

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church  
Macon, Georgia*

# *The Church at Worship*

*Fourth Sunday of Easter  
May 7, 2017  
Eleven O'clock*



## *Entrance and Praise*

Greeting in the Name of Christ

The grace of our risen Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us worship God.

Opening Voluntary

“All Glory Be to God on High”

T. Albrecht

Introit

“Ye Servants of God”

Greg Elliott, Baritone  
Wesley/Kimbrough

Call to Worship

We gather on this Lord’s Day, about the Lord’s table  
to celebrate with thanksgiving  
the saving acts and presence of Christ:  
who touches us with healing  
and makes us whole;  
**who teaches us God’s love and brings us to life;**  
who feeds us with bread and wine  
and comes to us;  
**who shapes us as servants  
and equips us for ministry.**

Let us worship God who is holy goodness.

**We come offering ourselves to God in awesome wonder:  
Holy, holy, holy, God of hosts;  
all earth is full of your glory.**

\* Entrance Hymn No. 64

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”

NICAEA

\* Opening Prayer

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

Most holy God, your majesty is exceeded only by your love;  
grant us, in this our worship of you,  
penitence in the presence of your holiness,  
reverence at the thought of your majesty,  
and confidence in the knowledge of your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Act of Praise  
“The Lord is My Shepherd”

Ainsworth Choir  
Howard Goodall

## *Recognition of High School Seniors*

High School Seniors

Rev. Bill Culpepper

*Harrison Bell*  
*Caroline Bingham*  
*Caroline Dunn*  
*Ashley English*  
*Ames Jamison*

*Hayden Martin*  
*Alex Newberry*  
*Sarah Kate Sellers*  
*Savannah Stone*

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 Song of Assurance for the Journey  
“Borning Cry”

Sarah Kate Sellers, Soprano

John Ylvisaker

## *Proclamation and Response*

Old Testament Reading  
2 Samuel 6:1-8

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

Homily  
“The Unfair Treatment of Uzzah”

Rev. Bill Culpepper

## *Thanksgiving and Communion*

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Bill Culpepper

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  
“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”  
(Text UMH 138)

Chris Abbott, Tenor  
J. N. Beck/C. Courtney

*Sung responses – Congregation echoes the cantor.  
Caroline Perkins, 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

**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.**

Breaking the Bread

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.*

Prayer after Communion

Rev. Bill Culpepper

**Eternal God,  
we give you thanks 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,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

## *Sending Forth*

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

\* Hymn of Discipleship No. 133

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

SHOWALTER

The Light of Christ Goes Into the World

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

Closing Voluntary

Cam Bishop

\* Benediction

\* *Please stand as you are able.*

### **About Today’s Music**

*Our closing hymn is one of Bill Culpepper’s favorite hymns and sung at his request on this, his last Sunday to preach for us at Mulberry before moving to Brunswick.*

*The hymns played on the piano during the serving of communion are arrangements that have been some Mulberry favorites through the years.*



*Rev. Jimmy Towson, Senior Pastor*

*Rev. Tommy Perkins, Associate Pastor*

*Rev. Bill Culpepper, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministries*

*Cam Bishop, Director of Music/Organist*

*Ainsworth Choir*

*David Keith, Ainsworth Choir Conductor*

*Freeda Chapman, Bread Baker*

*Hank & Lori Martin, Lay Communion Servers*

*Maddie McClure, Acolyte*

*Savannah Stone, Communion Steward*

*Alex Stone, Crucifer*

*Austin Carter & Georgia Mercer, Candlelighters*

*The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of their grandson, James A. Berg IV and their parents, Anne and James Berg and Mary and Tom Williams, by Martha and Jimbo Berg.*

Mulberry Street United Methodist Church  
May 7, 2017

## Today's Sermon

“The Unfair Treatment of Uzzah”

## Today's Scripture

2 Samuel 6:1-8

<sup>1</sup> David again brought together all the able young men of Israel—thirty thousand. <sup>2</sup> He and all his men went to Baalah in Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the Name, the name of the LORD Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim on the ark. <sup>3</sup> They set the ark of God on a new cart and brought it from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, were guiding the new cart <sup>4</sup> with the ark of God on it, and Ahio was walking in front of it. <sup>5</sup> David and all Israel were celebrating with all their might before the LORD, with castanets, harps, lyres, timbrels, sistrums and cymbals. <sup>6</sup> When they came to the threshing floor of Nakon, Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God, because the oxen stumbled. <sup>7</sup> The LORD's anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore God struck him down, and he died there beside the ark of God. <sup>8</sup> Then David was angry because the LORD's wrath had broken out against Uzzah, and to this day that place is called Perez Uzzah.

## Sermon Notes

*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

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