

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church  
Macon, Georgia*

# *The Church at Worship*

*Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 11, 2016  
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

“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

Cam Bishop  
Wilbur Held

Call to Worship

Mary Hurt

The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

**The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?**

The Lord will hide me in his shelter  
in the day of trouble.

**He will conceal me under the cover of his tent,  
and will set me high upon a rock.**

\* Entrance Hymn No. 110

“A Mighty Fortress is our God”

FIN’ FESTE BURG

\* Opening Prayer

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

O God,

in mystery and silence you are present in our lives,  
bringing new life out of destruction,  
hope out of despair, growth out of difficulty.

We thank you that you do not leave us alone  
but labor to make us whole.

Help us to perceive your unseen hand  
in the unfolding of our lives,

and to attend to the gentle guidance of your Spirit,  
that we may know the joy you give your people. **Amen.**

\* Affirmation of Faith

From Romans 8: 35, 37-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?  
Shall tribulation or distress,  
or persecution or famine,  
or nakedness or peril or sword?

**No!**

**In all things we are more than conquerors  
through the One who loved us.**

**We are sure that neither**

**death nor life,  
nor angels, nor principalities,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,**

**will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Act of Praise

“Canticle of Hope”

Ainsworth Choir

Joseph Martin

*Lord, you are God, perfect in holiness.*

*Lord, you are God of the needy and the poor.*

*A sure defender, You are our refuge.*

*You are the Giver.*

*You are Jehovah.*

*You are the God who restores.*

*Lord, you are God, reigning in righteousness.*

*Lord, you are God in the time of our distress.*

*We call on you, Lord, our sure salvation.*

*Lord, you are faithful.*

*You are the God who restores.*

*Lord, you are God, ruling in gentleness.*

*Lord, you are God.*

*You wipe away each tear.*

*You hear our ev'ry prayer.*

*You give us comfort.*

*You touch our hearts and calm our fears.*

*You are eternal.*

*Alpha, Omega.*

*We place our hope in you alone.*

*Lord, you are God, perfect in holiness.*

*Lord, you are God.*

*In our darkness You are everlasting light.*

*A sure defender, You are our refuge.*

*You are the Giver.*

*You are Jehovah.*

*You are the God who restores.*

*Great is Thy Faithfulness!*

*Great is Thy Faithfulness!*

*Great is Thy Faithfulness!*

*You are the God who restores.*

*Your love restores.*

## *Proclamation and Response*

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.*

Psalm 10:12-18 with sung response

Hymnal Page 745

Old Testament Reading

Mary Hurt

Jeremiah 12:1-4 (NLT)

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Jimmy Towson

WHY? The Question that Won't Go Away:

Why Evil and Terrorism?

Prayers of Remembrance, Comfort and Hope

Leader:

God of the years,

we call to you this day when the memories of 9-11  
weigh so heavily upon our hearts.

We recall with horror and renewed shock that day

when airplanes flew into buildings and people perished.

We remember our fear and anger,

our confusion, and sense of threat.

**All:**

**We remember all that was lost to us that day:**

**our sense of security, our peace, our innocence,**

**our belief that we were safely beyond**

**such random violence and death.**

**Most of all we remember those who died in New York,**

**Washington and Pennsylvania,**

**their lives of promise extinguished in hatred.**

*(Brief Silence)*

Leader:

God of mercy,

even in our worst moments

your loving kindness surrounds us.

We give you thanks for the ways

in which you comforted us in those grim days

through a deepened sense of community.

We trace the movement of your grace

through those among us who risked their lives

to save others.

We are comforted by those

who would not let hatred overcome love.

**All:**

**For public officials, neighbors, friends,**

**and strangers who brought to our troubled lives**

**solace and clarity of purpose, we give thanks.**

*(Brief Silence)*

Leader:

O God,

you have taught us that faith is the substance  
of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen.

We live by hope in the future you hold for us  
and the whole world.

Grant us, we pray, hope for our children  
and our children's children  
that they may live in a world of peace.

All:

**Eternal God,**

**in you our hope is boundless.**

**You renew hope in us through the promise of a future  
in which none shall be afraid  
or lift up a sword against a neighbor.**

**We pray in hope for the peace of the world  
among peoples and nations, religions and cultures,  
until we become a beloved community  
reconciled to one another  
and under your sovereign power.**

*(Brief Silence)*

Together, let us pray

**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 Gifts

“Cry No More”

Peter Schultz, Tenor

Dan Forrest

*In the shadow where we linger, in this darkness we call home,  
Where the sighs are deep and doubtful and our aspirations groan,  
All is not in vain, Beloved, our travail is not unknown.*

*Christ within us, Christ among us, Christ the first and Christ the last;  
Love Incarnate, hold your children till the storm of life is past.*

*Though we have not faith to seek Him, Christ Himself will draw us near,  
Deep abiding rays of mercy cast their light on lonely fear.*

*Cry no more, ye poor and weary, our redeeming Lord is here.*

*Sure defender, never failing, radiant Savior, Holy Friend –*

*Gift of glory, hope of heaven, call us now to faith again!*

*Alleluia! Blest compassion, grace is shining without end!*

*Christ within us, Christ among us, Christ the first and Christ the last,  
Love Incarnate, hold Your children till the storm of life is past.*

*Cry no more.*

*(Words by Johanna Anderson)*

\* Doxology

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

**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.**

\* Invitation to Christian Discipleship

### *Sending Forth*

\* Hymn of Discipleship No. 117

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

ST. ANNE

The Light of Christ Goes Into the World

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

Closing Voluntary

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

Edwin Childs

\* Benediction

\* *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*

*Ainsworth Choir*

*David Keith, Ainsworth Choir Director*

*Pam Johnston, Director of Children's & Family Ministries*

*Mary Hurt, Lay Reader*

*Sara Kate Sellers, Lead Acolyte*

*Maddie McClure, Crucifer*

*Cooper Baskette & Alex Stone, Candlelighters*

*The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God  
and in loving memory of Jason's brother, David Benjamin Hawkins,  
by Jason and Allison Hawkins.*

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**Today's Sermon**

WHY? The Question that Won't Go Away:  
Why Evil and Terrorism?

**Today's Scripture**

Jeremiah 12:1-4 (NLT)

<sup>1</sup> LORD, you always give me justice  
when I bring a case before you.

So let me bring you this complaint:  
Why are the wicked so prosperous?

Why are evil people so happy?

<sup>2</sup> You have planted them,  
and they have taken root and prospered.

Your name is on their lips,  
but you are far from their hearts.

<sup>3</sup> But as for me, LORD, you know my heart.

You see me and test my thoughts.

Drag these people away like sheep to be butchered!

Set them aside to be slaughtered!

<sup>4</sup> How long must this land mourn?

Even the grass in the fields has withered.

The wild animals and birds have disappeared  
because of the evil in the land.

For the people have said,

“The LORD doesn't see what's ahead 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](http://www.mulberrymethodist.org)  
and click on “Listen” on top right.*