



MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Sharing the heart of God from the heart of downtown
Macon by fostering healing for the broken places of life.*



The Church at Worship

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

April 6, 2025 | Eleven O'clock

Welcome to Mulberry Street UMC!

WELCOME TO THIS SERVICE OF WORSHIP!

We are a church on a mission to share the heart of God from the heart of downtown Macon by fostering healing for the broken places of life. Methodists have been worshipping Father, Son, & Holy Spirit on this corner since 1826.

You are invited to become a living part of this vital congregation. Check out the back of the bulletin to see the news of the church!

CONNECT WITH US

Please fill out a Connection Card found in the back of the pew if you are visiting with us, would like to sign up for upcoming events, have a prayer request, or need to update your contact information.

If you are visiting with us for the first time, please find an usher to receive a welcome gift!

We invite you to visit us at **mulberrymethodist.org**.

Stay updated on the Mulberry community by subscribing to our weekly newsletter!

Visit **bit.ly/mul-news** to sign up.

Our 11:00 a.m. worship service is livestreamed on Facebook. You can download the Sunday bulletin at **mulberrymethodist.org/worship/bulletins**.

GIVING

You can make your offering to God by visiting **mulberrymethodist.org/give** or by scanning the QR code, which will take you directly to our church's secure giving website.



ACCESSIBILITY

Hearing Assistive devices are available and can be found in the narthex by the usher station. Please ask an usher for assistance locating them.

*The artwork on the cover is "The Conversion of Saint Paul" by Caravaggio.
[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Conversion_of_Saint_Paul_\(Caravaggio\)](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Conversion_of_Saint_Paul_(Caravaggio))*

*Please rise in body and/or in spirit. **Bold Type** indicates congregational participation



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary

Lenten Prelude

Jonathan Battishill

Welcome & News of the Church

Rev. Jack Varnell & Rev. Payton Stone

Greeting & Call to Worship

Rev. Varnell

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

As we gather this day, each of us brings something to worship -

We bring the burdens of the week.

We bring prayers of hope, and prayers of anguish.

We bring our voices, and our offerings, and our questions.

We bring our faith, tattered or whole as it may be.

We bring all this to each other and to God, whom we worship today.

- Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, "Hold Fast to What Is Good." Used with permission.

Children 5th grade and under are invited to leave for Godly Play at this time.

Children may be picked up on the 2nd Floor in the Godly Play classroom after the service.

* Opening Hymn No. 159

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

* Affirmation of Faith

The Apostle's Creed

Rev. Varnell

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Proclamation & Response

Anthem

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

arr. Gilbert Martin

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.
See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

- Isaac Watts

Scripture Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14 (*Pew Bible pg 955*)

Rev. Stone

Even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it,

but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“From Grasping Hands to Open Hearts”

Rev. Stone

Thanksgiving & Communion

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Stone

Confession and Pardon

Rev. Stone

All: 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.

One: 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!

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

Offertory

VI. Tierce en taille
from *Pièces Choies Pour L’Orgue*

Louis Marchand

Make your offering to God online by visiting mulberrymethodist.org/give or in the offering plate.

* The Great Thanksgiving

Rev. Varnell

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Sung Communion A (pages 17-18)

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

...as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

...all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.
Amen. Amen. Amen.

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.

Breaking the Bread

Children are welcome to receive communion at the discretion of parents.

Let an usher know if you wish to be served in the pew.

Gluten free bread is available on the pedestal at the base of the steps.

An offering plate along the sanctuary wall is available for a communion offering, which is designated for the pastor's discretionary fund.

Communion Anthem

Agnus Dei

Terre Johnson

Daniel McIntosh, Saxophone

I will comfort,
I will comfort,
As one whom his mother comforteth,
So will I comfort you.

As an eagle stirreth up her nest,
fluttereth over her young,
spreadeth abroad her wings,
taketh them, beareth them on her wings.

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)
qui tollis peccata mundi, (who takes away the sins of the world)
miserere nobis (have mercy upon us.)

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)
qui tollis peccata mundi, (who takes away the sins of the world)
miserere nobis (have mercy upon us.)

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)
qui tollis peccata mundi, (who takes away the sins of the world)
dona nobis pacem (grant us peace.)

- Isaiah 66:13; Deuteronomy 32:11; Latin Mass

Prayer after Communion

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.

Sending Forth

* Closing Hymn No. 294 *Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed* MARTYRDOM

* Benediction & Sending Forth Rev. Stone

Closing Voluntary *I. Plein jeu* Louis Marchand
from *Pièces Choiesies Pour L'Orgue*



News of the Church

Holy Week Noon Services | April 14-18 | Sanctuary | Lunch following

During the week of Holy Week, Mulberry will hold daily noontime services. Come reflect on the life and ministry of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ as we draw closer to Easter Sunday. Noon services will be 30 minutes, and lunch is provided immediately following worship.

Schedule:

Monday - Rev. Katie Griffis; **Tuesday** - Rev. Tommy Perkins; **Wednesday** - Rev. Dr. Josh Gale; **Thursday (noon)** - Rev. Sam Lamback; **Thursday (evening)** - Rev. Jack Varnell; **Friday** - Rev. Payton Stone

Keep up with us online!



Stay updated on the Mulberry community by subscribing to our weekly newsletter!
To sign up, visit bit.ly/mulnews or scan the QR code.

You can find us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube at [@MulberryMethodist](https://www.instagram.com/MulberryMethodist)

Visit our website at mulberrymethodist.org for our calendar, service recordings, newsletter archives, and more!

REV. JACK VARNELL

Senior Pastor

REV. PAYTON STONE

Associate Pastor

ELISA REECE

Director of Family Ministries

DR. TERRE JOHNSON

Director of Music

DANIEL MCINTOSH

Organist

MILLIE THOMPSON

Director of Communications

THE AINSWORTH CHOIR

STUART & JENNY WALKER

Lay Communion Servers

EMILY STANSFIELD

Crucifer

RUTH STANSFIELD

& EMILY CARROLL

Candle Lighters

————— *A Bicentennial Moment* —————

In anticipation of Mulberry's upcoming Bicentennial Celebration in 2026, the Leonard Hill Cochran Historical Room presents a moment of Mulberry history:

**Excerpt from The Board of Stewards meeting,
January 7, 1902**

The Music Committee brought up the matter of Music Supply and presented three plans to the Board without recommending any of them. The plans were:

1. Employed Organist and Male Quartette
2. Employed Organist and Mixed Quartette
3. Employed Organist and Musical Director with volunteer choir

The Pastor in view of his special authority over music was asked to state his view and the principal points of his recommendation were:

- That the Church should have good music.
- That volunteers were preferred if possible.
- That high class music which appeals only to the aesthetic taste should be avoided.
- That the music should be soulful, such as would be spiritually beneficial.
- That the music should always in all services be secondary to the preaching of the Word.
- That none but persons leading reasonably consistent Christian lives should be engaged to sing in the choir.

He expressed a willingness to abide by the decision of the Board. After some discussion a motion was approved appropriating \$250 for three months music supply.

————— *Season of Lent* —————

Lent is a season of 40 days, not including Sundays, which leads to Easter. It is a time of repentance, fasting, and preparation for Easter celebration. The color of the paraments is purple to represent penitence and mourning.



Mulberry Street

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

719 Mulberry Street

478.745.8601

mulberrymethodist.org

Office Hours M-Th 8:30am - 5pm