

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com
August 13, 2023 **Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"God loves each of us as if there were only one of us"--Augustine

PRELUDE

GATHERING Words of welcome and announcements

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

Beloved disciples, welcome. As we gather, what are you seeking?

We seek God's presence all around us.

Beloved disciples, if God's presence is all around us, what are you seeking?

We seek to recognize God's presence among us.

Beloved disciples, if God is among you, what are you seeking?

We seek God in the faces of family, friends, and neighbors.

Beloved disciples, if God is in the face of your neighbor, what are you seeking?

We seek God in the search and the work for peace and wholeness for all God's creation.

As we gather today, may we meet God in our seeking and in our finding.

Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** *"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"* (UMH # 127)

1. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.

2. Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow; let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through. Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside; death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side. Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee.



INVOCATION (unison)

Lord, if it's you, we need to hear from you when we are alone, when we go away to pray, when we have little faith, when we are battered by the waves, when the wind is against us, when we get in the boat, when we're terrified by our ghosts, when we seek you on the mountain, when we cry out in fear, when we start walking on water, when we begin to sink, when we are far from land. Lord, if it's you, speak to us, calm our fears, calm our storms. Strengthen our resolve. Remind us who you are. Walk to us. Call to us. Save us. Reach out your hand and catch us. Quiet the wind around us. Lord, if it's you, we worship you for "Truly you are the Son of God."

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

Matthew 18:21-35 (CEB)

Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?"

Jesus said, "Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times. Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

²⁴ When he began to settle accounts, they brought to him a servant who owed him ten thousand bags of gold. Because the servant didn't have enough to pay it back, the master ordered that he should be sold, along with his wife and children and everything he had, and that the proceeds should be used as payment. But the servant fell down, kneeled before him, and said, 'Please, be patient with me, and I'll pay you back.' The master had compassion on that servant, released him, and forgave the loan.

"When that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred coins. He grabbed him around the throat and said, 'Pay me back what you owe me.'

"Then his fellow servant fell down and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I'll pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he threw him into prison until he paid back his debt.

"When his fellow servants saw what happened, they were deeply offended. They came and told their master all that happened. His master called the first servant and said, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you appealed to me. Shouldn't you also have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' His master was furious and handed him over to the guard responsible for punishing prisoners, until he had paid the whole debt.

“My heavenly Father will also do the same to you if you don’t forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious Creator, we seek your blessing, knowing that we have not earned it. In our faults, we seek your blessing. In our sins, we seek your forgiveness. In our weakness, we seek your strength. In our sorrow, we seek your consolation. In our trials, we seek your justice. In our pain, we seek your peace. Hear our prayers, O God, and make our hearts new. Amen.

A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN

MESSAGE

**“As We Forgive Those...”
Kirk Yenerall, CLM**

HYMN

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

(UMH # 141)

1. Children of the heav'nly Father safely in His bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.
2. God His own doth tend and nourish; in His holy courts they flourish;
from all evil things he spares them; in his mighty arms he bears them.
3. Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.
4. Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh;
his the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!

OFFERTORY

INVITATION TO SHARE

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)**

Forgiving God, the first offering you ask for is the giving of ourselves, loving you and others boldly, refusing to let our fear of the storms around us keep us from taking risks. Forgive us for times when you have called us to leave our places of comfort, and we've ignored the call. Forgive us when our giving has not grown beyond our safety zone, but you blessed our gifts and us anyway. For those times when we dared to put our foot outside the boat and then sank up to our knees, thank you for not taking your hand away. For all this, we give thanks in the holy name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Stephen Rigg

CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

God of wholeness, heal the hurts, both inside and out, that make life difficult each day. Ease the pain, loosen the chains, bringing freedom in their place.

***CLOSING HYMN “I Sing the Almighty Power of God” (UMH # 152)**

1. I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at his command, and all the stars obey.

2. I sing the goodness of the Lord who filled the earth with food;
who formed the creatures through the Word, and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread or gaze upon the skies.

3. There's not a plant or flower below but makes thy glories known,
and clouds arise and tempests blow by order from thy throne;
while all that borrows life from thee is ever in your care,
and everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.

Psalter Hymnal, 1987

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

All are invited to sit and reflect during the Postlude

**Please rise as you are able*

Special thankyou's to all those that assisted with worship today.

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 36

ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70

Thanks to Mr. Kirk Yenerall for leading worship while Pastor Terry is on vacation. He will return next Sunday.

Rev. Brennan Hurley of Stonington UMC is available for any pastoral emergencies. You may reach him at 1-217-781-2799.

WELCOME HOME SUNDAY--September 10, 2023

This is the day to bring back everyone that used to attend Macon UMC, even if they only came once. So, invite your friends, neighbors and family. Sunday school at 9:00 am; worship at 10:00 am (including Holy Communion); followed by an incredible potluck and fellowship. Please bring a dish to share.

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. Aug 13 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Aug 13 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Aug 20 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Aug 20 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Aug 20 11:00 am Boggs Baby Shower—Fellowship Hall

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 14 Lori Nixon

Aug 16 Shirley Kilzer

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, macaroni and cheese; toilet paper and dish liquid. Cash donations are always welcome.

BACK TO SCHOOL MOVIE NIGHT

The Elwin NOW Committee is hosting an All-church Movie Night on Sunday, August 13 at 6:00 pm showing “The Jesus Revolution.” Elwin invites the Macon and Zion Chapel Churches (including the youth group) to join them at the movie. Popcorn and soda will be provided.



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.

