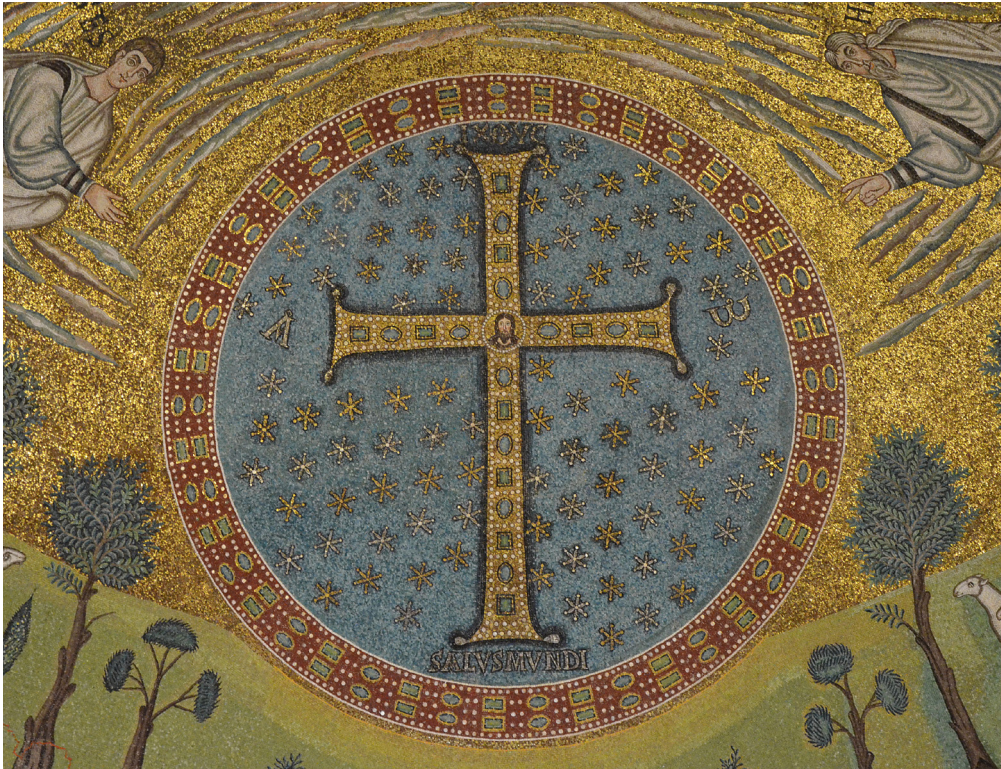


# MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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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 IN LENT

*March 30, 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 mosaic in the Basilica Sant'Apollinare.*  
*<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58733>*

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



## *Entrance & Praise*

Opening Voluntary                      Prelude in D minor                      Clara Schumann

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.**

Come, let us lay down our selfish desires.

**Christ calls us to take up our cross and follow.**

In this season of Lent, we embrace the way of sacrifice.

**We embrace surrender, that we may be made new.**

Through dying to self, we find our true life in Christ.

**By grace, we are reborn into new creations.**

\* Opening Hymn No. 142    *If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee*    WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

\* 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.**

## Baptism

Brooks Lee Whipple  
Son of Allen & Heidi Whipple

*When prompted, the congregation responds:*

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

**We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Brooks now before you in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Brooks with a community of love and forgiveness, that he may grow in his trust of God, and be found faithful in his service to others. We will pray for him, that he may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.**

*Sung responses (Hymnal page 53)*

... through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

**Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.**

... and to make disciples of all nations.

**Declare Christ's works to the nation, his glory among all the people.**

... that dying and rising with Christ we may share in his final victory,

**All praise to you, Eternal Father, through your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever. Amen.**

\* Baptismal Hymn No. 611 *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

STUTT GART

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.*

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## *Proclamation & Response*

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First Reading

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (Pew Bible pg 940)

Rev. Stone

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once regarded Christ from a human point of view, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come.

