

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
Macon, Georgia*

The Church at Worship

*Epiphany of the Lord
January 3, 2016
Nine O'clock*



Greeting in the Name of Christ

Rev. Tommy Perkins

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us worship God.

Opening Voluntary

Call to Worship

We have come to praise God,
who has done wonderful things among us.
**In Jesus, the Christ, God has shown us love,
giving light for our darkness,
and strength for all our days.**

Sing praise to God's name,
bow before God in prayer,
open your hearts to God's saving word.
Arise, shine, for your light has come!

* Hymn of Praise No. 188

"Christ is the World's Light"

CHRISTE SANCTORUM

* Opening Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty Father,
in the glorious incarnation of your Son, Jesus Christ,
you have sent a new light into the world;
give us grace,
that we may so receive the same light into our hearts
as to be guided by it into the way of everlasting salvation,
through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession and Pardon

Ye who do truly and earnestly repent of your sins,
and are in love and charity with your neighbors,
and intend to lead a new life,
following the commandments of God,
and walking from henceforth in his holy ways:
Draw near with faith,
and take this Holy Sacrament to your comfort,
and make your humble confession to almighty God.

**Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
maker of all things, judge of all people:
We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins
and wickedness,
which we from time to time
most grievously have committed,
by thought, word, and deed,
against thy divine majesty.
We do earnestly repent,
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us.
Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us,
most merciful Father.
For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may ever hereafter
serve and please thee in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of thy name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
who of thy great mercy
hast promised forgiveness of sins
to all them that with hearty repentance
and true faith turn to thee:
Have mercy upon us;
pardon and deliver us from all our sins;
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness;
and bring us to everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just,
and will forgive our sins,
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
Thanks be to God.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

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

New Testament Reading
Ephesians 3:8-13

Homily
“Covenant in Absentia”

Rev. Tommy Perkins

A Wesleyan Covenant for the New Year

Dear friends, the Christian life, to which we are called,
is a life in Christ, redeemed from sin
and consecrated to God.

From time to time we renew our vows of consecration,
especially when we gather at the table of the Lord;
but on this day we meet expressly,
as other generations have met,
that we may joyfully and solemnly renew the covenant
which bound them and binds us to God.

Christ has many services to be done;
some are easy, others are difficult,
some bring honor, others bring reproach;
some are suitable to our natural desires
and temporal interests, others are contrary to both.

In some we may please Christ and please ourselves,
in others we cannot please Christ
except by denying ourselves.

Yet the power to do all of these things
is assuredly given us in Jesus Christ,
who strengthens us.

Therefore, let us make the covenant of God our own.
Let us bind our hearts to the Lord,
and resolve in God’s strength never to turn back.

Being thus prepared,
let us now in sincere dependence upon God’s grace
and trusting in God’s promises,
yield ourselves anew to the Lord.

The Covenant Prayer

**O Lord God, you have called us through Jesus Christ
to be partakers in this gracious covenant;
we take upon ourselves with joy the yoke of obedience,
and engage ourselves, for love of you
to seek and do your perfect will.**

We are no longer our own, but yours.

**Put us to what you will, rank us with whom you will;
put us to doing, put us to suffering;
let us be employed for you or laid aside for you,
exalted for you or brought low for you;
let us be full, let us be empty;
let us have all things, let us have nothing;
we freely and heartily yield all things to your pleasure
and to your disposal.**

**And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, you are ours, and we are yours.
So be it.**

**May the covenant which we have made this day on earth
be sustained for all of our days in this world
and may it be ratified in Heaven. Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Offering of our Gifts

* The Great Thanksgiving Hymnal Page 13
Communion responses are spoken.

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking the Bread

Prayer of Humble Access

**We do not presume to come to this thy table,
O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness,
but in thy manifold and great mercies.**

**We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table.**

**But thou art the same Lord,
whose property is always to have mercy.**

**Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,
so to partake of this Sacrament
of thy Son Jesus Christ,
that we may walk in newness of life,
may grow into his likeness,
and may evermore dwell in him, and he is us. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

* Hymn of Discipleship No. 399
"Take My Life, and Let It Be" MESSIAH

* Benediction Rev. Tommy Perkins

* *Please stand as you are able.*



*Rev. Tommy Perkins, Associate Pastor
Cam Bishop, Director of Music/Organist*

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
January 3, 2016*

Today's Sermon
"Covenant in Absentia"

Today's Scriptures
Isaiah 60:1-6

¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Ephesians 3:8-13

⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. ¹³ I pray therefore that you may not lose heart over my sufferings for you; they are your glory.

Previous Sermons Available Online

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and click on "Listen" on top right.*