



# 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 OF ADVENT**  
*December 22, 2024 | 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 "Joseph's Dream" by Gaetano Gandolfi.  
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54282>*

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



## *Entrance & Praise*

Opening Voluntary      *Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ* BWV 604      J.S Bach

Welcome & News of the Church      Rev. Jack Varnell & Rev. Payton Stone

Lighting of the Advent Candle      Matt, Brooke & McLane Widner

Children's Nativity

*Carols are sung by the congregation as the children present the nativity story.*

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;  
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in the dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

*Gentle Mary*

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;  
There he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

*The First Noel*

The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

*We Three Kings*

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.  
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

*Joy to the World*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and heaven, and nature sing.

\* 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

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.

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*Proclamation & Response*

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\* Hymn No. 203

*Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

ELLACOMBE

Anthem

*Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain*

Carolyn Jennings

Climb to the top of the highest mountain,  
Joyous tidings proclaim to the world,  
Lift up your voice, shout the good news:  
Behold, your Lord comes to you.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd,  
He will carry the lambs in his arms,  
He will ever keep them safe from harm.  
Behold, your Lord comes to you.

He who made the stars in the heaven,  
He who fashioned the earth and the sea,  
From time eternal he was God,  
The Alpha and Omega, He.  
Behold, your Lord!

He will come in power and glory,  
He will rule with mercy truth,  
Hope of all the nations  
Light of all the world!

He will love the little children,  
He will hold them in his arms.  
Love him and trust him as a child,  
Behold, your Lord comes to you.

- Isaiah 40, adapted by Carolyn Jennings

\* Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:18-25 (Pew Bible pg 783)

Rev. Varnell

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

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

Morning Prayer

When prompted, the congregation responds:  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rev. Stone

*“Prayer of Intercession for the Fourth Sunday of Advent”  
in Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, edited by Kimberly Long*

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.**

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*Offering of our Tithes & Gifts*

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Offertory

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

arr. Norman Johnson

*Make your offering to God online by visiting [mulberrymethodist.org/give](http://mulberrymethodist.org/give)  
or in the offering plate.*

\* Doxology

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

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*Sending Forth*

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\* Closing Hymn No. 188

*Christ Is the World’s Light*

CHRISTE SANCTORUM

\* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

arr. John Innes



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## *News of the Church*

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### **Christmas Eve at Mulberry**

- **The ABCs of Christmas | 11:00 am | Fellowship Hall**

Join us for this kid-friendly service in the Fellowship Hall! This program is designed with children in mind, and everyone is invited to participate in this interactive service that invites us all to be a part of the Christmas story.

- **Evening Candlelight Service | 5:00 pm | Sanctuary**

A joyous occasion featuring communion and singing by candlelight. Mark the highlight of the Advent season by joining together in worship!

Music of the season begins at 4:30 pm.

### **End of Year Giving for 2024**

For year-end gifts to be credited to your 2024 giving record:

1) hand-deliver the gift to the church office before 4:00 p.m. on Mon, Dec 30, 2024

OR

2) mail the gift with a postmark date of no later than Dec 31, 2024.

*NOTE: Mailed gifts must be received in the office by Jan 10, 2025. Mailed gifts received after Jan 10, regardless of the postmark date, will be posted to your 2025 giving record.*

We thank you for support of Mulberry Street UMC and its many ministries!

### **Church Office - Holiday Hours**

The church office will be closed on: Wednesday, December 25; Thursday, December 26; Tuesday, December 31; and Wednesday, January 1.

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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**

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**

## *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:*

On October 1, 1913 the Board of Stewards met and the following items were reported:

“The usual matter was taken up including the Finance Committee’s approval of bills amounting to \$179.50 which the Board authorized to be paid. With respect to the bill for paving recently laid in front of the church property which amounted to \$950.95, Chairman Roberts of the Finance Committee moved that his committee be authorized to inquire as to the legality of exempting church property from such assessments, and also to investigate the charges for the work and arrange for a satisfactory adjustment. His motion carried.”

A letter addressed to the Board by Holmes Johnson, a coal dealer and former member of the Board, was read, requesting that the winter’s supply of coal be purchased from him. The chairman of the Property Committee advised that he had already placed an order for coal at a cheaper rate than offered in the letter and the Board sustained his action, requesting the Secretary reply to the letter.

  
**Mulberry Street**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

## *Season of Advent*

The season of Advent, which is the four Sundays leading up to Christmas, is a time of preparation and anticipation for the coming of Christ. It is also the beginning of the church year. The color of the paraments is blue to represent the hope and expectation that define Advent.