

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church  
Macon, Georgia*

# *The Church at Worship*

*Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany  
January 29, 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  
“Largo” (Winter)

Amy Moretti, Violin  
Antonio Vivaldi

Call to Worship

We have gathered here this morning to worship God.  
**We have come seeking comfort, inspiration,  
community, and insight.**  
We have come to open ourselves  
to the power of God’s presence in our midst.  
**We have come to offer up the season  
and the turnings in our lives,  
and to ask God’s help in our learning and growing.**

\* Entrance Hymn No. 127  
“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” CWM RHONDDA

\* Opening Prayer

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

O God,  
in mystery and silence you are present in our lives,  
bringing new life out of destruction,  
hope out of despair, growth out of difficulty.  
We thank you that you do not leave us alone  
but labor to make us whole.  
Help us to perceive your unseen hand  
in the unfolding of our lives,  
and to attend to the gentle guidance of your Spirit,  
that we may know the joy you give your people. **Amen.**

Confession and Pardon

Let us together confess our sins before God and one another.

**We have sinned this week, O God,  
in word, thought and deed.  
We have said things we ought not to have said  
and have withheld praise  
when it should have been given.  
We have thought that which was unkind,  
unholy, and unprofitable,  
and we have failed to think the thoughts of love, peace,  
and righteousness your Spirit would have given us.  
We have been busy about many things  
that should not have occupied our time  
and have neglected to do those things  
that would have served others and pleased you.  
Therefore we condemn ourselves before you  
and ask that your grace and mercy be upon us,  
to forgive our sins, heal our brokenness,  
and return us unto ways  
that are profitable to your kingdom.  
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*Silent Confession*

God's forgiveness is as everlasting as the ages.  
**God's mercy is as wide as the seas.**  
Surely God will forgive our iniquities.  
**God will restore a right spirit within us. Amen.**

Act of Praise

“Create in Me”

Ainsworth Choir

Terre Johnson

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit in me.  
Cast me not away from thy presence  
and take not thy holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of thy salvation,  
And uphold me with thy free spirit.  
Create in me, O God.*

*Psalm 51:10-12*

## *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.*

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 27 (NLT) (Selected Verses)

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"Pleads, Pleads, Pleads"

Rev. Jimmy Towson

Musical Reflection

"Beau Soir"

Amy Moretti, Violin  
Debussy-Heifetz

Prayer

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 Gifts

"I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ"

J.S. Bach

\* Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

\* Invitation to Christian Discipleship

## *Sending Forth*

\* Hymn of Discipleship No. 126

“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above” MIT FREUDEN ZART

The Light of Christ Goes Into the World

*Please be seated after the cross and light pass your pew.*

Closing Voluntary

“Voluntary on MIT FREUDEN ZART

Emma Lou Diemer

\* 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*

*Savannah Stone, Acolyte*

*John Morgan Manley, Crucifer*

*Georgia Mercer & Matt Newberry, Candlelighters*

*The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God  
and in memory of our grandmother Neva Langley Fickling  
by Laurie, Dru and Billy Fickling.*

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church*

*January 29, 2017*

**Today's Sermon**

“Pleads, Pleads, Pleads”

**Today's Scripture**

Psalm 27 (NLT) Selected Verses

1 The LORD is my light and my salvation— so why should I be afraid? The LORD is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble?

2 When evil people come to devour me, when my enemies and foes attack me, they will stumble and fall.

3 Though a mighty army surrounds me, my heart will not be afraid. Even if I am attacked, I will remain confident.

4 The one thing I ask of the LORD — the thing I seek most— is to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, delighting in the LORD 's perfections and meditating in his Temple.

...

9 Do not turn your back on me. Do not reject your servant in anger. You have always been my helper. Don't leave me now; don't abandon me, O God of my salvation!

10 Even if my father and mother abandon me, the LORD will hold me close.

11 Teach me how to live, O LORD. Lead me along the right path, for my enemies are waiting for me.

12 Do not let me fall into their hands. For they accuse me of things I've never done; with every breath they threaten me with violence.

13 Yet I am confident I will see the LORD's goodness while I am here in the land of the living.

**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) and click on “Listen” on top right.*

## *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.*