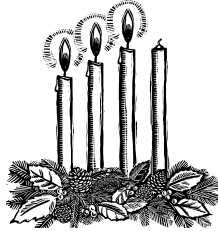


*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church  
Macon, Georgia*

# *Third Sunday of Advent*

*December 11, 2011  
Eleven O'clock*



## **GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

*Please turn off your cell phones or place them on 'vibrate'  
so that our distractions are limited as we worship God.*

News of the Church

Rev. Tommy Mason

Greeting in the Name of Christ

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us worship God!

Opening Voluntary

Cam Bishop and Caitlin Dowling

"Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella"

arr. Helvey

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Gregory, Angie, Mary Caroline and Piper Bushway

Good news, you who are oppressed!

Good news, you who are brokenhearted and captive to pain!

Good news, you who mourn!

God's promised one is coming!

He will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring forth from all nations.

We light the third Advent candle

remembering that God's Promised One

comes to comfort all who are afflicted

and to afflict all who might be too comfortable.

*Light the candle.*

Come, Lord Jesus.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.**

\* Entrance Hymn No. 196  
“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

HYFRYDOL

\* Opening Prayer

Rev. Ben Gosden

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us pray.

Loving God,  
In the advent seasons, when the past has fled,  
unasked, away,  
and there is nothing left to do but wait,  
shelter us, O God.  
Be our surrounding darkness;  
be the fertile soil out of which hope springs in due time.  
In uncertain times, help us to greet the dawn and labor on,  
and to love on.  
And in all times, let us not grow so busy  
that we forget brothers and sisters  
in need of a kind word and loving embrace.  
We ask this in the name of the One  
who is our promised salvation,  
even Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading  
Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

Rev. Ben Gosden

Act of Praise  
“Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain”

Ainsworth Choir  
Carolyn Jennings

## **PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

Children’s Moments

Susan Middleton

*Children are invited to meet Susan  
on the chancel steps. K-4 and K-5 children will leave for  
Children’s Church after Children’s Moments.*

\* Hymn No. 209  
“Blessed Be the God of Israel”

MERLE’S TUNE

\* Gospel Reading  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

Freda Chapman  
Pew Bible Page 862

The word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon  
“For Us or To Us?”

Rev. Tommy Mason

# RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayer for All in Need This Season

Rev. Tommy Perkins

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, we come to you in prayer this day:

For all who have a song they cannot sing,

**For all who have a burden they cannot bear,**

For all who live in chains they cannot break,

**For all who wander homeless and cannot return,**

For all those who are sick,

and for those who supply care to them.

**For those who wait for loved ones,**

**and wait in vain.**

For those who live in hunger,

and for those who will not share their bread.

**For those who are misunderstood,**

**and for those who misunderstand.**

For those whose words of love

are locked within their hearts,

and for those who yearn to hear those words.

**Show us the Way, O God,**

**for we are your people who walk in darkness.**

**Amen.**

Offering of our Gifts

Betsy Swanson, Soloist

“Rejoice Greatly O Daughter of Zion” (Messiah) G. F. Handel

\* A Response of Adoration and Anticipation

UMH 213

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

TRURO

**Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;  
behold, the King of glory waits;  
the King of kings is drawing near;  
the Savior of the world is here!**

\* Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Rev. Ben Gosden

*Anyone who wishes to become a member of  
Mulberry Street UMC is invited to come forward during the  
singing of the final stanza of the Hymn of Discipleship.*

\* Hymn of Discipleship No. 240

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

\* The Light of Christ Goes Into the World

*Please be seated after the cross and light pass your pew.*

*As the light of Christ is carried out into the world,  
you are invited to remain seated for a few minutes  
of personal reflection to prepare to re-enter that world.*

*Consider prayerfully how God has been present to you  
in worship this morning and how you can be present for him  
in the world this week.*

*“O Come, All Ye Faithful” Emma Lou Diemer*

\* Benediction

Rev. Tommy Mason

\* *For those able, please stand.*



*Rev. Tommy Mason, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Tommy Perkins, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Ben Gosden, Associate Pastor  
Cam Bishop, Organist/Director of Music  
Ainsworth Choir  
David Keith, Conductor  
Freeda Chapman, Lay Reader  
Cam Bishop & Caitlin Dowling, Piano  
Bert Thompson, Lead Acolyte  
Caroline Banks, Crucifer  
Ames Jamison & Jake Jamison, Candlelighters*

*The arrangement in the sanctuary is given to the glory of God  
and in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Mack Guest by Mark and Camilla,  
Judson and Paula, Joe and June, David and Debbie,  
and their ten grandchildren.*

**Welcome All Visitors**

*We welcome you to Mulberry Street United Methodist Church.*

*We are glad you have joined us this morning and hope  
that through word, music, fellowship and prayer,  
you will experience the presence of God today.*

*Please make sure you sign the **Attendance Register** as it is passed  
so that we can share with you about what's happening  
in the life of this church.*

***Nursery Care** is provided for children under 4 years of age.  
Please ask an usher for directions to the Nursery.*

# *Up and Coming at Mulberry Street UMC*

## **Senior High Small Group**

*Mondays, 7:00-8:15 pm*

## **Advent Study**

*O Come Let Us Adore Him: A Contemplative Journey Through Advent*

*Wednesday evenings of Advent at 5:00 pm*

*November 30<sup>th</sup>, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, & 21<sup>st</sup>*

*Conference Room*

## **Friday, December 16**

*Macon Outreach Christmas Celebration*

*11:00 am Sanctuary*

*Lunch following in Fellowship Hall*

## **Carols and Readings**

**Sunday, December 18**

**11:00 AM**



**Ainsworth Choir  
with  
Brass Ensemble and Organ**

**Dr. David Keith, Conductor**  
Camille Bishop, Organist/Director of Music

## **Sunday, December 18**

*4:00-6:00 pm Christmas Caroling for Children & Families*

## **Christmas Eve Services**

*Saturday, December 24*

*2:00 pm Communion/Chapel*

*4:00 pm A Service for Children and Families/Sanctuary*

*5:30 pm Music of the Season/Sanctuary*

*6:00 pm Candlelight Communion Service/Sanctuary*

## **Sunday, December 25**

*9:15 am Gathering Time in the Fellowship Hall  
(with coffee and sweet rolls)*

*No Sunday School*

*10:00 am Worship/Sanctuary (one service only)*

## **Sunday, January 1, 2012**

*Regular schedule.*