



# MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



## The Church at Worship

**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

*February 2, 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.

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*The artwork on the cover is a detail from "A Visit" by John August Swanson.  
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56535>*

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



## *Entrance & Praise*

Opening Voluntary

*Fugue in D*

Johann Pachelbel

Welcome & News of the Church

Rev. Jack Varnell & Rev. Payton Stone

Greeting & Call to Worship

Rev. Stone

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Come, all who are blessed by God's love.

**We come, ready to worship.**

Come, all who have received God's wonderful gifts.

**We come, ready to give ourselves to God and others.**

Come, all who seek truth, justice, and righteousness.

**We come, ready to be transformed by God's Spirit.**

*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. 540

*I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*

ST. THOMAS

\* Affirmation of Faith

*The Apostle's Creed*

Rev. Stone

**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.**

\* Gloria Patri

GREATOREX

**Glorify be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be;  
world without end. Amen.**

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*Proclamation & Response*

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Anthem

*Come and Taste*  
Luke Baker, soloist

arr. Alice Parker

Come and taste along with me  
Consolation flowing free,  
From the Father's wealthy throne,  
Sweeter than the honeycomb.  
I'll praise God and you praise God  
And we'll all praise God together;  
We'll praise the Lord for the work that he has done,  
And we'll bless his name together.

All that come with free good will  
Make the banquet sweeter still.  
Now I go to mercy's door  
Asking for a little more.  
I'll praise God and you praise God  
And we'll all praise God together;  
We'll praise the Lord for the work that he has done,  
And we'll bless his name together.

Goodness, running like a stream  
Through the new Jerusalem,  
By a constant breaking forth,  
Sweetens earth and heaven both.  
I'll praise God and you praise God  
And we'll all praise God together;  
We'll praise the Lord for the work that he has done,  
And we'll bless his name together.

O, return, ye sons of grace,  
Turn and see God's smiling face.  
Hark, he calls backsliders home,  
Then from him no longer roam.  
I'll praise God and you praise God  
And we'll all praise God together;  
We'll praise the Lord for the work that he has done,  
And we'll bless his name together.

- John Leland

Scripture Reading

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (Pew Bible pg 966)

Rev. Varnell

As for the rich in this world, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on uncertain riches but on God who richly furnishes us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good deeds, liberal and generous, thus laying up for themselves a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life which is life indeed.

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

Sermon

“Becoming People of Giving”

Rev. Varnell

————— *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

*Let Us Break Bread Together*

arr. Dale Wood

*Make your offering to God online by visiting [mulberrymethodist.org/give](http://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

### Set Me As a Seal

René Clausen

Set me as a seal upon your heart,  
as a seal upon your arm,  
for love is strong as death.

Many waters cannot quench love,  
neither can the floods drown it.

Set me as a seal upon your heart,  
as a seal upon your arm,  
for love is strong as death.

- Song of Songs 8:6a, 7

### 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.**

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*Sending Forth*

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\* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Improvisation on "Hendon"

arr. Daniel McIntosh



## *News of the Church*

### **Chili Cook-off & Apple Pie Contest | Feb 9 | after worship | Fellowship Hall**

Our February Second Sunday Lunch will be the annual Chili Cook-off & Apple Pie Contest! Show off your baking skills or your best chili recipe - there will be prizes for our winners! Everyone is invited to join us after worship in the Fellowship Hall.

### **Purchase a Name Tag | \$10 each | Order by Sunday, February 16**

Sign up today for a new nametag - \$10 each, either magnetic or pin-back. Name tags are a great way to help foster a sense of welcome for visitors & new members! Order today at [bit.ly/multag5](https://bit.ly/multag5) or scan QR code.



### **Wednesday Night Worship & Prayer | Feb 5 | 5:30 pm | Fellowship Hall**

Ancient prayer practices meet modern styles of worship. Join us as we explore what it means to pray in many different ways, including prayer stations, guided meditations, journaling and more. Dinner starts at 5:30 and worship begins at 6.

### **Georgia Southern University Southern Chorale to Perform at Mulberry | Feb 9**

Mulberry will host the Southern Chorale as our guests on Sunday, February 9. They will sing during 11 AM worship, and perform a short concert at 1:00 pm at which they'll preview their performance at an international competition in The Netherlands this summer.

## *Keep up with us online!*



Stay updated on the Mulberry community by subscribing to our weekly newsletter!  
To sign up, visit [bit.ly/mulnews](https://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](https://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**

**JIM & KATHRYN MANLEY**

*Communion Servers*

**WILL MAGDA**

*Crucifer*

**CAROLINE DENT**

**& KATHERINE DENT**

*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:*

### **Minutes from the Board of Stewards Meeting, April 28, 1916.**

Request was again made by the Business Young Women's Organization, through the Pastor, that the Board grant the continued use of the Sunday School basement rooms for their weekly meeting and Bible-study class, the organization asking that the Board accept a contribution to offset the expenses incidental to the meetings. By motion of R. Holmes Mason, the Pastor was requested to notify the ladies that the Board would accept five dollars monthly for the use of the rooms and also ask that they pay the sexton one dollar for each evening his services would be required.

The Board also endorsed the proposed plan of the Pastor for a festival on the Church lawn at an early date, the purpose of same being to promote a closer fellowship among the membership."



719 Mulberry Street  
478.745.8601 | mulberrymethodist.org  
Office Hours M-Th 8:30am - 5pm

## *Season of Epiphany*

The season of Epiphany is the period of time following Christmas through Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. Epiphany represents the manifestation of Jesus Christ as a Savior for all. The color of the paraments is green to represent hope, peace & growth.