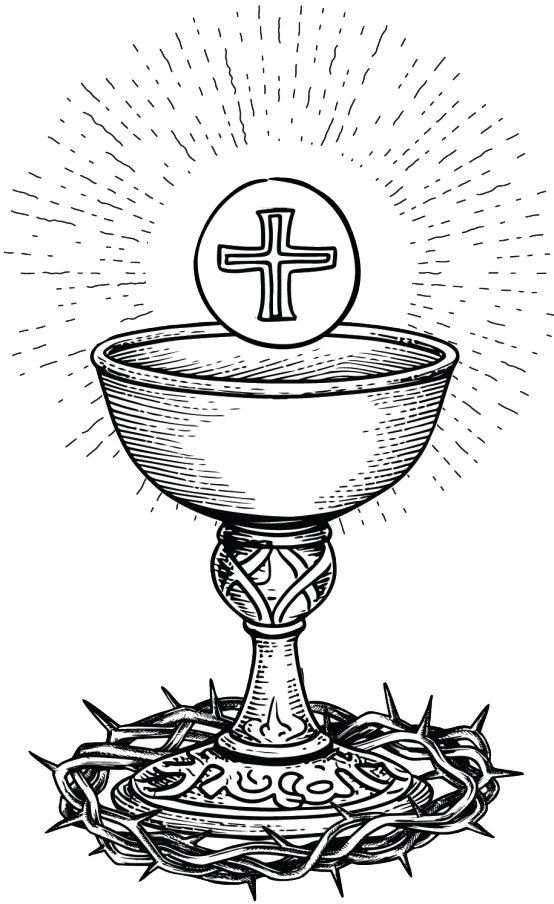


Mulberry Street  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



*Holy Week 2025*

April 14-18, 2025

# *Welcome to Mulberry Street UMC!*

We are glad to welcome you into worship with us. For many years, a daily Holy Week service has been a cherished tradition of our church, providing the community opportunity to reflect on the life and ministry of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, as we journey towards the Passion of Christ and the celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Lunch is provided daily immediately following services in our Fellowship Hall. Lunch is catered by Roly Poly and is available for a suggested donation of eight dollars. We invite you to stay, eat, and fellowship together if your schedule allows, or to take lunch to go.

Mulberry Street UMC is committed to our mission of sharing the heart of God from the heart of Downtown Macon. We invite you to join us in that mission! If you would like to learn more about our church, its mission and its ministries, please fill out a **Connect Card** found on the pew back in front of you, or visit [mulberrymethodist.org](http://mulberrymethodist.org) where you can find our calendar, service recordings, newsletter archives, and more!



719 Mulberry Street  
478.745.8601

[mulberrymethodist.org](http://mulberrymethodist.org)  
Office Hours M-Th 8:30am - 5pm

# *Holy Week Worship 2025*

## *Daily Holy Week Services*

**MONDAY, APRIL 14 - FRIDAY, APRIL 18**

Noon – Sanctuary

Rev. Jack Varnell, Senior Pastor

Rev. Payton Stone, Associate Pastor

### **Special Guest Preachers:**

Monday – Rev. Katie Griffis

Tuesday – Rev. Tommy Perkins

Wednesday – Rev. Dr. Josh Gale

Thursday – Rev. Sam Lamback

Friday – Rev. Payton Stone

Lunch available after the service in the Fellowship Hall.

\$8.00 – no reservation required.

## *Maundy Thursday Communion Service*

**THURSDAY, APRIL 17**

6:30 p.m. – Sanctuary

*Maundy Thursday is the first of three days of solemn remembrance of the events leading up to & immediately following the crucifixion of Jesus. In this service, we celebrate Holy Communion in remembrance of the Last Supper.*

## *Celebration of the Resurrection*

**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20**

### **Easter Sunrise Service**

7:00 a.m. – Coleman Hill

### **Butterfly Release**

10:00 a.m. – Courtyard

### **Easter Sanctuary Worship**

11:00 a.m. – Sanctuary

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# Monday of Holy Week

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April 14

Prelude

Welcome

Rev. Payton Stone

Greeting & Call to Worship

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Come, let us gather at the feet of Jesus.

