

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
Macon, Georgia*

The Church at Worship

*Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 1, 2016
Eleven O'clock*



ENTRANCE AND PRAISE

Greeting in the Name of Christ

Rev. Jimmy Towson

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

Opening Voluntary
“Where’er You Walk”

Rolando Fernandez, Trumpet
G. F. Handel

Call to Worship

Joseph Whitten

Let us praise our God,
Holy Mystery, Source of all being, Word and Spirit.
Let us praise and exalt God above all forever.

* Entrance Hymn No. 64

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”

NICAEA

* Opening Prayer

Rev. Tommy Perkins

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

Revealing God, we would see Jesus.
Open our eyes now to Christ’s living presence
as we attend to your word in holy scriptures
and listen for the voice of Christ speaking to us.
Through prayer and praise, through bread and wine,
let us know that Christ is in our midst
and communes with us. **Amen.**

Act of Praise

“Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether”

Ainsworth Choir

Harold Friedell

(Words by Percy Dearmer. See UMH 632 for text.)

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

RECOGNITION OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

High School Seniors

Rev. Bill Culpepper

*Lillian Akridge
Nano Castillo
Clara-Ellen Driggers
Carson Eidson
Conner Hefner
Emma Johnston*

*Alexis O'Dette
Mary Stuart Smith
Will Smith
Xavier Tarbox
Joseph Whitten*

In Celebration of Mulberry's Graduates

Before you were even formed, God knew you.
While in your Mother's womb, God named you.
At your birth, God's breath filled you with life.
At your baptism,
 you were incorporated into God's mighty acts
 of salvation by water and the Spirit.
Today we celebrate all that you have become
 at this moment in time.

Let us pray.

God of our beginnings,
 we thank you for the gifts of these graduates.
Their excitement, their awesome wonder and curiosity,
 and their encouraging words inspire us.

**Their contributions have blessed and challenged us,
and we have become a richer
and more diverse community because of them.**

As they step forward into the world that awaits,
 comfort their fears with the full knowledge
 of your divine presence.

**Strengthen their resolve to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.
May they be modern-day disciples
 in a world that needs their spirit.**

Guide their feet as they move through life.
Protect them from the pitfalls of darkness.
May they help to lead future generations
 into the warmth and promise of your light.

**We ask this blessing upon each of them;
"May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make His face to shine on you
 and be gracious unto you.**

**May the Lord lift his countenance upon you
 and give you peace."**

**In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

A Hymn for Our Journeys
 "Borning Cry"

Sara Kate Sellers, Soprano
 John Ylvisaker

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

* Gospel Reading
Luke 24:13-32 (CEB)

Conner Hefner

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

Homily
“Stranger Danger”

Rev. Bill Culpepper

HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

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

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

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

Offering of our Gifts

Sung responses – Congregation echoes the cantor.

Emma Johnston, Cantor

Holy, holy, holy Lord; God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blest is the One who comes, in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Music at Communion

“The Lord's My Shepherd”

Bob Chilcott

Betsy Swanson, Soprano

“On the Journey to Emmaus”

COLUMCILLE

Sarah Kate Sellers, Soprano

“Make Us Holy, Make Us Whole”

Mark Friedman

Emma Johnston, Mezzo Soprano

“Blest Are They”

David Haas

Sarah Kate Sellers & Emma Johnston, Cantors

Congregation sings the refrain:

Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you.

Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God.

Prayer after Communion

Eternal God,

we thank you 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;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

* Hymn of Discipleship No. 614

“For the Bread Which You Have Broken”

FOR THE BREAD

The Light of Christ Goes Into the World

Please be seated after the cross and light pass your pew.

Closing Voluntary

“Voluntary in G”

Richard Gress

G. F. Handel

* Benediction

Rev. Jimmy Towson

* *Please stand as you are able.*



Rev. Jimmy Towson, Senior Pastor

Rev. Tommy Perkins, Associate Pastor

Rev. Bill Culpepper, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministries

Cam Bishop, Director of Music/Organist

Richard Gress, Assistant Organist

Ainsworth Choir

Lisa E. Shepard, Conductor

Freeda Chapman, Bread Baker

Clara-Ellen Driggers & Will Smith, Lay Communion Servers

*The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of J.V. “Buncie” Skinner
and Mary Miller Skinner family.*

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

*Mulberry’s Up & Coming Events and Prayer List
is located in the Registration Pads on your pew.*

***You are invited to hear Richard Gress in a 45 minute organ concert
this Wednesday, May 4 at 7:30 in our sanctuary.***

Mulberry Street United Methodist Church

May 1, 2016

Today's Sermon

“Chariot Riders”

Today's Scripture

Luke 24:13-32 (CEB)

¹³ On that same day of the resurrection, two of the disciples were traveling to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking to each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were discussing these things, Jesus himself arrived and joined them on their journey. ¹⁶ They were prevented from recognizing him.

¹⁷ He said to them, “What are you talking about as you walk along?” They stopped, their faces downcast.

¹⁸ The one named Cleopas replied, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who is unaware of the things that have taken place there over the last few days?”

¹⁹ He said to them, “What things?”

They said to him, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth. Because of his powerful deeds and words, he was recognized by God and all the people as a prophet. ²⁰ But our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him. ²¹ We had hoped he was the one who would redeem Israel. All these things happened three days ago. ²² But there’s more: Some women from our group have left us stunned. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ and didn’t find his body. They came to us saying that they had even seen a vision of angels who told them he is alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women said. They didn’t see him.”

²⁵ Then Jesus said to them, “You foolish people! Your dull minds keep you from believing all that the prophets talked about. ²⁶ Wasn’t it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷ Then he interpreted for them the things written about himself in all the scriptures, starting with Moses and going through all the Prophets.

²⁸ When they came to Emmaus, he acted as if he was going on ahead. ²⁹ But they urged him, saying, “Stay with us. It’s nearly evening, and the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ After he took his seat at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Weren’t our hearts on fire when he spoke to us along the road and when he explained the scriptures for us?”

Sermon Notes

Previous Sermons Available Online

If you are interested in listening to previous sermons, please visit our website at www.mulberrymethodist.org and click on “Listen” on top right.