

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com
May 14, 2023 **Sixth Sunday of Easter**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do and he will show you which path to take."
—Proverbs 3:5-6

PRELUDE

GATHERING Words of welcome and announcements

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (unison)**

Jesus said, "I go and prepare a place for you, and I will come again." We gather in this place to know your presence and your love, now and always.

Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." If you know me, you know God. We pray to know you more deeply, that we may know God more intimately, now and always.

Jesus said, "Ask me for anything, and I will do it." Help us to ask for the right things, Lord Jesus Christ, that we may fulfill your will, now and always.

Jesus said, "Believe in me, and Follow me." Help us to worship you fully believing and following--now and always!

LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

On Maundy Thursday, all the lights, including the candles, in the sanctuary were extinguished, representing the world without the light of God. The Paschal candle is lit today and every time we gather for worship during the season of Easter to remind us of the light of the risen Christ and our responsibility to be that light for others.

OPENING HYMN** ***"For the Beauty of the Earth" **(UMH # 92)**

1. For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

2. For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light;
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.



3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony, linking sense to sound and sight;
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.
4. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild;
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.
5. For thy church, that evermore lifteth holy hands above,
offering up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love;
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.
6. For thyself, best Gift Divine, to the world so freely given,
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth, and joy in heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

INVOCATION (unison)

Ever-gracious, Way-Making God, we celebrate the gifts of your Spirit. You have not fed us a diet of shame or shrinking, but with the milk of your truth you have made us strong and faithful servants of Christ. You call us to take up the mantle of justice and to follow wherever faith leads us. You fill us with strength and hope, and you invite us to share in the cost and joys of discipleship. You promise us splendor and beauty in this life and in the world to come. Meet us here, we pray, that your word will be fulfilled in our hearing and that your Spirit will fill us with courage. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us lift our prayers in thoughts of praise.

SILENT PRAYER

Communicate with God about your faith.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 3:13-19 (CEB)

Who will harm you if you are zealous for good? But happy are you, even if you suffer because of righteousness! Don't be terrified or upset by them. Instead, regard Christ the Lord as holy in your hearts. Whenever anyone asks you to speak of your hope, be ready to defend it. Yet do this with respectful humility, maintaining a good conscience. Act in this way so that those who malign your good lifestyle in Christ may be ashamed when they slander you. It is better to suffer for doing good (if this could possibly be God's will) than for doing evil.

Christ himself suffered on account of sins, once for all, the righteous one on behalf of the unrighteous. He did this in order to bring you into the presence of God. Christ

was put to death as a human, but made alive by the Spirit. And it was by the Spirit that he went to preach to the spirits in prison.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of all ages and God of love, who sees and hears your people at all time.

We have seen you acting and sustaining us in the midst of our challenges and hopelessness.

In times of hunger, you provided food for us to eat. When we had no place to lay our heads, you provided us with shelter. When we are faced with death, we have seen your hand of protection. Amidst sickness, you have given us hope and courage to live on, not give up; to stand strong and not to be selfish for the responsibilities you have entrusted us with.

Therefore, dear God, we continue praying that you give us hope amidst hopelessness, courage in times of despair, healing in times of sickness, provision in times of lack, protection in times of danger to live and hope for a better world through Jesus Christ who is our sustainer, provider, and protector. We pray, Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

1 Samuel 24:1-13 (CEB)

Even as Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was informed that David was in the En-gedi wilderness. So Saul took three thousand men selected from all Israel and went to look for David and his soldiers near the rocks of the wild goats. He came to the sheep pens beside the road where there was a cave. Saul went into the cave to use the restroom. Meanwhile, David and his soldiers were sitting in the very back of the cave.

David's soldiers said to him, "This is the day the LORD spoke of when he promised you, 'I will hand your enemy over to you, and you can do to him whatever you think best.'" So David snuck up and cut off a corner of Saul's robe. But immediately David felt horrible that he had cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

"The LORD forbid," he told his men, "that I should do something like that to my master, the LORD's anointed, or lift my hand against him, because he's the LORD's anointed!" So David held his soldiers in check by what he said, and he wouldn't allow them to attack Saul. Saul then left the cave and went on his way.

Then David also went out of the cave and yelled after Saul, "My master the king!" Saul looked back, and David bowed low out of respect, nose to the ground.

David said to Saul, "Why do you listen when people say, 'David wants to ruin you'? Look! Today your own eyes have seen that the LORD handed you over to me in the cave. But I refused to kill you. I spared you, saying, 'I won't lift a hand against my master because he is the LORD's anointed.' Look here, my protector! See the corner of your robe in my hand? I cut off the corner of your robe but didn't kill you. So

know now that I am not guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I haven't wronged you, but you are hunting me down, trying to kill me. May the LORD judge between me and you! May the LORD take vengeance on you for me, but I won't lift a hand against you. As the old proverb goes, 'Evil deeds come from evildoers!' but I won't lift a hand against you.

A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN

MESSAGE

**"Telling Our Hope with Meekness"
Kirk Yenerall, CLM**

INVITATION TO SHARE

As Jesus' example was to be meek while serving, lets us continue to offer our gifts so that we may spread that good news to others.

OFFERTORY

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS:

***DOXOLOGY**

(UMH # 94)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)**

Holy God and author of our existence; our story is part of a greater story, and your hand is visible on every page and every scene. So too our stories cannot be disconnected from those in the past who have shaped the steps we take--saints and sinners, rebels and followers. They are part of our story as we are part of theirs. As we offer gifts this day, we pray they might be used to strengthen the story of faith that will be told by those who will come after we are gone. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

Patient and forgiving God, we come to you this day. For many there is a celebration of Mother's Day and all that our mothers have given to us and taught

us; but for some, these memories are too painful, of those who could not parent, who were afflicted. Remind us that your blessings are poured out in many ways, through many people. Give us the confident faith that reaches beyond our own lives to help others. Forgive us when we sink into our own selfishness and pettiness. For it is in those times that we turn our back on you. Bring us back to you, to the awareness of your eternal love. In Christ's Name, we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

“Blessed Assurance”

(UMH # 369)

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

All are invited to sit and reflect during the Postlude

Thank you to Kirk Yenerall for filling the pulpit today.

Special thankyous to all those that assisted with worship today.

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 27

ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Sun. May 14 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. May 14 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Wed. May 17 10:00 am Senior Friendship Group at Elwin UMC
Sun. May 21 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. May 21 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. May 28 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. May 28 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service Memorial Day

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

May

*Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/maconilumc>
Be certain to "check in" on Facebook each week.*

MISSIONS



Items requested by the food pantry are: Vegetable, chicken-noodle and tomato soups, any kind of cereal and/or oatmeal, canned fruit, pancake syrup, toilet paper and antiperspirant. Cash Donations are always welcome.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

Macon Adult Sunday School Bible Study "Words of Life Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today" by Adam Hamilton will continue Sunday at 9:00 am.