



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 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 1, 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.

*The artwork on the cover is "Baptism of Jesus" by Liz Valente.
<http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57515>*

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary

II. "Adagio molto"
from *Organ Sonata no. 3, Op. 56*

Alexandre Guilmant

Welcome & News of the Church

Beth Tripp

Greeting & Call to Worship

Beth Tripp

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Welcome, friends, to this holy day.

We come to offer thanks; we come to sing and pray.

Welcome, friends, to this time set apart,

A time to remember those we love,

and time to remember the holy promises of God.

Welcome, friends, to this table of remembrance and joy,

The table where we are fed, the feast we share with many.

Welcome, friends, and let us worship God.

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. 92

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

* Affirmation of Faith

The Apostle's Creed

Beth Tripp

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

Shall We Gather at the River

John Carter

Shall we gather at the river,
Where bright angel feet have trod;
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God.

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.

Ere we reach the shining river,
Lay we every burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver,
And provide a robe and crown.

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.

*Deep river, my home is over Jordan;
Deep river, I want to cross over into campground.*

Soon we'll reach the shining river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease.
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 3:13-17 (*Pew Bible pg 784*)

Rev. Jack Varnell

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness."

Then he consented.¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him.¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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

Sermon

"Moving Towards Love"

Rev. Varnell

Thanksgiving & Communion

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Varnell

Confession and Pardon

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.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Offertory

There is a Happy Land

arr. Dale Wood

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)

Celebrant says words appropriate to the season, then the congregation sings:

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.

Celebrant says words appropriate to the season, then the congregation sings:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Celebrant says words appropriate to the season, then the congregation sings:

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.*

Sending Forth

* Closing Hymn No. 557

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

DENNIS

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Ellacombe

arr. Albert L. Travis



News of the Church

Office Closed for Labor Day | Monday, September 2

The church office will be closed tomorrow, Monday, September 2 in observance of Labor Day. Regular office hours will resume Tuesday.

Second Sunday Lunch Honoring Incoming Pastor Jack Varnell | September 8

Our September Second Sunday Lunch will be a chance to welcome our new Senior Pastor Rev. Jack Varnell into Mulberry! We will have our usual potluck lunch with the church providing the chicken, so bring your favorite side dish to share!

No September Worship & Prayer

Please note that Wednesday Night Worship & Prayer will not be meeting for September. We will meet again for our October Worship & Prayer on Wednesday, October 2.

Mulberry Book Group September Meeting | September 15 | 10 am | Parlor

Highly recommended by Payton, *Gilead* is a Pulitzer-winning novel by Marilynne Robinson set in mythical Gilead, Iowa in 1956 as a letter from a father to his son describing his life and that of his ancestors. With themes centered on creation, grace, wisdom, and generational bonds, this book will be hard to put down!

Order your copy from Amazon or your favorite bookseller. At just under 250 pages, you'll want to get started and have plenty of time to savor the storytelling.

Keep up with us online!



Stay updated on the Mulberry community by subscribing to our weekly newsletter!
To sign up, visit bit.ly/mul-news 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

BETH TRIPP

Lay Liturgist

CHRIS ABBOTT & BETH SMITH

Communion Servers

— *About Our Worship* —

Worship begins with God. When we gather for worship, God meets us and speaks to us, and we listen to God and respond. At Mulberry, our order of worship (liturgy) is divided into four movements.

In our “**Entrance and Praise**,” we come together in response to God’s invitation and prepare ourselves to hear God’s Word.

In our “**Proclamation and Response**” we are addressed by God through Scripture and our musical anthem; in this movement, we listen to readings from the Bible as well as a sermon, wherein God’s word is interpreted for the gathered community.

Once a month, we participate in “**Thanksgiving and Communion**.” In this movement, we come to the Table to celebrate what God has done in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, and we’re nourished by the special outpouring of grace offered in this sacred act.

The fourth and final movement is the “**Sending Forth**,” where we are blessed and sent into the world to share the heart of God with a world in need.

— *Season of Ordinary Time* —

The season of Ordinary Time emphasizes the church living & witnessing in the world. The color of the paraments is green to represent the church’s growth & presence.


Mulberry Street
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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