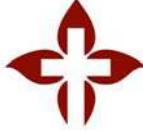


*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
Macon, Georgia*

The Church at Worship

*Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2015
Eleven O'clock*



ENTRANCE AND PRAISE

Gathering and Greeting

Rev. Jimmy Towson

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us worship God!

Opening Voluntary

“The Kingsfold Trumpet”

Alfred Fedak

Call to Worship

Freeda Chapman

O come, let us sing unto God;

let us make a noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into God’s presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise with songs of praise!

* Entrance Hymn No. 159

“Lift High the Cross”

CRUCIFER

* Opening Prayer

Rev. Tommy Perkins

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God,

in whom we live and move and have our being,

you created us for yourself,

so that our hearts are restless until they find rest in you.

Grant to us such piety of heart and strength of purpose

that no selfish passion may hinder us

from knowing your will,

and no weakness from doing it.

In your light may we see life clearly

and in your service find perfect freedom;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

* Affirmation of Faith

A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Act of Praise

"Christ Goes Before"

Ainsworth Choir

Carl Schalk

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.

* Hymn No. 298

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

HAMBURG

* Gospel Reading

Luke 9:18-27 (NIV)

Freeda Chapman

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Jimmy Towson

Not a Fan: Completely Committed Follower

"The Symbol of a Follower"

* Hymn of Response

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

ASSAM

**I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
no turning back, no turning back.**

**Though none go with me, I still will follow;
though none go with me, I will still follow;
though none go with me, I still will follow;
no turning back, no turning back.**

**My cross I'll carry, till I see Jesus;
my cross I'll carry till I see Jesus;
my cross I'll carry, till I see Jesus;
no turning back, no turning back.**

**The world behind me, the cross before me;
the world behind me, the cross before me;
the world behind me, the cross before me;
no turning back, no turning back.**

OneLicense #A-712041

Prayers of the People

Rev. Bill Culpepper

Let us bring the needs of the church,
the world, and all in need,
to God's loving care.
Please respond to the words,
“Lord in your mercy,”
by saying “hear our prayer.”

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 Gifts
“Be Thou My Vision”

Peter Schultz, Tenor
Bob Chilcott

**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
“The Summons”

KELINGROVE

**Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?**

**Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?**

**Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?**

**Will you love the “you” you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?**

**Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.**

**In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

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* 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 “CRUCIFER” Craig Phillips

*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 of Youth Ministries
Cam Bishop, Director of Music/Organist
Ainsworth Choir
Eldon Lundin, Conductor
Freeda Chapman, Lay Reader
Sara Kate Sellers, Lead Acolyte
Micah Johnston, Crucifer
Xavier Tarbox & Hampton Tiller, Candlelighters
Olivia Mann, Acolyte

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Eden and Pink Persons by their family.

Welcome All Visitors

We welcome you to Mulberry Street United Methodist Church.

We are glad you have joined us this morning and hope that through word, music, fellowship and prayer, you will experience the presence of God today.

*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.*

Gospel Reading for the Week
Mark 12:1-12

Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
September 20, 2015

Today's Sermon

Not a Fan: Completely Committed Follower
“The Symbol of a Follower”

Today's Scripture

Luke 9:18-27 (NIV)

Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say I am?”

They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life.”

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Peter answered, “God’s Messiah.”

Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. And he said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”

Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

“Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.”

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.*