

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
Macon, Georgia*

First Sunday of Advent

*November 29, 2015
Eleven O'clock*



ENTRANCE AND PRAISE

Greeting

Rev. Jimmy Towson

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

As we enter this season of Advent,
may the love of God the Father,
and the grace of Jesus Christ the Son,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be and abide with us all.

Amen!

Opening Voluntary

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice is Calling”

Cam Bishop

J. S. Bach

Call to Worship

Stir up our hearts, O God,
to prepare ourselves to receive your Son.
Grant that when he comes and knocks
he will not find us sleeping in sin,
but awake to righteousness,
endlessly rejoicing in his love.

**So purify our hearts and minds
that we may be ready to receive
his promise of life eternal. Amen.**

* Entrance Hymn

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show
and cause us in her ways to go.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thy justice here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

* Lighting the First Advent Candle of Hope
Don and Heidi Ream

We light the first Advent candle as a sign of our hope
that God's Messiah is coming.
May we stay alert for his coming
that we may hear with all creation
the redemption song of our God.

Let us pray.

God of salvation,
break into our world with your great power and glory.
Break the chains that bind us to sin.
Shatter the systems of our world
that promote injustice and oppression. **Amen.**

Act of Praise

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Ainsworth Choir

Robert Hobby

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.
Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule
in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.
Rule in all; hope of all.
Come, expected Jesus. Come.*

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Children's Moments

Pam Johnston

*All children are invited to meet Pam on the chancel steps.
Kids age 6 and under will leave for
Children's Church after Children's Moments.*

Canticle of Zechariah UMH No. 208

Rev. Bill Culpepper

Old Testament Prophecy

Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7 (NIV)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Jimmy Towson

Unwrapping Christmas: "What's Missing?"

* Hymn No. 210

"All Earth is Waiting"

TAULÉ

Offertory Prayer

Rev. Tommy Perkins

Offering of our Gifts

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Held

* Hymn of Response

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

TRURO

**Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here!**

* Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Rev. Tommy Perkins

SENDING FORTH

* Hymn of Discipleship No. 209

"Blest Be the God of Israel"

MERLE'S TUNE

The Light of Christ Goes Into the World

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

*As the light of Christ is carried out into the world,
you are invited to remain seated for a few minutes
of personal reflection to prepare to re-enter that world.*

*Consider prayerfully how God has been present to you
in worship this morning and how you can be present for him
in the world this week.*

Voluntary on TRURO David Cherwien

* 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
Pam Johnston, Director of Children's & Family Ministries
Cam Bishop, Director of Music/Organist
Ainsworth Choir
Savannah Stone, Lead Acolyte
Ames Jamison, Crucifer
Austin Carter & Hampton Tiller, Candlelighters

*The arrangement in the sanctuary is given to the glory of God
and in honor of Sam and Barbara Henley
by the Daughtery Class.*

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.*

Mulberry Street United Methodist Church

November 29, 2015

Today's Sermon

Unwrapping Christmas: "What's Missing?"

Today's Scripture

Isaiah 9:1-2; 6-7

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.

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.*

***The Joy of Christmas
Celebrate the Season at Mulberry***

Sunday, December 6
Plum Pudding Festival
Children's Choir Music
5:00 pm Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 13
"A Festival of Carols and Readings"
Ainsworth Choir Christmas Music with Brass & Strings
(Joint worship service at 11:00 am only)
Sanctuary

Family Caroling
4:00 pm

Wednesday, December 16
Macon Outreach Community Christmas Celebration
11:00 am Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 21
Service of the Longest Night
5:00 pm Sanctuary
*The death of friends, family, or the stresses of life can be discouraging during the Christmas season.
This service offers prayers, music and Holy Communion.
And it is offered to all, especially those who may be struggling this season.*

Thursday, December 24
Christmas Eve Services/Sanctuary
3:00 pm ***Family Christmas Eve Communion Service***
4:30 pm ***Music of the Season***
5:00 pm ***Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service***