



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 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 29, 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 "Renunciation of Wordly Goods" by Giotto.
<https://www.wga.hu/html/g/giotto/assisi/upper/legend/franc05.html>*

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



Entrance & Praise

Opening Voluntary *O Come, All Ye Faithful* arr. Gordon Young

Welcome & News of the Church Rev. Payton Stone

Greeting & Call to Worship Lisa Shepard

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Glory to God in the highest!

And hope to every discouraged heart.

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to every conflicted soul.

Glory to God in the highest!

And joy to every downcast spirit.

Glory to God in the highest!

And love to everyone.

Let us sing praises to our God.

Let us offer this light against the darkness.

~ written by Joanna Harader, and posted on Spacious Faith. <http://spaciousfaith.com/>

* Opening Hymn No. 246 *Joy to the World* ANTIOCH

* Affirmation of Faith *The Apostle's Creed* Lisa Shepard

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.**

Children’s Moment

Elisa Reece

*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.*

Proclamation & Response

First Reading

Psalm 148 (Pew Bible pg 508)

Lisa Shepard

¹ Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

² Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

³ Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! ⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens!

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created. ⁶ He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, ⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

⁹ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! ¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! ¹² Young men and women alike, old and young together!

¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. ¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him.

Praise the Lord!

* Hymn No. 240

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

Solo

Luke Baker

¹ So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹ In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

Sermon

"Put on Christ"

Rev. Stone

Morning Prayer

"Morning Prayer of Petition" for Week 6 ("New")
in *The Methodist Book of Daily Prayer*

Rev. Stone

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.

Offering of our Tithes & Gifts

Offertory

The First Nowell

arr. Gordon Young

Make your offering to God online by visiting mulberrymethodist.org/give or in the offering plate.

* Doxology

OLD 100TH

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.

Sending Forth

* Closing Hymn No. 251

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Stone

Closing Voluntary

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

arr. Gordon Young



News of the Church

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: Tuesday, December 31; and Wednesday, January 1. Regular office hours will resume Thursday, January 2.

Please note on January 1 for the nearby hotel demolition, the church is in the “Exclusion Zone” and will not be accessible at all on Wednesday, January 1 from 6 am to 11 am.

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.

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.facebook.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

MILLIE THOMPSON

Director of Communications

THE AINSWORTH CHOIR

HUNTER GODSEY

Organist

LISA SHEPARD

Lay Liturgist

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 23, 1914, the Board of Stewards for the month opened with a prayer by Professor Leon P. Smith. R. L. McKenney asked the Board to authorize the expenditure of \$15.00, Mulberry's pro-rata of the expenses in connection with the "Go-to-Church" campaign, a city-wide movement among the Protestant churches, instituted by The Rotary Club in the interest of increased attendance on October 11. The Board concurred. Other bills, approved in the regular order, amounted to \$48.30.

The pastor submitted a suggested form of letter to be sent to the Chairman of the Board, the Treasurer and the Chairman of the Finance Committee to those members of the Church in arrears with their financial obligations. The same was approved and authorized to be mailed.

Referring to the minutes for March 27, 1914 and April 21, 1914, it was explained that, on account of the financial depression due to the European war, the proposed new church building had not been further considered.


Mulberry Street
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Season of Christmas

The season of Christmas begins Christmas Day and continues through the Day of Epiphany. It is a time of praise and thanksgiving for the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ. The paraments in the sanctuary are white to represent the joy and festivities of the season.