

Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
Macon, Georgia

The Church at Worship

Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 18, 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

Flourish on "Italian Hymn"

Gilbert M. Martin

Call to Worship

Austin Carter

"The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when I will make a new covenant
with the house of Israel and the house of Jacob."

**God has made a new covenant
with us in Christ Jesus.**

Yet we have turned away, hardened our hearts and spirits.

Lord, help us to change.

"I will put my law within them,
and I will write it on their hearts;
and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

But we have failed to be God's people.

We have chosen our own way.

Turn again, says the Lord, through the prophets
and through God's own Son.

**Turn us again to you, O Lord,
and awaken our spirits to your love and mercy.**

* Entrance Hymn No. 568

"Christ for the World We Sing"

ITALIAN HYMN

* Opening Prayer

Rev. Jeff Cook

Lord, be with us this day
as we commit ourselves to being your disciples.
Help us to face the future unafraid,
trusting in your loving care
and presence with us.
We pray this 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
"Gethsemane"

Ainsworth Choir
John Ness Beck

Old Testament Lesson
Jeremiah 31:31-34

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

Rev. Jeff Cook

We are still in the wilderness.
We are learning the way, and getting better at following.
Yet this is still the wilderness.
We are not yet fully renewed.
And so we pray:

**Joy of every longing heart,
make our hearts beat with yours.**

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

**Joy of every longing heart,
make our hearts beat with yours.**

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:

**Joy of every longing heart,
make our hearts beat with yours.**

With all who need your healing power,
and all who offer healing through their skill and presence:

**Joy of every longing heart,
make our hearts beat with yours.**

With creatures with whom we share this planet,
those who sustain our lives, and those who threaten us,
those whose lives we sustain,
and those whose lives we threaten:

**Joy of every longing heart,
make our hearts beat with yours.**

With Jesus and all of his disciples
from generation to generation:

**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.**

Receive the prayers of your people, most merciful God.
In your compassion, forgive our sins,
stir up hope in your redemption,
and make our hearts beat more and more with yours;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Proclamation and Response

Epistle Lesson
Hebrews 5:5-9

Austin Carter

* Hymn of Preparation

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

ASSAM

**I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
no turning back, no turning back.**

**The world behind me, the cross before me;
the world behind me, the cross before me;
the world behind me; the cross before me;
no turning back, no turning back.**

* Gospel Lesson
John 12:23-30

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

Sermon Rev. Jimmy Towson
The Voice
“The Voice Beckons”

Offering of our Gifts and Tithes Taylor Mosley, Baritone
“Out of the Deep I Call” Paul S. Jones

* Doxology OLD 100TH

**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 Rev. Jeff Cook

* Hymn of Discipleship No. 576
“Rise Up, O Men of God” FESTAL SONG

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

Closing Voluntary Gilbert M. Martin
Toccata on “Festal Song”

* Benediction Rev. Jimmy Towson

* *Please stand as you are able.*


Rev. Jimmy Towson, Senior Pastor
Rev. Jeff Cook, Associate Pastor
Pam Johnston, Director of Children & Family Ministries
Richard Kosowski, Director of Music
Pat Crowe, Organist
Ainsworth Choir
Austin Carter, Lay Reader
Alex Stone, Lead Acolyte
Ben Jamison, Crucifer
Edie Sharpton & Emerson Toles, Candlelighters

*The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God
by the Mulberry Scampers in loving memory of
our faithful members who are no longer with us.*

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
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.*

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
March 18, 2018*

Today's Sermon

The Voice
"The Voice Beckons"

Today's Scripture

John 12:23-30

²³ Jesus replied, "Now the time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory. ²⁴ I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. ²⁵ Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity. ²⁶ Anyone who wants to serve me must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me. ²⁷ "Now my soul is deeply troubled. Should I pray, 'Father, save me from this hour'? But this is the very reason I came! ²⁸ Father, bring glory to your name."

Then a voice spoke from heaven, saying, "I have already brought glory to my name, and I will do so again." ²⁹ When the crowd heard the voice, some thought it was thunder, while others declared an angel had spoken to him.

³⁰ Then Jesus told them, "The voice was for your benefit, not mine."

Sermon Notes

Previous Sermons Available Online

If you are interested in listening to previous sermons, please visit our website at www.mulberrymethodist.org on the home page click on "Media" and sermons are found on the right side of the page.