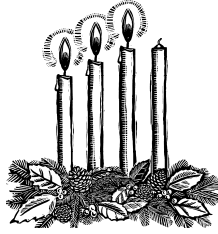


*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church
Macon, Georgia*

Third Sunday of Advent

*December 11, 2011
Nine O'clock*



*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

Opening Voluntary

Cam Bishop

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

Gerald Near

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Ryan and Katie Price

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.

* Hymn No. 196

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

HYFRYDOL

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

Rev. Ben Gosden

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

Act of Praise

Betsy Swanson, Soloist

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

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

- * 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!**

- * Gospel Lesson Rev. Tommy Mason
John 1:6-8, 19-28 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

Invitation to Christian Discipleship Rev. Tommy Perkins

*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

- * Benediction Rev. Tommy Mason

* *Please stand as you are able.*



*Rev. Tommy Mason, Senior Pastor
Rev. Tommy Perkins, Associate Pastor
Rev. Ben Gosden, Associate Pastor
Cam Bishop/Organist*

*The arrangement in the chapel is given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Mr. W. P. Simmons
by his wife, Betty Sweet Simmons and family.*

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 30th, December 7th, 14th, & 21st

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.