

**Macon United Methodist Church**  
**190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133**  
**Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com**  
**July 30, 2023** **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

## **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

*"If you suffer for doing good, and you are patient, then God is pleased."*  
*1 Peter 2:20*

## **PRELUDE**

**GATHERING** Words of welcome and announcements

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

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

We come to worship the Triune God who creates, redeems, and sustains us all.

**We come to worship God who never leaves us and yet whose purposes often seem hidden.**

As the bulb hides the flower, as the seed hides the tree, as the cocoon hides the butterfly, so too does God bring forth life even when we cannot see it.

**We gather today to learn how to watch, wait, and anticipate the season when God's unrevealed work will come into the open.**

As silence gives way to song, as night gives way to dawn, as the past flows through the present into the future, so too does God tirelessly persist in bringing about the abundant life of the kingdom of heaven.

**We gather today to learn how to join in God's dance as partners who prepare for the season when God's unrevealed work comes into the open.**

As our end meets our beginning, as our time meets infinity, as our doubt meets our believing, so too does God meet our brokenness with persevering love, unfolding a new reality of flourishing for all creation.

**We gather today to learn how to love as God loves so that we may be part of bringing God's unrevealed work into the open. Amen.**

### **\*OPENING HYMN**     *"Where Charity and Love Prevail"*     (UMH # 549)

1. Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;  
Brought here together by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.

2. With grateful joy and holy fear God's charity we learn;  
Let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in return.



3. Forgive we now each other's faults as we our faults confess;  
And let us love each other well in Christian holiness.
4. Let strife among us be unknown, let all contention cease;  
Be God's the glory that we seek, be ours God's holy peace.
5. Let us recall that in our midst dwells God's begotten Son;  
As members of his body joined, we are in Christ made one.
6. No race or creed can love exclude, if honored be God's name;  
Our family embraces all whose Father is the same.

### **INVOCATION (unison)**

**O God, teach us not to despise small things. Remind us that the kingdom of heaven is like a tiny mustard seed. Turn our attention to the small things that bless others. You have planted seeds of great potential in our souls. Help us develop our potential so that you and others can depend on it. Turn our attention to what is small but potent. O God, you have entrusted us with gifts and graces that can bless many people. Help us not to overlook the smallest ability. O God, you have placed the destiny of the kingdom of heaven inside of us. Turn our attention to the small things that this congregation can do to make a tremendous difference in human lives. 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**

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

**Matthew 14:14-22 (CEB)**

When Jesus arrived and saw a large crowd, he had compassion for them and healed those who were sick. That evening his disciples came and said to him, "This is an isolated place and it's getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves."

But Jesus said to them, "There's no need to send them away. You give them something to eat."

They replied, "We have nothing here except five loaves of bread and two fish."

He said, "Bring them here to me." He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves of bread and the two fish, looked up to heaven, blessed them and broke the loaves apart and gave them to his disciples. Then the disciples gave them to

the crowds. Everyone ate until they were full, and they filled twelve baskets with the leftovers. About five thousand men plus women and children had eaten. Right then, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead to the other side of the lake while he dismissed the crowds.

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

**Holy God, remind us that we are loved when we find ourselves unlovable. Remind us that there is hope when all we see around us makes us despair. Remind us that you sent the Prince of Peace when war and violence overwhelm. Remind us that you are the merciful judge when injustice seems to prevail. Remind us that you give us all we need to do your work in the world. Remind us that you give us grace so that we can be your people. We confess our doubt, and trust in your love. Amen.**

### **MESSAGE**

**“Sitting Down in the Grass”  
Mr. Kirk Yenerall, CLM**

### **HYMN**

***“In Christ There is No East or West”***

**(UMH # 548)**

1. In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north;  
but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.
2. In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord close binding humankind.
3. In Christ is neither Jew or Greek, and neither slave nor free;  
both male and female heirs are made, and all are kin to me.
4. In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;  
all Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.

### **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)**

**God of all blessings, Jesus inspired us through his teaching to see your kingdom as**

**a place where small things can have a mighty impact: a tiny mustard seed planted, or a bit of yeast mixed into the flour. We ask you this day to bless the gifts we offer, so that they may have a powerful impact when used according to your purposes. Bless us that we might see glimpses of your kingdom through our giving and grow in generosity in the process. In name of Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer, we pray. Amen.**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

**Leah Hinkle**

### **CLOSING PRAYER (unison)**

**On the journey of faith be our guide, a helping hand if the path is steep, encouragement should our steps falter, reassurance that beyond the clouds the sun is shining and our destination is more glorious than we can imagine.**

### **\*CLOSING HYMN      “*The Church’s One Foundation*”      (UMH # 545)**

1. The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
she is his new creation by water and the Word.  
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;  
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
2. Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;  
her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.
3. Though with a scornful wonder we see her sore oppressed,  
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.
4. Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore;  
till, with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.
5. Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,  
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we  
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

### **\*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: 32**  
**ATTENDANCE JULY 16, 2023: 55**

**ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70**

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*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. July 30 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. July 30 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service  
Wed Aug 02 6:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting  
Sun. Aug 06 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. Aug 06 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service  
Sat Aug 12 1:00 pm Rice Meal Packing in the Fellowship Hall

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 01 Lisa Bommersbach

## 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.

## **RICE MEALS**



Join us Saturday, August 12, 2023 from 1 to 4 PM at the Macon UMC Fellowship Hall. All are invited to help pack rice meals for the hungry. One bag feeds six people and includes a vitamin packet, dehydrated vegetables, soy, and white rice. The packets are distributed through the Midwest Distribution Center and given to trusted non-profits throughout the world. To help, contact the Methodist outreach committee: Christine Cutler 217 433-4407; [ccut31@gmail.com](mailto:ccut31@gmail.com) or Lori Nixon 217 972-6069; [lawn64@yahoo.com](mailto:lawn64@yahoo.com). Please sign-up by August 1.

## **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.