**We come to worship the One  
who welcomes us with grace.**

In the presence of Christ, our hearts are stirred,  
our burdens lifted, and our devotion renewed.

**We offer our praise, our lives, and our love  
to the Lord of all.**

\* Opening Hymn No. 298

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

\* Scripture Reading

John 12:1-11 (*Pew Bible pg 874*)

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus.

Sermon  
“At the Feet of Jesus”

Rev. Katie Griffis

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Jack Varnell

\* Closing Hymn No. 301

*Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross*

\* Benediction

Rev. Katie Griffis

Postlude

*\*Please rise in body and/or in spirit.*

**Bold Type** indicates congregational participation

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# *Tuesday of Holy Week*

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April 15

Prelude

Welcome

Rev. Jack Varnell

Greeting & Call to Worship

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified!  
**We stand in awe before the mystery of Christ's love.**

Though the heavens thunder and the earth trembles,  
we listen for the voice of God.

**Speak, Lord, for Your servants are listening.**

\* Opening Hymn No. 295

*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

\* Scripture Reading

John 12:23-32 (*Pew Bible pg 875*)

Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say: 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

Sermon  
“Under Thunder, Wonder, and Glory”

Rev. Tommy Perkins

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Payton Stone

\* Closing Hymn No. 159

*Lift High the Cross*

\* Benediction

Rev. Tommy Perkins

Postlude

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*Wednesday of Holy Week*

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April 16

Prelude

Welcome

Rev. Payton Stone

Greeting & Call to Worship

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses,  
urging us to fix our eyes on Jesus.

**We turn our hearts toward the Savior,  
who endured the cross for our sake.**

In moments of doubt, in seasons of trial,  
Christ remains faithful.

**We will run with perseverance  
the race marked out for us.**

\* Opening Hymn No. 294

*Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed*

\* Scripture Reading

John 13:21, 27-29 (Pew Bible pg 876)

After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit and declared,  
“Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me.”

After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him.  
Jesus said to him, “Do quickly what you are going to do.”

Now no one knew why he said this to him. Some thought  
that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was  
telling him, “Buy what we need for the festival,” or that he  
should give something to the poor.

\* Scripture Reading

Hebrews 12:1-3 (*Pew Bible pg 978*)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary in your souls or lose heart.

Sermon

“You’ve Been Surrounded”

Rev. Dr. Josh Gale

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Jack Varnell

\* Closing Hymn No. 472

*Nearer to the Heart of God*

\* Benediction

Rev. Dr. Josh Gale

Postlude

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# Maundy Thursday, Noon

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April 17

Prelude on “Rockingham,” arr. Dale Wood

Welcome

Rev. Jack Varnell

Greeting & Call to Worship

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Today, 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.

**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.**

\* Opening Hymn No. 285

*To Mock Your Reign, O Dearest Lord*

Scripture Reading

I Corinthians 11:23-26 (*Pew Bible pg 933*)

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Sermon  
“Taking the Sacrament Seriously”

Rev. Sam Lamback

## Thanksgiving & Communion

Prayer for Holy Communion

Rev. Jack Varnell

Coming to the Table

*Christ invites to the table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their  
sin and seek to live in peace with one another.*

*All ages, regardless of denomination or church membership  
are welcome to receive.*

\* Closing Hymn No. 290

Go to Dark Gethsemane

\* Benediction

Rev. Sam Lamback

Postlude

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# Maundy Thursday, Evening

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April 17

Prelude

Le Banquet Céleste by Olivier Messiaen

Le Banquet Céleste, (French for The Celestial Banquet) is based on scripture on John 6:56: "He that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood dwelleth in me and I in him."

Messiaen, a devote Catholic, intended the beginning of piece to feel "far away, mysterious" as a representation of the mystical transubstantiation of the bread and wine into the body and blood of Jesus. In the 2nd section, the pedal enters asking the performer for a "brief staccato, as a water drop" representing Christ's blood.

