

**Macon United Methodist Church**  
**190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133**  
**Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com**  
**May 28, 2023** **Day of Pentecost**

### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

*Don't be afraid! God's Holy Spirit brings you healing comfort and hope. You are being prepared to serve God in some mighty ways. Rejoice! God's Holy Spirit is with you always.*

### **RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL**

**The bell rings today in celebration of the Holy Spirit being among everyone.**

### **PRELUDE**

**GATHERING** Words of welcome and announcements

### **\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

#### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP (unison)**

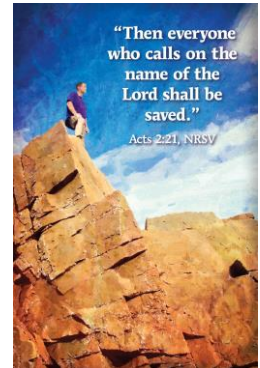
**Come, Holy Spirit. Inspire our hearts with your fiery presence! Let your flame burn within us, stirring us to action. Come, Holy Spirit. Energize our lives to work for God. Let your wind of hope swirl around us, lifting and moving us from complacency. Come, Holy Spirit. Pour your blessing on us. Let your presence challenge us to proclaim God's presence and love in everything we say and do. Amen.**

### **LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE**

*Since Maundy Thursday, when the lights in this house of God were dimmed, we have lit the flame of the Paschal candle as a symbol to ourselves and to the world that the light of Jesus Christ can never be extinguished. On this Pentecost Sunday, the flame now grows brighter as the Holy Spirit joins with us to spread the light to everyone, everywhere.*

#### **\*OPENING HYMN      "As a Fire Is Meant for Burning"      (FWS #2237)**

1. As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame,  
so the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name.  
Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care,  
we join hands across the nations, finding neighbors everywhere.



2. We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way.  
We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay.  
By our gentle loving actions, we would show that Christ is light.  
In a humble, listening spirit, we would live to God's delight.

3. As a green bud in the springtime is a sign of life renewed,  
so may we be signs of oneness 'mid earth's peoples many hued.  
As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,  
may our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.

### **INVOCATION (unison)**

**Almighty God, your Holy Spirit came to Jesus' disciples, hidden in an upper room in Jerusalem. A violent wind and tongues of fire were the symbols of a new thing happening in their lives. May your Holy Spirit burst into our lives today, encouraging and inspiring us to proclaim boldly the good news of Jesus Christ who offers healing and hope to all people. 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**

**Acts 2:1-4; 14-21 (CEB)**

When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, "Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words! These people aren't drunk, as you suspect; after all, it's only nine o'clock in the morning! Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

*In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young will see visions. Your elders will dream dreams. Even upon my servants, men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will cause wonders to occur in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and a cloud of smoke. The sun will be changed into darkness, and the moon will be changed into blood, before the great and spectacular day of the Lord comes. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)**

**We aren't ready, Lord. It is easier for us to hide in the upper rooms of our lives, to let the world go by and not acknowledge your presence. But you have challenged us to come alive again with your love and words of healing mercy. Forgive our hesitant witness and our complacent spirits. Heal our fears and our wounds. Help us to be agents of healing and hope for others. Challenge and inspire us to overcome our feelings of inadequacy and remind us that you have called us beloved and have given us what we need to proclaim your Good News. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.**

## **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

**John 7:37-39**

On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and shouted, "All who are thirsty should come to me! All who believe in me should drink! As the scriptures said concerning me, *"Rivers of living water will flow out from within him."* Jesus said this concerning the Spirit. Those who believed in him would soon receive the Spirit, but they hadn't experienced the Spirit yet since Jesus hadn't yet been glorified.

## **A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN**

### **MESSAGE**

**"Memorial Day"  
Rev. Terry McDorman**

### **HYMN**

***"Holy Ground"***

**(FWS #2272)**

We are standing on holy ground and I know, I know there are angels all around;  
let us praise, Jesus now; we are standing in his presence on holy ground.

## **INVITATION TO SHARE**

## **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)**

**God of wind and flame: set us on fire this morning as we celebrate the explosion of your Holy Spirit coming into the world on the Day of Pentecost! Remind us that the gift you gave that day was not just the gift to speak in different tongues, but also the gift of hearing and comprehension. May your Holy Spirit keep us attuned to the voices all around us, to those who need us to be bearers of your love and compassion, and may these gifts we give help us, through your church, meet those needs. In the holy name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

**MUSICAL REFLECTION**

**CLOSING PRAYER (unison)**

**Knock us off our seats, O Lord, with the wind of your Holy Spirit. Don't let us just sit back and rest as though nothing important was happening. Remind us that you have come to bless and prepare us for your service. Now is the time of proclamation and celebration! Now is the birth of your church, not as an exercise in futility, but as a dynamic group of people who know you and love you as you know and love each of us. Flame up our hearts! Make us so joyful that we find it difficult to sit back and watch. We want to be part of your healing love and mercy. We want to be people who bear the word that your love for us is eternal; that Jesus Christ, our Savior, proclaimed and taught that love in all that he did and said, modeling for us a new way to live. Pick us up and propel us forward into your world. Help us to remember that you have given to us what we need to be your disciples. We just need to say a resounding "Yes!" to you. Thank you for all the wondrous patience and blessings you pour into our lives each and every day, as we offer our lives back to you in joy and hope. Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN      “Every Time I Feel the Spirit”      (UMH #404)**

Refrain:

Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

1. Upon the mountain, my Lord spoke, out his mouth came fire and smoke.

All around me looks so shine, asked my Lord if all was mine.

Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.



## 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.

**ANNOUNCING MACON UMC'S COMMUNITY PICNIC** and Ice Cream Social on Sunday, June 25 at 11 a.m. Look for additional details on the church website.

**THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES** is seeking a volunteer for a small staining project. If this is your talent, please contact Richard Boggs.