

*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
Macon, Georgia*

The Church at Worship

*Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 25, 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
“Choral” op. 37

Joseph Jongen

Call to Worship

Christi James

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.**

* Entrance Hymn 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.

*O divine Word above, our hope and consolation,
Eternal light of the heavens and the earth:
Our voices greet the morning:
Look down, O Lord, and hear thy people's prayer.
Inspire us, Lord, we pray, with the pow'r of thy Spirit,
that hell may flee before thy mighty word.
From slumber waken us, our weary souls reviving,
that we may never forget all thy laws.
Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on thy congregation
now gathered here in the sight of thy throne:
Receive the hymns they offer to thy endless glory;
Renewed by thy gifts may they go forth in peace.*

Proclamation and Response

Children's Moments

Julia Magda

*Children are invited to meet Julia on the chancel steps.
K-4 and K-5 children will leave for
Children's Church after Children's Moments.*

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.**

* Hymn No. 141

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

FAITHFULNESS

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 50:14-21 (NLT)

Christi James

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?

Hymn of Prayer (*remain seated*)

“God Will Take Care of You”

MARTIN

**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.**

Prayer

Offering of our Gifts

“Jesus Lover of My Soul”

(*Text UMH 479*)

Katie Trotter, Soprano

Joseph Martin

* Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

* Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Sending Forth

* Hymn of Discipleship No. 129

“Give to the Winds Thy Fears”

FESTAL SONG

The Light of Christ Goes Into the World

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

Closing Voluntary

“Postlude”

Richard Gress

Josef Rheinberger

* 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

Richard Gress, Assistant Organist

Ainsworth Choir

David Keith, Ainsworth Choir Director

Christi James, Lay Reader

Sara Kate Sellers, Lead Acolyte

Caroline Dunn, Crucifer

Matt Newberry & Davis Uren, Candlelighters

*The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Guy Harrington
by Mickey & Carol Pope.*

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
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.*