

Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
Macon, Georgia

The Church at Worship

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 2, 2018
Nine O'clock



*As you enter this holy space and begin to make the transition from
“getting here” to “being here,” you are encouraged to use these moments
to become aware of the quiet places within so that you are ready to worship God.
Please silence your cell phones.
Come, let us worship God.*

Greeting in the Name of Christ

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

The grace of our Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us worship God.

Solo

“The Lord Is My Light”

Frances Allitsen

*The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom, then shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life – of whom then, shall I be afraid?
Though an host of men were laid against me, yet shall not my heart be
afraid; and though there rose up war against me, yet will I put my trust
in Him. For, in the time of trouble, He shall hide me in His tabernacle.
Yea, in the secret places of His dwelling shall He hide me, and set me
upon a rock of stone.
based on Psalm 27:1-5*

Call to Worship

Gail Springstead

Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.

We desire to live in God’s house

and seek God in his temple.

**We have come with shouts of joy,
to sing and make music to the Lord.**

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**Teach us your ways and make straight our paths
in this hour of worship and always.**

based on Psalm 27 and John 4:23

* Entrance Hymn No. 577

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

CWM RHONDDA

* Opening Prayer

Rev. Jeff Cook

God of grace,
you have given us minds to know you,
hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise.
Fill us with your Spirit,
that we may celebrate your glory
and worship you in spirit and in truth
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Congregational Prayer for Illumination

Please remain seated and sing.

Hymn No. 393

“Spirit of the Living God”

LIVING GOD

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

Epistle Lesson

James 1:17-27

Gail Springstead

* Gospel Lesson

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Homily

“Life from the Heart”

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Jeff Cook

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God
and one another.

Confession and Pardon

Rev. Jeff Cook

**Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you
with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

All pray in silence.

Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God! Amen.**

The Peace

Rev. Jeff Cook

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Offering of our Gifts

* The Great Thanksgiving Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery
Hymnal Page 13 (*Communion responses are spoken.*)

The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

**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.**

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup

"He's Got the Whole World in His Hand" arr. Margaret Bonds

Prayer after Communion

Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

**Eternal God,
we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Rev. Jeff Cook

* Hymn of Discipleship No. 140
"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" FAITHFULNESS

* Benediction Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery

* *Please rise in body or spirit.
Those parts of the service of worship in which the congregation participates in word or
song are noted in bold type.*



Rev. Dr. Matt Woodbery, Lead Pastor
Rev. Jeff Cook, Associate Pastor
Tom Granum, Director of Music/Organist
Gail Springstead, Lay Reader
Ronald Campbell, Bass-Baritone

Gluten Free Communion

Today we begin offering only gluten-free bread for communion. Our United Methodist practice of the open communion table can be a point of pride, but we unintentionally may be excluding those among us who are gluten intolerant. Often those affected by this condition, about 1 in 100 of us, quietly remain absent on Communion Sundays or stay seated, rather than to call attention to themselves or "be a bother". Our faithful team of bakers will be using a gluten-free recipe specially developed to reflect the flavor and texture of the communion bread to which Mulberry is accustomed. If you detect any difference, please consider it an act of grace, in the knowledge that "Since there is one loaf of bread, we who are many are one body, because we all share the one loaf of bread." I Corinthians 10:17



Welcome to Mulberry

Thank you for worshiping with us today! We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in Mulberry's worship and our opportunities for growing through education, fellowship, and mission. We hope you find our congregation to be a warm and caring community.

Please sign the Attendance Register as it is passed.

Nursery Care is provided for children younger than age 4. Please ask an usher for directions to the Nursery.

To keep up with Mulberry Street UMC's events, services, and more, we invite you to visit us at www.mulberrymethodist.org and find us on Facebook.

Please speak to one of the pastors if you are interested in knowing more about membership at Mulberry Street United Methodist Church.

Our 11:00 am worship service is broadcast live over radio station AM 940 WMAC. You can download the Sunday bulletin at <https://mulberrymethodist.org/media>.

Today's Scripture

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, ² they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³ (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands,^[a] thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴ and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it;^[b] and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.^[c]) ⁵ So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live^[d] according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶ He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

“This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;

⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴ Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵ there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”^[a]

²¹ For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²² adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

John Wesley Moments

Rev. Dave Hanson

(Reprinted from the South Georgia Advocate,
<https://www.sgaumc.org/advocate.>)

John Wesley liked to preach in congregations that were alive together in Christ. But he often found congregations that were dead.

In his journal he would comment about such congregations, saying such things as, “That poor, dumb congregation didn’t understand as much as the benches upon which they sat.” Or, “The mules which brought them to church understood more than they.” He told one church they were “the stupidest, most stubborn congregation he ever saw.”

Sometimes he saw a glimmer of life in these dead congregations. He said such things as, “These dry bones may yet live!” or, “For so long we have plowed in this dry sand, now we begin to see some life.”

How thrilled he was when he found congregations who were alive together in Christ.

Bible Study Options

Sunday Evening Women's Bible Study

5:00 pm - Home of Molly Walker (4336 Old Club Road)
(begins September 9) All women are welcome.
Contact: Molly (478-731-7175) or mollywalker@cox.net.

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

6:15 am - Starbucks at 4640 Forsyth Road
Contact: Clare Rauls (478-731-6813)
or clarerauls@bellsouth.net.

Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study

7:00 am - Taste and See Coffee Shop (downtown)
Contact: Jim Smith (478-747-4189)

Small Groups

Sunday Morning NewRoom Small Group

11:15 am - Contact: Jim Smith (478-747-4189)

Monday Evening Small Group

5:30-7:00 pm - Young Professionals Group (Ages 23-35)
Contact: Trevor Ward (478-607-9003) for meeting place.

Tuesday Evening Small Group

6:30-8:00 pm - Home of Sam & Gini Lamback
(821 Wesleyan Drive)
Contact: Rev. Sam and Gini Lamback (478-550-3067) or
lambacks@bellsouth.net.

United Methodist Women's Circles

Esther Circle

Meets: 1st Thursday of the month (beginning October 4th)
at Noon in the Church Parlor

Contact: Mary Anne Gaudry at 478-477-0638 or
magaudry@cox.net.

Grace Circle

Meets 2nd Thursday of the month (beginning September 6th)
at home of circle members at 6:30 pm.

Contact: Marilyn Armstrong at 478-335-8363 or
marilynarm@cox.net.

Paula Motes Circle

Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month (beginning September 12th)
at 4:00 pm in the Conference Room.

Contact Dianne Greene at 478-474-1038 or dkg0221@cs.com.