

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church  
Macon, Georgia*

# *The Church at Worship*

*Third Sunday after Epiphany  
January 21, 2018  
Nine O'clock*



Greeting in the Name of Christ

The grace of our Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us worship God.

“Chant de Paix”

Jean Langlais

Call to Worship

Rev. Jeff Cook

In the midst of the congregation I will praise you.  
**Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous,  
and give thanks to God's holy name!**  
I will extol you, my God and King,  
and bless your name for ever and ever.  
**Great is the Lord,  
and greatly to be praised,  
and God's greatness is unsearchable.**

\* Hymn of Praise No. 469

“Jesus Is All the World to Me”

ELIZABETH

\* Opening Prayer

Rev. Jeff Cook

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

Most wonderful God,  
the beauty we see in Jesus  
is your beauty veiled in human flesh,  
the love we witness from Bethlehem to Golgotha  
is your love contracted to a span.  
If Christ's life is so holy as to fill us with wonder,  
how much more would your unveiled beauty  
leave us overwhelmed and trembling?  
You are more than the eye could bear,  
more than the mind can ever fathom.  
Yet you have so carefully made us  
that although we cannot fathom you,  
we can yet love you.

Gratefully we bring our little lives to you,  
asking that our worship may arise  
from love and be shaped by love,  
and be directed towards that larger loving  
which is our soul's desire.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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Act of Praise

“How Can I Keep From Singing”

Peter Schultz, Tenor

Robert Lowry

arr. Alan Bullard

Litany for The Way Forward

Rev. Jeff Cook

Leader: Lord, in you and through you and by you,  
we have our being.

We give thanks for the ways in which you strengthen,  
encourage and pour life into us.

We have been saved by your grace,  
and it is through this grace that we have life.

**People: Remind us, Lord,  
of our shared life in one another.  
Keep ever before us the unifying love  
that finds its very life in You.  
Give us hearts that believe we truly  
are alive together in Christ.**

Leader: Together, we stand with the saints  
who have gone before declaring we are one,  
holy and apostolic church.

One faith, one baptism, one Lord.

**People: By Your Spirit make us one with Christ  
and one with each other.**

Leader: Together, we sit in our shared sin  
and need for repentance.

**People: Forgive us, we pray.  
Free us for joyful obedience,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Leader: Together, we walk in ministry to all the world  
seeking to act justly, love mercy,  
and live humbly with our God.

**People: Lord make us instruments  
of your peace.  
Where there is hatred let us sow love.  
Where there is injury, pardon.  
Where there is doubt, faith.  
Where there is despair, hope.  
Where there is darkness, light.  
And where there is sadness, joy.**

Leader: Together, we continue to discern  
The Way Forward  
agonizing for the church,  
and seeking to unify Her and Her people.

**People: In our uncertainty, grant us clarity.**

Leader: Together, we pray for hearts  
that are encouraged and drawn together  
through the love of the Creator,  
the sacrifice of the Savior,  
and the power of the Spirit.

**People: Knit us together by strong ties of love.**

Leader: Together, give us minds that seek wisdom  
and knowledge.

**People: Holy God, help us to tune our ears  
to your wisdom and apply our hearts  
to your understanding.**

Leader: Together, help us to recognize  
how we are deceived  
and where we seek after our own understanding.

**People: Seeking only You, we listen intently.**

Leader: Together, though separated by distance,  
opinion or belief,  
remind us of the truth  
that our hearts are bound by the love of Christ.

**People: My heart in Your heart,  
Your heart in my heart;  
Our hearts together, strong in Christ.**

Leader: Together, we continue following Christ;  
seeking the face of God, fighting for the Church,  
and surrendering to the Spirit at work in us.

**People: This is our prayer in Jesus name.  
Amen.**

Offering of our Tithes and Gifts

\* Doxology

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

**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.**

New Testament Lesson  
Philippians 1:12-14, 21

The word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Rev. Jimmy Towson  
Let There Be Joy!:  
Circumstances - "Joy No Matter What May Come!"

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

\* Hymn of Discipleship No. 368  
"My Hope is Built" THE SOLID ROCK

\* Benediction Rev. Jimmy Towson

\* *Please stand as you are able.*



*Rev. Jimmy Towson, Senior Pastor*  
*Rev. Jeff Cook, Associate Pastor*  
*Pat Crow, Organist*

*The arrangement on the altar in the chapel  
is given to the glory of God by the Flower Guild.*

## *If You Are New to Mulberry*

*Please make sure you sign the Attendance Register  
as it is passed.*

*Welcome to Mulberry Street United Methodist Church.*

*Thank you for worshipping with us today!*

*We are grateful for your presence and invite you to  
participate in our worship, growth opportunities  
and service life here at Mulberry. Our hope is that you  
will find this church to be a warm,  
caring community that you can call home.*

*Nursery Care is provided for children under 4 years of age.*

*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](http://www.mulberrymethodist.org)  
and find us on Facebook.*

### *Connect with us Online*

*You can learn more about our church community,  
staff and other events by visiting our website at  
[www.mulberrymethodist.org](http://www.mulberrymethodist.org).*

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**Today's Sermon**

Let There Be Joy!:  
Circumstances - "Joy No Matter What May Come!"

**Today's Scripture**

Philippians 1:12-14, 21

<sup>12</sup> Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. <sup>13</sup> As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. <sup>14</sup> And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

<sup>21</sup> For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

**Sermon Notes**

**Previous Sermons Available Online**

*If you are interested in listening to previous sermons, please visit our website at [www.mulberrymethodist.org](http://www.mulberrymethodist.org) on the home page click on "Media" and sermons are found on the right side of the page.*