



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

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

January 5, 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.

The candle on the altar is placed in memory of late president Jimmy Carter.

*The artwork on the cover is "The Adoration of the Magi" by Edward Burne-Jones.
Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.*

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary *In Dulci Jubilo* arr. Paul Manz

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.

There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!
People of God, come and worship this day.
We worship Christ Jesus, the newborn King!

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. 219 *What Child Is This* GREENSLEEVES

* 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.**

Proclamation & Response

Anthem

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

Arr. André Thomas

The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
And they said that his name was Jesus.
He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh, yes, believer!
Born in Bethlehem!

The angels sang when the Baby was born,
And they said that his name was Jesus.
He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh, yes, believer!
Born in Bethlehem!

Wise men came from afar,
They came following a star.
They saw where the babe was born
And they said that his name was Jesus.
He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh, yes, believer!
Born in Bethlehem!

* Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-12 (*Pew Bible pg 783*)

Rev. Varnell

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'"

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him."

When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

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

Sermon

“The Great Reversal”

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

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

arr. Harold DeCou

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)

...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.

Wesleyan Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low by thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Sending Forth

- * Closing Hymn No. 224 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* IN DULCI JUBILO
- * Benediction & Sending Forth Rev. Varnell
- Closing Voluntary *Ellacombe* arr. Albert Travis



News of the Church

January Worship & Prayer | Wednesday, January 8 | 5:30 pm | Fellowship Hall

Kick off the new year with this time of intentional contemplation, prayer, and music. Engage with prayer stations & activities, and meditate on scripture. We will meet at 5:30 for dinner, and the service begins at 6:00.

Second Sunday Lunch | January 12 | 12:00 pm

It's time for our first monthly time of food & fellowship this year! All are welcome to join us as we share a meal together. Bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Commissioning of our Lay Leaders | January 19 | 11:00 am worship

Join us for worship on January 19 - during the service we will pray over our lay leadership for this year and commission them for their work.

Keep up with us online!



Stay updated on the Mulberry community by subscribing to our weekly newsletter!
To sign up, visit 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 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

CHACE CROWELL & ASHLEY FOY

Communion Servers

WILL MAGDA

Crucifer

EMILY CARROLL & THOMAS DUNN

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:

On February 3, 1949, the Board of Stewards reported the following:

“In 1941, Bro. Wm. B. Burke was in China and Bro. F. B. Waterman accepted gifts from various churches and friends here in Macon and carried a special account in the bank sending checks from time to time to Bro. Burke. Bro. Burke and Bro. Waterman have both passed away and Mrs. Waterman, in winding up the Estate of Bro. Waterman, found a balance in the bank amounting to \$377.50. It is very evident that Bro. Burke either lost this check or had some Chinese friend cash same, and in the chaos of war it was lost as this check has never been returned to the bank.

The Pastor announced that a “formal order has been given for the William B. Burke Memorial Windows at a cost of \$3,750.00. The window in question will not be available for installation before March, 1950.”


Mulberry Street
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Epiphany Sunday

Epiphany is the day we remember the coming of the magi to visit Jesus, bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The color of the paraments is white to represent God's incarnation in the birth of Jesus Christ.