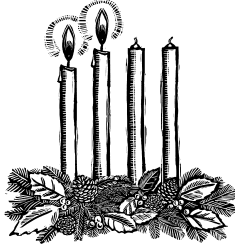


*Mulberry Street United Methodist Church  
Macon, Georgia*

# *Second Sunday of Advent*

*December 4, 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

“Blessed Be The God of Israel”

Andre Lash

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Scott and Kay Wangen

The prophet Isaiah wrote,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;  
the voice of one crying in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.’”

We light the second Advent candle in preparation

for the coming of the Messiah,  
remembering the words of John the Baptist,  
“make paths straight,  
repent of your sins,  
be baptized,  
live holy lives devoted to God.”

*Light the candle.*

Come, Lord Jesus.

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

\* Hymn of Expectation No. 203

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

ELLACOMBE

\* Opening Prayer

Rev. Tommy Perkins

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Merciful God,

you sent your messengers the prophets  
to preach repentance  
and prepare the way for our salvation.

Give us grace to heed their warning and forsake our sins,  
that we may celebrate aright the commemoration  
of the nativity,

and may await with joy

the coming in glory of Jesus Christ our Redeemer;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

One God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Lord, you showed favor to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**You forgave the iniquity of your people;  
you pardoned all their sin.**

Let me hear what God will speak,

for the Lord will speak peace to his people,  
to his faithful,

to those who turn to the Lord in their hearts.

**Surely salvation is at hand for those who fear the Lord,  
that glory may dwell in our land.**

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;

righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

**Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,  
and righteousness will look down from the sky.**

The Lord will give what is good,

and our land will yield its increase.

**Righteousness will go before the Lord,  
and make God's footsteps a way.**

\* Gospel Lesson

Mark 1:1-8

Pew Bible Page 812

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Homily

“Preparation for the Best”

Rev. Tommy Mason

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Ben Gosden

Jesus said, “Come to me,

all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,  
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;  
for I am gentle and humble in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls.”

Confession and Pardon

With expectant hearts,  
let us humbly confess our sins before God and one another.

*Brief Silence*

**Great God of Presence and Promised Coming,  
We confess that we have not loved you**

**with our whole heart:**

**We have failed to fulfill your desire for us  
to love one another.**

**We have not followed the paths you have given us,  
choosing instead to follow our own.**

**We have broken relationships.**

**We chase consumer desires.**

**We treat those who wait on us as less than human.**

**We have rebelled against your love:**

**We spend our time and money on gifts  
for those who give us gifts.**

**We have not loved our neighbors:**

**We spend time with family and friends  
out of obligation rather than sincere love.**

**We have not heard the voice of the needy:**

**The mouth of the poor is still hungry for mercy.**

**The cause of the oppressed  
is still thirsty for justice.**

**Free us for joyful obedience,**

**through the Advent of Christ,**

**our Lord, our Messiah, our Hope. Amen.**

*Silent Confession*

Good News! Good News! Good News!

God so loved the world

that he gave sinful and broken humanity a gift:  
Emmanuel, God with us.

This proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**Glory to God! Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Offering of our Gifts

The Great Thanksgiving

Hymnal Page 13

*(Communion responses are spoken.)*

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.**

Giving the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

Rev. Ben Gosden

Let us pray together.

**O amazing God,  
you come into our ordinary lives  
and set a holy table among us,  
filling our plates with the bread of life  
and our cups with salvation.  
Send us out, O God,  
with tenderheartedness  
to touch an ordinary everyday world  
with the promise of your coming. Amen.**

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

*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.567

“Heralds of Christ”

NATIONAL HYMN

\* 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*



*All who believe that Jesus Christ is Lord are invited to the Lord's Supper. You need not be a member of this congregation or a United Methodist. Children are invited to receive communion, too. God's grace is available to all.*

*Many communion participants bring an offering with them, leaving it in the offering plates in the side aisles. **Our communion offering is designated for the Christmas Offering.***

### **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 **Registration Pad** 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*

## **Sunday, December 4**

*Plum Pudding Festival*

*Cherub & Elementary Choirs Singing*

*5:00 pm Fellowship Hall*

*Light supper and Plum Pudding Cake!*

*4:15 pm Parents meet in Fellowship Hall*

*and children in their choir rooms.*

## **Young at Heart Christmas Luncheon**

*Thursday, December 8*

*12:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall*

*Call the church office (745-8601) for reservations*

*by Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.*

## **Friday, December 16**

*Macon Outreach Christmas Celebration*

*11:00 am Sanctuary*

*Lunch following in Fellowship Hall*

## **Sunday, December 18**

*"Carols and Readings"*

*Ainsworth Choir Brass and Organ*

*11 am Sanctuary*

*Christmas Caroling for Children & Families*

*4:00-6:00 pm*

## **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.*

