

Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
Macon, Georgia

The Church at Worship

Second Sunday in Lent
March 8, 2020
Nine O'clock



Entrance and Praise

Voluntary

Lift High the Cross

Charles Callahan

Greeting in the Name of Christ

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Rev. Creede Hinshaw

Call to Worship

Marilyn Armstrong

All are welcome here –

The young and old, those who have visions and those who dream dreams.

All are welcome here –

The sinner and saint, those who seek forgiveness and those who long for peace.

All are welcome here –

The hurt and the doubting, those who know the wilderness and those who feel lost.

All are welcome here;

for you are loved by God, and this is God's house.

Let us worship God. **Amen.**

* **Hymn No. 116**

The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI

Call to Confession

Romans 4:4-5

We cannot earn God's grace or favor.

It comes to us, not as something owed, but as a gift freely given.

Confident in God's love for us, even when we are ungodly, we confess our sins in faith.

Prayer of Confession

God, we give you our hearts.

They are brimming with doubt and are saturated with fear, but we give them to you anyway, for you promise to love us as we are. You promise to walk with us to the ends of the earth, so in this moment, we promise to tell the truth.

God, you ask us to be brave and bold, but we cower in fear.

You ask us to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we hold tight to privilege and the status quo.

And you ask us to risk it all to follow you, but we are content with the injustices at hand.

Forgive us for our sin and lift our eyes to you. Lift our eyes to the hills.

Gratefully we pray, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

John 3:16-17

Friends, God is for us and not against us! For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Believe the good news, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

The Peace

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

Response

Jesus Loves Me

JESUS LOVES ME

**Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

Proclamation

Prayer for Illumination

John 3:1-15

God of signs and wonders,
we come to your word again and again, seeking understanding and the new life it offers.
**By the power of your Holy Spirit, illumine our hearts and minds
so that we may believe this testimony and have eternal life.
In the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and Savior, we pray. Amen.**

Old Testament

Genesis 12:1-4

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

* Gospel

John 3:1-8

Rev. Creede Hinshaw

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

Sermon

Journeying by Stages

Rev. Creede Hinshaw

Response

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Offering of Our Tithes and Gifts

* 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. Creede Hinshaw

* Hymn No. 159

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

* Benediction

Rev. Creede Hinshaw

* Please rise in body or spirit.

Those parts of the service of worship in which the congregation participates in word or song are noted in **bold type**.

Lenten Prayer

During the Lenten season, you are invited to spend time in prayer in the Mulberry Prayer Room at the conclusion of the chapel service. The Prayer Room is located across from the Parlor on the main floor.


*Rev. Creede Hinshaw, Interim Senior Pastor
Tom Granum, Director of Music/Organist
Sam McDaniel, Organ
Marilyn Armstrong, Liturgist*

*The flowers in the Chapel are given to the glory of God
and in honor of Reverend Creede Hinshaw
by Johnny and Charlotte Kennington.*

Welcome to Mulberry

Thank you for worshiping with us today! We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in Mulberry's worship and our opportunities for growing through education, fellowship, and mission. We hope you find our congregation to be a warm and caring community.

Please sign the Attendance Register as it is passed. The church newsletter is sent out electronically to all members for whom we have email addresses. If you are not receiving the electronic newsletter, please share your email address on the Attendance Register as it is passed. You may also include other changes or additions for contact information.

Children's church is open to children in Kindergarten and under after the Children's Moment each week. Please see our nursery staff or volunteer on the front row to check your child in and receive your Nursery pickup tag. Nursery is available for the entire service for children below Prekindergarten. Please see an usher for assistance in locating our 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.

Please speak to one of the pastors if you are interested in knowing more about membership at Mulberry Street United Methodist Church.

Our 11:00 a.m. worship service is broadcast live over radio station AM 940 WMAC and iheartradio.com. You can download the Sunday bulletin at <https://mulberrymethodist.org/worship/worship-online>.

Midweek at Mulberry: March 11

5:30 p.m. Serving line opens, Fellowship Hall
6:15 p.m. Program: Anatomy of Peace Study/Daughtery Class
6:15 p.m. 40 Day Prayer Challenge Study/Conference Room
6:15 p.m. Children's Choirs
6:15 p.m. Youth Fellowship
7:15 p.m. Ainsworth Choir, Choir Room

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Other opportunities

Social Principles Book Study – Sundays – Parlor – 5:00–7:00 p.m.

The Social Principles of the UMC are the product of more than a century of legislative decisions made by lay and clergy members at General Conference. Studying the Social Principles provides opportunities to examine your own approach to the topics included in the Social Principles and to deepen your discipleship. Childcare is available upon request. Books are \$5. Please contact the church office to sign up (478-745-8601).

Tuesday Disciple Group Study – Our Tuesday night Disciple Group will have a six-week study of The Walk – Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life by Adam Hamilton through April 7. We begin at 6:30 p.m. with brown bag supper and finish at 8:15 p.m. at the home of Sam and Gini Lamback. Reading the book is encouraged but not required. Please call Sam or Gini Lamback, (478) 719-2182.

40 Day Prayer Challenge Study - Beginning March 11 at 6:15 p.m. in the Conference Room (first floor). Come be surprised with a refreshing experience of God's presence like never before! You will look back on these 40 days as the best 40 days of your life. Video and table discussion.

The Anatomy of Peace Study – Wednesday evenings after Wednesday Night Supper - Beginning March 11 - As members of the United Methodist Church, we are the person next door, the church on the other side of the country, and the worshiping community across the globe. Together we share a legacy of living as disciples of Jesus Christ, sharing God's love both in what we say and how we serve our neighbors. As we move forward in our strategic planning of how Mulberry will be a 21st century church in the coming year and as we prepare for how to have conversations with each other about the upcoming general conference in May of 2020, we would like to invite you to participate with us in this important study. Everyone is encouraged to join us in the study of "The Anatomy of Peace" Call the church office, 745-8601 or email Linda Parker at lparker@mulberrymethodist.org to sign up. A copy of the book will be ordered for you. Cost of the book is \$16 and you can pay for the book on March 11.

Mulberry's Kairos Prison Ministry – Jesus said, "I was in prison and you came to me..." Mulberry will serve the Kairos Prison Ministry weekend, April 16-19, at Burruss Correctional Training Center in Forsyth, Ga. A table will be set up in the Atrium with information about ways to serve this ministry to inmates. We welcome prayer commitments, home-baked cookies, notes/art work by children and adults, and financial contributions (checks to KPMI, Kairos Prison Ministries International). Contact Sam Lamback, lambacks@bellsouth.net (478)550-3067.

We're Building a Habitat for Humanity Home This Spring!

Currently we're raising funds, having already raised \$8,500. We want to raise another \$3,500. If you can help us meet this goal, designate your checks/gifts "Habitat." Bring them to worship, give on our website, or bring/mail to church address. All mission jar offerings (Wednesday nights) in Lent will be added to this offering. Building will begin this spring. Questions? Contact Jeff Cook or Lee Triesenberg, Chair of Missions Committee