

**Macon United Methodist Church**  
**190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133**  
**Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com**  
**August 20, 2023** **Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

## **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

*"We gain strength, and courage, and confidence by each experience in which we really stop to look fear in the face...we must do that which we think we cannot."--  
Eleanor Roosevelt*

## **PRELUDE**

**GATHERING** Words of welcome and announcements



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

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

Beloved disciples, welcome! We gather as people reconciled to one another and God through grace, a gift freely and lovingly given that we do not earn or deserve. We receive the marvelous work of grace in our lives, and we wonder, "Is it fair?"

**No! God's grace is not fair, but a gift of God's mercy.**

We gather as neighbors who have experienced difficulties of every kind. We feel uncertain, fearful, and overwhelmed, and we wonder, "Is it fair?"

**No! Our difficulties are not fair, and God's grace meets our uncertainty with mercy and love.**

We gather as a community that knows the suffering of our neighbors. We look at the effects of poverty, food insecurity, and trauma in our neighborhoods, and we wonder, "Is it fair?"

**No! The suffering of our neighbors is not fair, and God's grace calls us to respond to suffering with mercy and justice.**

We gather as people who question how to live into God's abundance and flourishing in a world built on scarcity and greed, and we wonder, "Is it fair?"

**Yes! God's life of abundance and flourishing is fair, because it is merciful. May God's grace form us into people of mercy, justice, compassion, and truth-telling as we gather today. Amen.**

### **\*OPENING HYMN** *"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"* (UMH # 402)

1. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart. In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

2. Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart. In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

3. Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart. In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

4 Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart. In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

### **INVOCATION (unison)**

**Holy One, we tell your story today as a conspiracy of hearts; the defiant midwives, the laboring women, the daughter of power and the daughter of poverty join forces to protect the children of Israel and so set the stage for liberation. Meet us here today and show us the gifts we have to offer in the service of your kin-dom--resilience, clear-sightedness, courage, compassion—setting the stage for a Just World for All. In Jesus’ name we pray, 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**

**Matthew 15: 10-20**

Jesus called the crowd near and said to them, “Listen and understand. It’s not what goes into the mouth that contaminates a person in God’s sight. It’s what comes out of the mouth that contaminates the person.” Then the disciples came and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended by what you just said?”

Jesus replied, “Every plant that my heavenly Father didn’t plant will be pulled up. Leave the Pharisees alone. They are blind people who are guides to blind people. But if a blind person leads another blind person, they will both fall into a ditch.”

Then Peter spoke up, “Explain this riddle to us.”

Jesus said, “Don’t you understand yet? Don’t you know that everything that goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? But what goes out of the mouth comes from the heart. And that’s what contaminates a person in God’s sight. Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adultery, sexual sins, thefts, false

testimonies, and insults. These contaminate a person in God's sight. But eating without washing hands doesn't contaminate in God's sight."

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (please read along in silence)**

**Precious Lord, strip away the mask I wear during the week to "get by." Lay my soul bare before you today. Let me see genuine love. Show me the loves that hates evil and holds onto what is good. Strip away the mask that holds my emotions in check when I should share your love with someone. Let me see the joy of giving to others. Show me the power of blessing those who persecute me. Strip away the mask that grins and lies and lets the world think otherwise about a child of God. Amen.**

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

**Matthew 15:21-28**

From there, Jesus went to the regions of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from those territories came out and shouted, "Show me mercy, Son of David. My daughter is suffering terribly from demon possession." But he didn't respond to her at all. His disciples came and urged him, "Send her away; she keeps shouting out after us." Jesus replied, "I've been sent only to the lost sheep, the people of Israel." But she knelt before him and said, "Lord, help me." He replied, "It is not good to take the children's bread and toss it to dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord. But even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall off their masters' table." Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith. It will be just as you wish." And right then her daughter was healed.

**A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN**

**MESSAGE**

**"Corporal Works of Mercy"  
Pastor Terry McDorman**

**HYMN**

***"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"***

**(FWS #2193)**

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace.

**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)**

**Creator and architect of the universe, we want to believe that your love for us means you will go before us on life's path and clear the way, making it easy to travel, but our experience doesn't always bear that out. We know you see a bigger picture than we do. As we bring you our offerings this day, we affirm your presence with us in the pits of despair as well as in the palaces of plenty. We give with gratitude, in Christ's holy name. Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC****Shelly Hershfeld****CLOSING PRAYER (unison)**

**As I adventure with you today be the compass that guides me, the light that shines on my path, the only one I follow. As I adventure with you today be the word that encourages, the hand that reaches out, each time I stumble as I adventure with you today. Let me glimpse our destination, and appreciate the places through which you lead me. As I adventure with you today, be the strength I need to follow, and as the day draws to a close let me rest in your embrace.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN*****Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*****(UMH# 361)**

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;  
let the water and the blood, from thy wounded side which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure; save from wrath and make me pure.
2. Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's commands;  
could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,  
all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.
3. Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling;  
naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;  
foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.
4. While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyes shall close in death,  
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

## **\*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:**

**ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70**

## **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](mailto:webmaster.maconumc@gmail.com) to submit updates or additions to the church website.*

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND 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

Sun. Aug 27 9:00 am Sunday School

Sun. Aug 27 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

## **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

Aug 20 Marlon Chaney

Aug 24 Darlene Spires

Aug 25 Steve and Kerry Craft

Aug

## **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.

## **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.