



# 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 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

*May 4, 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 1<sup>st</sup> c. mosaic, "Christ Monogram with Alpha and Omega".  
<https://digilib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56683>*

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



## *Entrance & Praise*

Opening Voluntary

*Voluntary in A*

William Selby

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.**

The good news of Easter continues: Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

We continue to celebrate all that Easter means for us.

**Thank you, God, for new life and forgiveness and resurrection.**

Today, we worship the one who makes this all possible.

**All praise belongs to our great God and our risen Savior Jesus Christ.**

**We are Easter people this day and forevermore!**

*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. 589 *The Church of Christ in Every Age*

DICKINSON COLLEGE

\* 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.**

**Glory 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.**

*Proclamation & Response*

Anthem

*I Will Arise*

Arr. Shaw/Parker

I will arise and go to Jesus,  
He will embrace me in his arms,  
In the arms of my dear Savior,  
Oh! There are ten thousand charms.

Teach me some melodious sonnet  
Sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,  
Mount of thy redeeming love.

Come, thou fount of every blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
Streams of mercy never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise.

I will arise and go to Jesus,  
He will embrace me in his arms,  
In the arms of my dear Savior,  
Oh! There are ten thousand charms.

Scripture Reading

Revelation 1:4-8 (Pew Bible pg 994)

Rev. Varnell

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, every one who pierced him; and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

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

Communion Meditation

"The Post-Easter Letdown"

Rev. Varnell

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*Thanksgiving & Communion*

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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

*We Come to the Hungry Feast*

arr. David Cherwien

*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.*

## 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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\* Closing Hymn No. 398

*Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult*

GALILEE

\* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

arr. Daniel McIntosh



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## *News of the Church*

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### **Family Fun Day at Fickling Farm | Today | 4-6 pm**

Everyone is invited to join in on the fun on this afternoon at Fickling Farm! Our Family Ministries team is hosting a Fun Day for all ages - we'll grill hot dogs & hamburgers, play games for kids & adults alike, and have a great time of fellowship together! Fickling Farm Entrance: 5215 Rivoli Drive, Macon, GA

### **Wednesday Night Worship & Prayer | May 7 | 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 6:15 in the Fellowship Hall.

### **Senior Recognition Sunday | May 11 | 9:30 am brunch & 11:00 am Worship**

We will recognize our graduating high school Seniors on the second Sunday of May. We will honor our Seniors during Worship, and we will have a potluck breakfast at 9:30 in their honor in place of our usual lunch.

### **Discover Mulberry New Member Luncheon | May 18 | after Worship | Parlor**

If you're new to Mulberry or considering joining, we'd love to welcome you at our New Member Welcome Lunch. Come hear from Jack, Payton, and others about their stories and the story of Mulberry. There will be an in-depth tour of the church, opportunities to meet lay leaders and learn how they serve, and time to connect with representatives from the Children's Center at Mulberry and Macon Outreach. This is a great opportunity to ask questions, get to know our church family, and explore ways to get involved. Please RSVP at [bit.ly/discover-mul](https://bit.ly/discover-mul) —we can't wait to see you there!

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## *Keep up with us online!*

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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**

**ASHLEY & JOSH CARROLL**

*Lay Communion Servers*

**JACK CARTER**

*Crucifer*

**KATHERINE DENT**

**& STEBIN HORNE**

*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:*

**Excerpts from the Board of Stewards meeting,  
June 9th, 1908**

The Treasurer's report showed that the net indebtedness of the Church on current expenses to be \$327.08.

The Secretary of the Bond Fund Committee reported that he held several uncollected notes and asked for instruction as to disposition. On motion he was requested to hold them another twelve months.

Bro. W. G. Solomon reported that he had presented, on behalf of the Church, a request to the City Council to put down a cement sidewalk in front of the church, that the Council readily consented to do so with no charges, and that the work was already in progress. This very gratifying report received a cordial welcome.

Bro. O. A. Park presented the suggestion that a "Diamond Jubilee Celebration" be held during the coming Fall in commemoration of the founding of Mulberry Methodist Church seventy-five years ago. Bro. Ainsworth, the Pastor, suggest that as this was the bi-centenary year of John Wesley's birth it might be well to commemorate the two events in one celebration.

————— *Eastertide* —————

The Easter Season begins on Easter Day and ends on Pentecost. It focuses on Christ's resurrection and ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit. The paraments in the sanctuary are white to represent purity & joy.



**Mulberry Street**

*UNITED METHODIST CHURCH*

719 Mulberry Street

478.745.8601

[mulberrymethodist.org](http://mulberrymethodist.org)

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