



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

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 23, 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 artwork on the cover is an illumination from a medieval Book of Hours,

“Souls Being Carried Up to Heaven”.

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57195>

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

Proclamation & Response

First Reading

Psalm 63:1-8 (Pew Bible pg 458)

Rev. Stone

O God, you are my God, I seek you,
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where no water is.
So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.
Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.
So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.
My mouth praises you with joyful lips,
when I think of you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;
for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.

* Hymn No. 479

Jesus Lover of My Soul

ABERYSTWYTH

Anthem

Praise to the Lord the Almighty

arr. Mack Wilberg

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
Join the great throng, psaltery, organ and song,
Sounding in glad adoration!
Praise to the Lord! Over all things he gloriously reigneth,
Borne as on eagle wings, safely his saints he sustaineth.
Hast thou not seen how all thou needest hath been
Granted in what he ordaineth?
Praise to the Lord! Who doth prosper thy way and defend thee.
Surely his goodness and mercy shall ever attend thee.
Ponder anew what the almighty can do,
Who with his love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath breath, join with Abraham's seed to adore him!
Let the "amen" sum all our praises again,
Now as we worship before him!

-Joachim Neander, tr. Catherine Winkworth

Second Reading

Philippians 3:17-4:1 (Pew Bible pg 955)

Rev. Varnell

Brethren, join in imitating me, and mark those who so live as you have an example in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our commonwealth is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power which enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Therefore, my brethren, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

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

Sermon

"Citizens of Heaven"

Rev. Varnell

Morning 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

"Berceuse" from
24 Pièces en style libre, Op. 31 No. 19

Louis Verne

You can 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. 545

The Church's One Foundation

AURELIA

* Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Varnell

Closing Voluntary

Praise to the Lord

arr. Emma Lou Diemer



News of the Church

Cherry Blossom Daily Organ Concerts | March 24-28 | 12 pm daily

Come hear 30-minute organ performances every day at noon Monday - Friday. Concerts are played by talented local musicians, and featured performer Robert McCormick will give a special 40-minute concert on Friday.

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! In the atrium and narthex there are buckets with empty Easter Eggs in them - pick up a bag and fill with candy before Palm Sunday.

Old City Flower Festival | Christ Church | through Tuesday, March 25

Be sure to stop by Christ Episcopal Church for the Old City Flower Festival to see Mulberry's beautiful arrangement as well as the many others showcased in their sanctuary. This runs through Tuesday, 10 am to 5 pm daily (1 pm to 5 pm Sunday). Thanks to Chris Abbott for this work putting Mulberry's arrangement together!

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." Books will be for sale, and after the reading, Ben will hold a Q&A and book signing.

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.

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

ELLIS BRIDGES

Crucifer

STEBIN HORNE

& WILL MAGDA

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:*

**Minutes from The Council on Ministries,
July 13, 1970:**

Crockett Odom was a special guest to report on the Council's recent criticism of the loudness of the organ music at church services – many members feel and expressed the thoughts of many church members that the music is too loud and should be generally toned down. Mr. Odom explained the organ, how it is played, what it is made of, etc., stating it is like a symphony orchestra all in one instrument. He also said it would be boring, tiring, uninspiring if it were always played softly. He gave a detailed explanation of why the Music Committee and Mr. Putnam Porter feel the organ is not too loud – why they play it as they do, etc. There was another issue of the prelude organ music before the morning service when the congregation continues to visit and whisper; also comments about whispers and noises from the ushers in the back, etc. This continues to be of concern to this Council as being a distraction to other people but no firm conclusion was reached.

Mr. Odom said he would keep working on the organ music and he and Mr. Porter will watch for a response from the congregation and it was suggested it might be necessary to ask Mr. Odom again to talk to Mr. Porter about it.

————— *Season of Lent* —————

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.



Mulberry Street

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

719 Mulberry Street

478.745.8601

mulberrymethodist.org

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