

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

January 14, 2018 • Second Sunday After the Epiphany (*Green*)

†Please stand as you are able.

WELCOME AND PARISH NOTICES (*8:55 am & 11:10 am*)

Dr. Sam R. Matthews

INVITATION TO WORSHIP FROM PSALM 92

Rev. Brian Smith

Leader: It is good to give thanks to you, O Lord.

All: We declare your steadfast love in the morning.

Leader: It is good to sing praises to your name.

All: We proclaim your faithfulness by night.

Leader: For you, O Lord, have made us glad by your work;

All: at the work of your hands we sing for joy!

PRELUDE “Andante, e staccato” from Concerto No. 5 (*Handel/Loret*) Brian Parks, Organist

The ringing of the bell three times symbolizes the presence of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

INTROIT “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty” (*Schmolck/Neander*) Chancel Choir

†PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 157 “Jesus Shall Reign” DUKE STREET

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH NO. 881 The Apostles’ Creed

**All: 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 the saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

** universal*

†GLORIA PATRI NO. 71 GREATOREX

**All: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.***

ANTHEM “I Sing the Almighty Power of God” (*arr. Austin Lovelace*) Chancel Choir

CHILDREN’S SERMON Dr. Matthews

†HYMN NO. 451

“Be Thou My Vision”

SLANE

(11:15) Choir members who sang in the 9:00 service may choose to leave during the hymn.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. Lori Ethridge

All: 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 OF GOD’S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY “We Shall Overcome” Gospel Protest Song (*arr. Brian Parks*) Organist

†DOXOLOGY NO. 95

OLD 100TH

**All: *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.***

†SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 1:43-45

New Testament, p. 112

SERMON

“ON NOT WORSHIPING JESUS”

Dr. Matthews

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

†HYMN NO. 128

“He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought”

TRADITIONAL

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

“God Be with You till We Meet Again” (*Hymnal No. 672*)

Chancel Choir

†POSTLUDE

“Fugue in G Major” (*J.S. Bach*)

Organist

GIFTS TO MFUMC: In honor Of Fred & Madeline Knox by Ginny & Kevin Moore.

In memory of B.J. Armistead by Phyllis Armistead.

In memory of Bobbie Hillier by Mr. & Mrs. Alex Yeilding.

GIFTS TO THE MFUMC ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION: In memory of Jackie Barrett by Lillian & Buddy Darden.



Holy Communion served in the Latimer Chapel at 10:00 a.m.

This week at MFUMC

HOSPITALIZED: Terry Smith, Steve Norris, Ed Allen, Linda McKinnon

FLOWERS: The flowers in the Sanctuary today are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. Frank McKinnon by Susie McKinnon, Wes and Tammy, Carter and Anne, David, and Clay McKinnon. The rose on the Altar Table is given to the glory of God in celebration of the birth of Bethany Marie Fernandez, daughter of Rebecca and Zach Fernandez, Granddaughter of Bootsie and Fred Bentley, and great granddaughter of Carol Worley, on January 1, 2018.

There will be a called **Charge Conference** before the Church Council meeting on January 22 for the purpose of electing our 2018 Church Lay Leadership.

Save the Date for UMW Presents: An Evening of Women's Fellowship. Thursday, February 8, 6-8:30 p.m. Benefits Wellspring Living and will feature Mary Frances Bowley (Wellspring Living's Executive Director) and the Georgia Tech Glee Club. Individual tickets are \$30, and tables of eight are \$225. Visit www.mariettafumc.org/umwrepresents for more information and to buy tickets. (Rev. Lori Ethridge, ext. 835)

Join the Senior Adults!

- This Wednesday, January 17 for lunch at noon in the Reception Hall to hear Dr. Geo Sipp, Director of the School of Art and Design at Kennesaw State University. Cost is \$10.
- Next Sunday, January 21 to see *Tender: The Rosemary Clooney Musical*. Tickets are \$30. An optional box lunch is available from Jason's Deli for \$10. We will depart from the Welcome Center at 1:15 p.m. (Rev. Ethridge, ext. 835)

Help restock the MFUMC food pantry during the month of January. Collection bins will be located at the elevators. For a list of items most needed, visit www.mariettafumc.org/food. (Forrest Cate, ext. 806)

Sign up to help MFUMC work with Park Street Elementary on Friday, January 26 to strengthen its science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) program. You are not required to lead and do not need a background in science. To learn more and signup, visit www.mariettafumc.org/stem.

Worship Leaders

Senior Minister:
Dr. Sam R. Matthews

Associate Ministers:
Rev. Brian Smith
Rev. Lori Ethridge

Director of Music:
Mark Ridings

Organist
Brian Parks

Pianist:
Brenda Brent

9 a.m. Service:
Acolyte: Camrynn Cogbill
and Beth Rogers



January 14, 2018

THE ONLY STORY HERE

Red Smith was one of the very best sports writers ever, primarily with the New York Times, and was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for his writing in 1975. I have a copy of his *To Absent Friends*, a collection of obituaries he wrote about deceased sports figures. In his loving and sensitive way, Smith captures much of the warmth and spirit of those special friends.

He wrote about Jake Powell, a baseball player for the Yankees, Senators, and various other clubs, a mediocre player who fell upon hard times. The column hints at legal trouble, Powell getting himself "messed up," and always acting "on impulse and (being) wrong more often than not." Powell finally took his own life in a Washington, D. C. police station.

But Smith remembers another side of Powell. Once when he was hurriedly interviewed on radio in Chicago, Powell made a comment that offended African-American people. A storm ensued, the league office was flooded with calls, and protests and boycotts were threatened.

When Powell got back to New York, he took matters into his own hands. He went to the top of Harlem alone, after dark, and worked his way south. He stopped in every saloon. In each place, he introduced himself, told of his thoughtless comments, and apologized. He ordered drinks for the crowd and moved on. Smith hints at the troubled life of Powell, then closed his column this way: "That's one story about Jake Powell. The only story here."

Many of us know a great deal about each other. We've seen each other tired and down, lonely and depressed. We all have a library of information about the people with whom we live, work, and play. And worship. Many stories are memorable, hard to forget. In fact, we probably know too much about each other. Perhaps the most Christ-like response we can have to one another is to remember the times when we tried to be somebody, tried to do something right, and remember that "only story."

Our church is in the business of teaching us how to be more loving, more caring, and, perhaps, more forgetful of all but the most critical.