

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
Macon, Georgia*

The Church at Worship

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 25, 2016

Nine O'clock



Greeting in the Name of Christ

Rev. Jimmy Towson

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us worship God.

Opening Voluntary

“How Firm a Foundation”

M. Burkhardt

Call to Worship

Rev. Bill Culpepper

I will bless the Lord at all times;

God’s praise shall continually be in my mouth.

My soul makes its boast in the Lord;

let the afflicted hear and be glad.

O magnify the Lord with me,

and let us exalt God’s name together!

I sought the Lord, who answered me,

and delivered me from all my fears.

* Hymn of Praise No. 529

“How Firm a Foundation”

FOUNDATION

* Affirmation of Faith

A Modern Affirmation

Where the Spirit of the Lord is,

there is the one true church,

apostolic and universal,

whose holy faith let us now declare:

We believe in God the Father,

infinite in wisdom, power, and love,

whose mercy is over all his works,

and whose will is ever directed

to his children’s good.

We believe in Jesus Christ,

Son of God and Son of man,

the gift of the Father’s unfailing grace,

the ground of our hope,

and the promise of our deliverance

from sin and death.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit
as the divine presence in our lives,
whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance
of the truth of Christ,
and find strength and help in time of need.**

**We believe that this faith should manifest itself
in the service of love
as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord,
to the end
that the kingdom of God
may come upon the earth. Amen.**

Confession and Pardon

Let us confess our sins together
as we come into the presence
of the One who is always watching over us.

Silence

**O God,
you provide everything that we need,
and yet we lack the one thing necessary.
You restore our souls,
and yet we are overwhelmed by choices
and exhausted by demands.
You lead us in the right direction,
and yet we wander after trivial pursuits.
You are with us in the dark places,
and yet we sense that we are alone.
Speak to us, Good Shepherd.
Guide us, protect us,
and lead us to the sources of life and peace.**

Silence

Words of Assurance

Believe the good news:
The Good Shepherd is always nearer to us
than we are to ourselves.
In the name of Jesus Christ,
we are embraced, loved, and forgiven.
Glory to God! Amen.

Act of Praise

“Jesus Lover of My Soul”
(Text UMH 479)

Katie Trotter, Soprano
Joseph Martin

Psalm 42:1-8

As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so longs my soul for you, O God.

**My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.**

When shall I come and behold the face of God?

My tears have been my food day and night,
while people say to me continually,
“Where is your God?”

**These things I remember as I pour out my soul:
how I went with the throng,
and led them in procession to the house of God,
with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,
a multitude keeping festival.**

Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?

**Hope in God whom again I shall praise,
my help and my God.**

My soul is cast down within me,
therefore I remember you
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon,
from Mount Mizar.

**Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts;
all your waves and your billows have gone over me.**

**By day the Lord commands his steadfast love;
and at night God’s song is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.**

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

* Doxology

OLD 100TH

**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.**

Old Testament Reading
Genesis 50:14-21 (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 Suffering?

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

* Hymn of Discipleship MARTIN
"God Will Take Care of You"

**Be not dismayed whate'er betide,
God will take care of you;
beneath his wings of love abide,
God will take care of you.
God will take care of you,
through every day, o'er all the way;
he will take care of you, God will take care of you.**

**Through days of toil when heart doth fail,
God will take care of you;
when dangers fierce your path assail,
God will take care of you.
God will take care of you,
through every day, o'er all the way;
he will take care of you, God will take care of you.**

* Benediction Rev. Jimmy Towson

**Please stand as you are able.*



*Rev. Jimmy Towson, Senior Pastor
Rev. Bill Culpepper, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministries
Cam Bishop, Director of Music/Organist*

*The flowers in the chapel are given to the glory of God
and in memory of Dorothea Peace, mother of Dr. Rush Peace
and Robert A. Robertson, father of Judy Peace
by Dr. & Mrs. Rush Peace.*

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

*If you would like to have a copy of
Mulberry's Up & Coming Events and Prayer List,
please see an usher.*

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September 25, 2016*

Today's Sermon

WHY? The Question that Won't Go Away:
Why Suffering?

Today's Scripture

Genesis 50:14-21 (NLT)

¹⁴ After burying Jacob, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had accompanied him to his father's burial. ¹⁵ But now that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers became fearful. "Now Joseph will show his anger and pay us back for all the wrong we did to him," they said. ¹⁶ So they sent this message to Joseph: "Before your father died, he instructed us ¹⁷ to say to you: 'Please forgive your brothers for the great wrong they did to you—for their sin in treating you so cruelly.' So we, the servants of the God of your father, beg you to forgive our sin." When Joseph received the message, he broke down and wept. ¹⁸ Then his brothers came and threw themselves down before Joseph. "Look, we are your slaves!" they said. ¹⁹ But Joseph replied, "Don't be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people. ²¹ No, don't be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children." So he reassured them by speaking kindly to them.

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.*