The dissonance of piece brings the listener into the deep emotions and turmoil Jesus Christ felt during the last supper and prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before he was to be crucified. The drops of blood can represent Jesus in the Garden as Luke 22:43-44 states "And being in agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down upon the ground."

Welcome

Rev. Jack Varnell

Greeting & Call to Worship

Rev. Payton Stone

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

This is the night that Christ  
gathered with his disciples in the Upper Room.

**This is the night that Christ  
took a towel and washed his disciples' feet,  
commanding us to love one another.**

This is the night that Christ, the Lamb of God,  
gave himself into the hands of those who would slay him.

**This is the night that Christ our God  
gave us this holy feast.**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**Blessed are all who take refuge in him.**

\* Opening Hymn No. 292

What Wondrous Love Is This?

\* Confession & Pardon

**Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people:**

**We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine majesty.**

**We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us.**

**Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father.**

**For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Anthem

*O Love* by Elaine Hagenberg

\* Scripture Reading     John 13:1-9, 12-17, 34-35 (*Pew Bible* pg 876)

Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. And during supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper, laid aside his garments, and girded himself with a towel. Then he poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which he was girded. He came to Simon Peter; and Peter said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not know now, but afterward you will understand." Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part in me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"

When he had washed their feet, and taken his garments, and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Communion Meditation

Rev. Jack Varnell

\* The Great Thanksgiving

**We do not presume to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies.**

**We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table.**

**But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy.**

**Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to partake of this Sacrament of thy Son Jesus Christ, that we may walk in newness of life, may grow into his likeness, and may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

Giving & Receiving of Holy Communion

*Christ invites to the table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.*

*All ages, regardless of denomination or church membership are welcome to receive.*

Prayer after Communion

Rev. Payton Stone

**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.**

### Stripping of the Sanctuary

*The ancient practice of stripping the Lord's table and sanctuary is a  
vivid and dramatic way of showing the desolation and abandonment of  
the long night in Gethsemane and what followed.*

*The church remains bare until Easter.*

*After the stripping of the sanctuary has concluded,  
all depart in silence.*

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# Good Friday

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April 18

## Gathering in Silence

## Musical Meditation

*Le Chemin de la Croix, Op. 29 - The Way of the Cross*  
by Marcel Dupré

### III. Jesus Falls for the first time

*This symphonic poem depicts John 19:16-17 as it states, "Then they handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha."*

*This movement depicts Christ's ascent to Golgotha while burdened with a heavy cross, already beaten and bleeding. A march motif signifies the labored movement while an insistent motif of descending paired notes depicts the weariness in his steps.*

*Next comes the poignant 'Theme of Suffering' soaring above as the march intensifies to a heart-rending climax. Finally, Jesus' strength fails as he falls for the first time under the weight of the cross.*

*However, the hearts of the disciples who follow him are penetrated by the "theme of Redemption" which illuminates the final bars of the painful scene.*

\* Opening Hymn No. 286

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

\* Scripture Reading

John 19:17-18 (Pew Bible pg 881)

And carrying the cross by himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.

Sermon

Rev. Payton Stone

“God Helps Those Who Cannot Help Themselves”

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Jack Varnell

\* Closing Hymn No. 288

*Were You There*

\* Prayer of Dismissal

Rev. Payton Stone

May Jesus Christ, who for our sake became obedient unto death, even death on a cross, keep you and strengthen you, now and for ever. Amen.

Depart in Silence

# *Holy Week Guest Preachers*

## **MONDAY**

Rev. Katie Griffis  
Pastor at St. Paul Chapel  
Vienna, GA

## **TUESDAY**

Rev. Tommy Perkins  
Chaplain at Wesley Glen Ministries  
Macon, GA

## **WEDNESDAY**

Rev. Dr. Josh Gale  
Chaplain at the Methodist Home for Children & Youth  
Pastor at Wesley UMC  
Macon, GA

## **THURSDAY**

Rev. Sam Lamback  
Retired Elder,  
South Georgia Conference of the UMC

## **FRIDAY**

Rev. Payton Stone  
Pastor at Mulberry Street UMC  
Macon, GA

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

