Stone

We are gathered in the presence of God,
who asks us to choose between life and death,
blessing and curse.

**We are gathered like the people of Israel,
who were challenged to choose the way of life.**

Like them, we often follow the ways of death.

**Yet, like them, we have the freedom each day
to begin anew by the grace of God.**

By our presence here,
we are saying that we want to choose life
one more time.

**Let us praise the God of love and life
who has called us to this place. Amen.**

* Entrance Hymn No. 662

“Stand Up and Bless the Lord”

ST. MICHAEL

* Opening Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Gracious and holy God,
we come to you because you have first come to us.
We know you because you have revealed yourself.
Give us in this morning hour of worship
a new sense of your Spirit breathing through us.

Lift our hearts with the wings of song,
heal our souls with the balm of prayer,
enliven our minds
with the words of scripture and interpretation,
and newly enable us
to love you with our whole hearts,
to keep your commands,
and to walk in your ways of peace and justice. **Amen.**

* 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.**

Confession and Pardon

Let us come before the Lord in spirit and in truth
and confess our sins together.

**Gracious God,
You have given us the law of Moses
and the teachings of Jesus
to direct us in the way of life.
Yet we are sometimes confused and overwhelmed.
There are so many options before us:
some lead to life, others to death.
We confess that the ways of death
have a strong attraction,
and that we often succumb to their lure.
Forgive us, O Lord.
Give us the vision and courage to choose and nurture life,
that we may receive your blessing. Amen.**

Silent Confession

Brothers and sisters, believe the good news:
Seek first the kingdom of God,
and God's righteousness,
and all these things will be given to you.

Act of Praise

"I Will Be a Child of Peace"

Ainsworth Choir

Elaine Hagenberg

*O Holy Father, I will be a child of peace and purity
for well I know Thy hand will bless the seeker after righteousness.*

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Margaret Reeves Carroll
Daughter of Josh & Ashley Carroll

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 Margaret 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 Margaret
with a community of love and forgiveness,
that she may grow in her trust of God,
and be found faithful in her service to others.**

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

* Commendation and Welcome (*congregation stands*)

Members of the household of God,
We commend Margaret to your love and care.
Do all in your power to increase her faith,
confirm her hope, and perfect her 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”

STUTT GART

**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

Children’s Moments

Pam Johnston

Children are invited to meet Pam on the chancel steps.

*K-4 and K-5 children will leave for
Children’s Church after Children’s Moments.*

* Hymn No. 400

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

NETTLETON

Old Testament Lesson

Kelly Stone

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Jimmy Towson

“God’s Promise of Choice”

Offertory Prayer

Offering of our Gifts

Nicholas Spooner, Tenor

“Be Thou My Vision”

Bob Chilcott

* 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.**

* Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Sending Forth

* Hymn of Discipleship No. 467
“Trust and Obey”

TRUST AND OBEY

The Light of Christ Goes Into the World
Please be seated after the cross and light pass your pew.

Closing Voluntary
“Prelude for Organ” F. Hensel-Mendelssohn

* Benediction Rev. Jimmy Towson

* *Please stand as you are able.*



Rev. Jimmy Towson, Senior Pastor
Rev. Tommy Perkins, Associate Pastor
Rev. Bill Culpepper, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministries
Cam Bishop, Director of Music/Organist
David Keith, Ainsworth Choir Director
Pam Johnston, Director of Children's & Family Ministries
Kelly Stone, Lay Reader
Maddie McClure, Acolyte
Jake Jamison, Crucifer
Ben Jamison & Graham Johnston, Candlelighters
Alex Stone, Aquifer

*The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Clay McKemie
by Shelby and Gene Cramer and Kristy,
Kyndall and John Robert McKemie.*

Welcome All Visitors

*We welcome you to Mulberry Street United Methodist Church.
Please make sure you sign the **Attendance Register** as it is passed.
Nursery Care is provided for children under 4 years of age.
Please ask an usher for directions to the Nursery.*

Up & Coming Events & Prayer List

*Mulberry's Up & Coming Events and Prayer List
is located in the Registration Pads on your pew.*

Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
February 12, 2017

Today's Sermon

“God’s Promise of Choice”

Today's Scripture

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵ “Now listen! Today I am giving you a choice between life and death, between prosperity and disaster. ¹⁶ For I command you this day to love the LORD your God and to keep his commands, decrees, and regulations by walking in his ways. If you do this, you will live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you and the land you are about to enter and occupy. ¹⁷ “But if your heart turns away and you refuse to listen, and if you are drawn away to serve and worship other gods, ¹⁸ then I warn you now that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live a long, good life in the land you are crossing the Jordan to occupy. ¹⁹ “Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! ²⁰ You can make this choice by loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life. And if you love and obey the LORD, you will live long in the land the LORD swore to give your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

Sermon Notes

Previous Sermons Available Online

*If you are interested in listening to previous sermons,
please visit our website at www.mulberrymethodist.org
and click on “Listen” on top right.*