

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church  
Macon, Georgia*

# *The Church at Worship*

*Epiphany of the Lord  
January 7, 2018  
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.

Chorale Prelude on “Hail to the Day So Rich in Joy” Jon Giblin  
(Der Tag der ist so freudenreich) Dieterich Buxtehude

Call to Worship Rev. Jeff Cook

O Come, let us adore Him.  
**The Star in the dark heralded His coming.**  
Led by the light of the Star,  
the Wise Ones came to pay homage.  
**We, too, come, seeking the King.**  
God’s light of love is shining upon us. **Amen!**

\* Entrance Hymn No. 223  
“Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light” ERMUNTRE DICH

\* Opening Prayer Rev. Jeff Cook

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

Keeper of every moment in eternity:  
we come, not only to hear those words  
which can transform us,  
but to be filled with your grace and hope.  
We have come, not out of habit,  
but to respond to your call,  
willing to be called away from  
the familiar ways of our lives.

Walker of our journeys,  
in the midst of our harried lives,  
you call us to lay aside all that entangles us,  
to follow you into service to others.

You invite us to step into the waters of life and hope,  
reaching out to draw others to our side so,  
that together,  
we might enter your kingdom of laughter and joy.

When uncertainty fills every block in our daily planners,  
you come, Grace's Companion,  
to offer that hope which anchors us in God's heart;  
to place our feet firmly on that rock called peace;  
to bring us safely to that haven  
filled with God's steadfast love. **Amen.**

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Act of Praise

"Joy to the World"

George Frideric Handel  
arr. John Rutter



***Children age 5K and under are invited  
to leave for children's church after the Act of Praise.***

## ***Proclamation and Response***

New Testament Lesson

Philippians 1:3-6, 12-14, 21

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Jimmy Towson

Let There Be Joy!:

"Joy No Matter What May Come!"

## ***Thanksgiving and Communion***

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Jeff Cook

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,  
who earnestly repent of their sin  
and seek to live in peace with one another.

Therefore, let us confess our sin  
before God and one another.

Confession and Pardon

Rev. Jeff Cook

**Merciful God,**

**we confess that we have not loved you  
with our whole heart.**

**We have failed to be an obedient church.**

**We have not done your will,**

**we have broken your law**

**we have rebelled against your love,**

**we have not loved our neighbors,**

**and we have not heard the cry of the needy.**

**Forgive us, we pray.**

**Free us for joyful obedience,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*All pray in silence.*

Hear the good news:  
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;  
that proves God's love toward us.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!  
Glory to God! Amen.**

The Peace

Rev. Jeff Cook

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

Offering of our Gifts  
"Beautiful Star"

Ainsworth Choir  
Libby Larsen

\* The Great Thanksgiving

Hymnal Pages 13-14

Sung Communion A (Pages 17-18)

**Holy holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Christ has died. Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.  
Amen. Amen. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Jimmy Towson

**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.**

Breaking the Bread

Giving of the Bread and Cup

*Communion will be served by intinction.  
After receiving communion,  
you are welcome to go to the altar for prayer.  
Please let an usher know  
if you need to be served in your pew.*

*Gluten-free bread and juice are available  
on the chancel steps pulpit side.*

Let us pray.

**Eternal God,  
we give you thanks for this holy mystery  
in which you have given yourself to us.  
Grant that we may go into the world  
in the strength of your Spirit,  
to give ourselves for others,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## *Sending Forth*

\* Invitation to Christian Discipleship Rev. Jeff Cook

\* Hymn of Discipleship No. 89  
"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" HYMN TO JOY

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

Toccatà in Seven John Rutter

\* Benediction Rev. Jimmy Towson

\* *Please stand as you are able.*

  
*Rev. Jimmy Towson, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Jeff Cook, Associate Pastor  
Jon Giblin, Guest Organist  
Richard Kosowski, Director of Music  
Mildred Howard & Mavis Trice, Lay Communion Servers  
Freeda Chapman, Carol Pope & Louise Watson Bread Bakers  
Micah Johnston, Lead Acolyte  
Matt Newberry, Crucifer  
Jake Jamison & Ella Magda, Candlelighters*

*The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God  
and in loving memory of Cohen and Dot James  
by their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.*

## *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 worshiping 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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January 7, 2018*

**Today's Sermon**

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

**Today's Scripture**

Philippians 1:3-6, 12-4, 21 (NIV)

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup> In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup> being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

<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.