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Anthem

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*  
Katie Trotter, Violin

Arr. Al Travis

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,  
The shadow of a mighty Rock within a weary land;  
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,  
From the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.  
Upon that cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see  
The very dying form of One, who suffered there for me;  
And from my smitten heart, with tears, two wonders I confess,  
The wonders of His glorious love, and my own worthlessness.  
I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;  
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,  
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.  
- Elizabeth Cecilia Clephane (1830-1869)

\* Second Reading

Mark 8:34-35 (Pew Bible pg 820)

Rev. Varnell

And he called to him the multitude with his disciples, and said to them, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it."

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

Sermon

"Dying To Live"

Rev. Varnell

Morning Prayer

Rev. Varnell

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

Improvisation on  
*Will You Come and Follow Me*

arr. Daniel McIntosh

You can 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. 295

*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

RATHBUN

\* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Prelude and Fugue in G minor  
BWV 558

Attributed to J.S Bach



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## *News of the Church*

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### **Ben Gosden Book Reading | March 31 | 5:30 pm | Parlor**

On March 31, we will host Rev. Dr. Ben Gosden for a book reading and discussion for his debut book, *Grace Rediscovered*. Join us to hear Ben's story "of rediscovering grace, not in some far-off, distant place, but in the everyday moments of healing and surrender." After the reading, Ben will hold a Q&A and book signing.

### **Help Stuff Easter Eggs for Egg Hunt | Return by April 13**

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be Sunday, April 13, and we need your help to get ready! There are still a few empty Easter Eggs available to grab - pick up a bag and fill with candy before Palm Sunday, or bring your own pre-filled eggs!

### **Easter Flowering Cross Coordinator Needed**

We have a beautiful Easter Sunday tradition of church members bringing flowers from home to decorate the cross outside the sanctuary. We are seeking someone to continue this tradition by serving as the coordinator for the flowering cross. This would include preparing the cross for flowers before Easter, receiving flowers on Easter Sunday morning, and adding them to the cross. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Beth Smith at 478-719-9041.

### **Join the Flower Guild!**

We are looking for church members to join the church Flower Guild! The Flower Guild coordinates and manages the flower arrangements that grace our altar on Sunday mornings as well as other special arrangements. If you are interested in participating or learning more about the guild, call Beth Smith at 478-719-9041.

If you are interested in placing flowers on the altar, there are several openings available this year. Contact Beth to learn more.

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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**

**BEN MORRIS**

*Crucifer*

**DREW MORRIS**

*Candle Lighter*



**Mulberry Street**

*UNITED METHODIST CHURCH*

719 Mulberry Street

478.745.8601

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

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

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*A Bicentennial Moment*

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*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 Council of Ministries  
meeting, August 9, 1971**

**Dr. Handy Hancock, senior pastor**

Sunday night, August 29th, at First Baptist Church, evening services will be a union of the three churches in the area, Mulberry, First Presbyterian and First Baptist. It was expected that such a group service would be held every six months.

Dr. Hancock discussed the opening on August 1st of Magnolia Manor's 50 apartments. A contribution of \$250 to help defray expenses for landscaping the grounds was approved.

It was announced that the church now has available a plug-in for the radio microphone with an additional mic with a 25 to 30 foot cord which on Sundays when it is needed for special activities. That would enable the church to do baptisms of babies, receiving people into membership, etc., which could not be done formerly at the 11 O'clock service because it did not fit in with the radio service. It was felt that these ceremonies are meaningful to the congregation, that they should have the opportunity to see and hear them both over the radio and in the sanctuary.

It was announced that summer Children's Activities had the largest attendance ever.

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*Season of Lent*

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Lent is a season of 40 days, not including Sundays, which leads to Easter. It is a time of repentance, fasting, and preparation for Easter celebration. The color of the paraments is purple to represent penitence and mourning.