

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church  
Macon, Georgia*

# *The Church at Worship*

*Second Sunday of Lent  
March 12, 2017  
Nine O'clock*



Greeting in the Name of Christ

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

Opening Voluntary

Partita on ST. ANNE  
V Pastorate

Paul Manz

Call to Worship

Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who are faithful  
and hope in God's steadfast love.

**Our soul waits for the Lord,  
who is our help and shield.**

Our hearts are glad in the Lord,  
because we trust in God's holy name.

**Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,  
even as we hope in you.**

\* Hymn No. 117

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

ST. ANNE

\* Opening Prayer

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

You keep your eye upon us, O God;  
you protect us as a shield.

You give us hope  
in spite of the disquiet that lingers within us.

You lift our spirits and make us glad.

Hear us as we worship,  
and speak to us as we gather.

For we seek to be filled with your Spirit  
and made alive by your abiding Word. **Amen.**

\* Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From whence does my help come?

**My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.**

The Lord will not let your foot be moved,  
the Lord who keeps you will not slumber.

**Behold, the One who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

The Lord is your keeper;

**the Lord is your shade on your right hand.**

The sun shall not smite you by day,  
**nor the moon by night.**

The Lord will keep you from all evil,  
and will keep your life.

**The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in  
from this time forth and for evermore.**

Act of Praise

“In Repentance and Rest”

Katie Trotter, Soprano

Bill and Robin Wolaver

Confession and Pardon

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

**Everlasting God,**

**fountain of all life and the true home of every heart:  
our hearts are restless until they rest in you.**

**Yet we confess that our hearts have been enslaved  
by selfish passion and base desire.**

**We have sought after many things  
and have neglected the one thing needful.**

**We have not loved you with our whole hearts;  
help us to turn to you and find forgiveness.**

**Lead us home, that we may again find in you  
our life and joy and peace. Amen.**

*Silent Confession*

O Israel, put your hope in the Lord,  
for with the Lord is unfailing love  
and with him is full redemption.

He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

**Thanks be to God.**

Offering of our Gifts

\* Hymn of Response

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

HAMBURG

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were an offering far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

\* Gospel Lesson

John 3:1-12

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Jimmy Towson

“Giving Up Expectations”

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

\* Hymn of Discipleship No. 128

“He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought”

HE LEADETH ME

\* Benediction

\* *Please stand as you are able.*



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

*The flowers in the chapel are given to the glory of God  
and in loving memory of Alton D. Greenway, Sr.  
by Shirley Greenway.*

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church  
March 12, 2017*

**Today's Sermon**

“Giving Up Expectations”

**Today's Scripture**

John 3:1-12

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

<sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

<sup>4</sup> “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. <sup>7</sup> You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup> “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

<sup>10</sup> “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. <sup>12</sup> I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?

**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*

*If you would like to have a copy of  
Mulberry's Up & Coming Events and Prayer List,  
please see an usher.*