

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com
July 2, 2023 **Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.” – Matthew 10:40

PRELUDE

GATHERING Words of welcome and announcements

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (unison)**

Lord, just as you have welcomed us when we were strangers with no home, just as you have taken us in when others said, “No,” we ourselves seek to welcome those who have come to worship and praise your holy name. We welcome you this morning in this place to sit down and be present with us. Let us worship God! Amen.



***OPENING HYMN**

“America”

(UMH # 697)

1. My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing;
land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims' pride,
from every mountainside let freedom ring!
2. My native country, thee, land of the noble free, thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and templed hills;
my heart with rapture thrills, like that above.
3. Let music swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees sweet freedom's song;
let mortal tongues awake; let all that breathe partake;
let rocks their silence break, the sound prolong.
4. Our fathers' God, to thee, author of liberty, to thee we sing;
long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light;
protect us by thy might, great God, our King.

INVOCATION (unison)

On this day, O Lord, we gather around your table as one family, we drink from the same Spirit, we have one baptism, we have one faith. For this family, which you hold so dear, there are no barriers, no nationalities, no race or tongue, and no culture that could separate us. You invite all your children, women, men, young, and old to celebrate our unity and to announce your great sacrifice.

Help us, O Lord, to extend your invitation to all your children to gather at your table to quench their hunger and thirst for justice.

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 17:8-15

The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, “Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands.”

So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. When Moses’ hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword. Then the LORD said to Moses, “Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven.”

Moses built an altar and called it The LORD is my Banner.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Merciful God, We confess that, though we claim to love you, our lives do not always reflect that love. We offer hospitality out of obligation instead of love, out of care for our own well-being instead of that of others. We hesitate to welcome others out of fear of rejection instead of extending compassion as the fruit of your love for us. In our relationships at work, home, and even church, too often we choose expediency instead of integrity, believing the ends justify the means. Help us, we pray. Free us to live as your children who welcome, nurture, and love our neighbors as we learn to grow as disciples of Christ. Amen.

A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN

MESSAGE

**“The Names of God--Part 1”
Rev. Terry McDorman**

HYMN

“America the Beautiful”

(UMH # 696)

1. O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain;
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.
2. O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine.
3. O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.

OFFERTORY

INVITATION TO SHARE

Jesus gave absolutely all that he could for each of us. Let us endeavor to do the same for others during this time of offering.

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)**

Mighty God, you have poured down on us all manner of gifts and blessings; the ledger of our lives is so overwhelmed with your goodness that we struggle with how small our offerings to you seem in comparison. The gospel reminds us that not even the smallest act of mercy and compassion--a cup of cold water--will go

unnoticed by you. Give us the eyes to see those in need, the ears to hear those who cry for justice, and the hearts to comfort those hurting and grieving. If we all were to offer a cup of cold water, the world would be flooded with compassion. We ask this in Christ, our rock, and our redeemer. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Randy and Leo

Invitation to the Table

Christ our Lord calls to his Table: all who hurt and are beaten down by the stresses of life; all who love him and earnestly seek to live in peace with one another; all who repent of their sin and long to follow the call of discipleship. Hear the good news: Despite our brokenness, Christ died for us that we might have life. That proves God's gracious love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Glory to God! Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (responsively)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Almighty God, Creator of the universe, Ruler of all nations, Judge of all flesh, you have placed us, your people, in this land made rich with rivers, forests, mountains, and creatures great and small. Here, you set before the founders and pioneers of this nation an opportunity beyond measure to build a realm of justice, peace, and freedom. Here you continue to call your people, freed from the law and baptized into Christ Jesus, to be a sign of your reign in all the world. For such a place, such a vision and such a calling we give you thanks, praying we may ever join afresh the dreams you set before us.

And so, with your people in every land on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Above all we give you thanks for the gift of your Son Jesus Christ, who sends us into the world to declare the good news of your kingdom to every creature: Justice to all peoples, good news to the poor, release for prisoners, sight for the blind, and freedom for the oppressed. On the night before he was arrested and sentenced to death by the authorities of his own nation, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you." When supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the covenant poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins." And so we remember again as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

We pour ourselves out before you in praise and thanksgiving, a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us. Pour out your Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make Christ known to us in the breaking of this bread, and the sharing of this cup. Renew our fellowship in him, that we may be for the world his body poured out for the world at this time in this nation, and at that great banquet in the fullness of your new creation where justice flows like rivers, righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, where none shall hunger or thirst, neither shall they learn war anymore. By him, with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, now and ever. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION (All are invited to come forward to partake in the sacrament. Please advise the usher if you would like us to come to you.)

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

Lord... remind us today that You have shown us what is good in what You require of us; to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God. We ask that as a people, we may humble ourselves before You and seek Your will for our lives and for this great nation. Help us in our nation to work as never before to

strengthen our families and to give our children hope and a moral foundation for the future. So may our desire be to serve You, and in so doing, serve one another. This we pray in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen. (by Billy Graham)

***CLOSING HYMN** *“Lift Every Voice and Sing”* **(UMH # 519)**

1. Lift ev’ry voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty. Let our rejoicing rise high as the list’ning skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us. Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us. Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.
2. Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast’ning rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died; yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our people sighed? We have come over a way that with tears has been watered. We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered, out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.
3. God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way, thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee; lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee; shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

All are invited to sit and reflect during the Postlude

**Please rise as you are able*

Special thankyou to all those that assisted with worship today.

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 43

ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70

JULY 4TH HOLIDAY

The church office will be closed July 3rd and 4th in honor of the holiday. In case of a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Terry at 630-390-0414 via voice or text.

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/maconilumc>

Be certain to check the church website, <https://maconilumc.net/> for update information about the church, events and news. Please use webmaster.maconumc@gmail.com to submit updates or additions to the church website.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Sun. July 02 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. July 02 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. July 09 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. July 09 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

July 02	Garry Cutler	July 02	Kate Huggins
July 02	Mike Snyder	July 03	Carl Craft
July 06	Jaxson Miller	July 07	Marsha Baker
July 07	Richard and Ida Boggs		

MISSIONS



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

CHURCH BENCH

Plastic cap and lid collection continues. We still need about forty pounds of plastic bottle caps and lids to reach our goal so that we may obtain a bench in front of the church (made from recycled plastic). Be certain to wash the items thoroughly. The bench will be available to anyone that needs a respite while walking or running through town, a simple place to rest or to meditate.

