

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church  
Macon, Georgia*

# *The Church at Worship*

*Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 11, 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.

Opening Voluntary  
Pensée d'automne

Joseph Jongen

Call to Worship

Chris Abbott

Give thanks to God!  
**Proclaim God's goodness  
throughout all the world.**  
Let all of us, gathered here,  
celebrate God's absolute love.  
**Let us offer our lives in service to others.**  
Thanks be to God for the blessings  
which have been poured on us.  
**Lord, enable us to use our gifts  
to serve you in your world.**

\* Entrance Hymn No. 159  
"Lift High the Cross"

CRUCIFER

\* Opening Prayer

Pam Johnston

O God,  
with gladness and expectation,  
we gather in this space today.  
For you are the one who makes all things new.  
You are the one who satisfies our hunger  
and restores our soul.  
In this holy space, help us, your daughters and sons,  
to know that you always love us.  
Through our worship today,  
help us to know that if we stray away from you,  
you are always ready to receive us with open arms.  
Prepare our hearts as we worship you  
to welcome and embrace  
all of your children as you do us.  
With gladness and expectation we pray,  
in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

\* Affirmation of Faith  
The Apostles' Creed

Pam Johnston

**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.**

\* Gloria Patri No. 71

GREATOREX

**Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Act of Praise

Ainsworth Choir

“Surely, He Has Borne Our Sorrows” Heather Sorenson

*Surely, He has borne our sorrows and our failures.  
Surely, He has carried ev'ry heartache,  
He has walked our path of grief.  
Surely, He has promised to be with us to the end.  
And by His stripes, we all are healed.*

*All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we've turned each one to our own way:  
each selfish thought, ev'ry prideful word.*

*But the Lord has laid on Him the transgressions of us all!*

*Surely, He has borne our sorrows and our failures.  
Surely, He has carried ev'ry heartache,  
He has walked our path of grief.  
Surely, He has promised to be with us to the end.  
And by His stripes, we'll know him.  
And by His stripes, we all are healed.*

Responsive Reading

Chris Abbott

Psalm 107:1-3; 17-22

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.

**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.**

Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story –  
those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,  
**those he gathered from the lands,  
from east and west, from north and south.**

**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.**

Some became fools through their rebellious ways  
and suffered affliction because of their iniquities.  
They loathed all food  
and drew near the gates of death.

**Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,  
and he saved them from their distress.**

**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.**

He sent out his word and healed them;  
he rescued them from the grave.  
Let them give thanks to the Lord  
for his unfailing love  
and his wonderful deeds for mankind.

**Let them sacrifice thank offerings  
and tell of his works with songs of joy.**

**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.**

Old Testament Lesson  
Numbers 21:4-9

Chris Abbott

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.*

Prayers of the People

Pam Johnston

We are still in the wilderness.  
We are learning the way, and getting better at following.  
So now we're more aware  
of how much we have to learn,  
and how much farther we have to travel  
to where Jesus leads.

And so we pray:

**Forgive us where we go astray,  
and keep us on the path of life.**

Because we know of people  
still kept in poverty or slavery,  
some in fear from abusers, terrorists, and oppressors,  
some facing addiction,  
and unjust treatment  
and we now see how our own actions or inaction  
leave things as they are, or make them worse:

**Forgive us where we go astray,  
and keep us on the path of life.**

With those among us and those around us who are leaders  
in religious, political, economic and social life;  
with our families, friends, and neighbors;  
and with all who sustain and protect our lives  
as military, civilian workers, and first responders:

**Forgive us where we go astray,  
and keep us on the path of life.**

With all who need your healing power,  
and all who offer healing through their skill and presence:  
**Forgive us where we go astray,  
and keep us on the path of life.**

Receive the prayers of your people, most merciful God.  
In your compassion, forgive our sins,  
encourage us in the work  
you are already doing to free us,  
**and keep us faithful to our journey's end;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## *Proclamation and Response*

Hymn of Preparation No. 378  
"Amazing Grace"

AMAZING GRACE

**Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
was blind, but now I see.**

**The Lord has promised good to me,  
his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be,  
as long as life endures.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.**

\* Gospel Lesson  
John 3:14-21

Chris Abbott

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

Sermon

Rev. Jimmy Towson

The Voice  
"The Voice Saves"

Offering of our Gifts and Tithes      Lindsey Rueter, Soprano  
"O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts" PROSPECT arr. Hal H. Hopson

*O Jesus, joy of loving hearts,  
the fount of life, the light of all.  
From ev'ry bliss that earth imparts  
we turn, unfilled, to hear your call.*

*For you our restless spirits yearn,  
where'er our changing lot is cast;  
glad, when your smile on us you turn,  
blest, when by faith we hold you fast.*

*O Jesus, ever with us stay!  
Make all our moments calm and bright!  
Oh, chase the cloud of sin away!  
Shed o'er the world your holy light.*

**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.**

## *Sending Forth*

\* Invitation to Christian Discipleship Pam Johnston

\* Hymn of Discipleship No. 98  
"To God Be the Glory" TO GOD BE THE GLORY

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

Closing Voluntary  
Voluntary on ENGELBERG Calvin Hampton

\* Benediction Rev. Jimmy Towson

\* *Please stand as you are able.*

*Rev. Jimmy Towson, Senior Pastor  
Pam Johnston, Director of Children & Family Ministries  
Richard Kosowski, Director of Music  
Pat Crowe, Organist  
Ainsworth Choir  
Chris Abbott, Lay Reader  
Alex Stone, Lead Acolyte  
Jake Jamison, Crucifer  
Graham Johnston, Candlelighter*

*The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God  
and in memory of Mildred and E. L. Brooking  
by Jean and Jimmy Weatherford.*

## *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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*March 11, 2018*

**Today's Sermon**

The Voice  
"The Voice Saves"

**Today's Scripture**

John 3:14-21

<sup>14</sup> And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

<sup>18</sup> "There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son. <sup>19</sup> And the judgment is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. <sup>20</sup> All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants."

**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.