

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com
October 1, 2023 **World Communion Sunday**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can.” — John Wesley

PRELUDE

GATHERING Words of welcome and announcements

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

On this day, we joyously remember that we are in communion with the billions children of God be they in major cities, on farms or all alone in the jungle or desert. Let us demonstrate the peace of Jesus Christ to each other here gathered and to everyone everywhere.

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

Come! Now is the time to worship!

We come to worship God who loves us.

When the Israelites grumbled and quarreled when there was no water to drink, God miraculously produced water to show them God’s faithfulness and love.

When we question and accuse God, God responds by showing us love.

When the chief priests and elders questioned Jesus’ authority, Jesus answered them with a story about the righteousness of doing God’s will instead of paying lip service to God’s will.

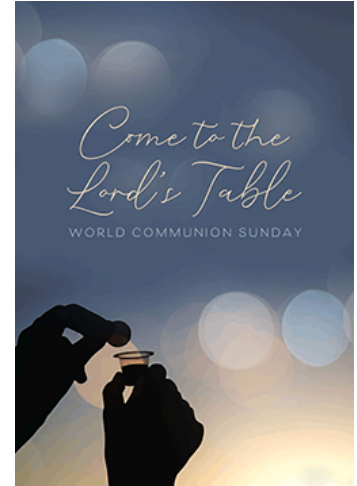
When we test and interrogate God, God responds by pointing us back to love.

By answering our quarrelling and questioning with love, God teaches us how to love God, neighbor, self, and all creation.

When we love as God loves, we respond to testing and accusing by living the faith and sharing God’s love.

Come! Now is the time to worship!

We come to worship God who loves us for the long haul.



OPENING HYMN**“Jesus Shall Reign”*****(UMH # 157)**

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom spread from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
2. To Jesus endless prayer be made, and endless praises crown his head;
his name like sweet perfume shall rise with every morning sacrifice.
3. People and realms of every tongue dwell on his love with sweetest song;
and infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on his name.
4. Blessings abound where'er he reigns; all prisoners leap and loose their chains;
the weary find eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blest.
5. Let every creature rise and bring honors peculiar to our King;
angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud amen!

INVOCATION (responsively)

In the dry wildernesses of our lives, in the days of heat and thirst, you offer us living water,

Thank you, gracious and generous God.

When we begin to doubt your presence, and grumble that your love is unreliable, you offer us living water,

Thank you, gracious and generous God.

When life's regrets and the bad choices we have made leave us feeling excluded and unworthy, you offer us living water,

Thank you, gracious and generous God.

When circumstances, or the inhumanity of others, have left us alone and wounded, you offer us living water,

Thank you, gracious and generous God.

We thank you and praise you, O God, that however we may thirst, whatever we may need to satisfy our souls, you offer it freely and abundantly in Christ;

So we drink deep of the living water and, as we draw from your wells, we seek to pass the cup to others, who, like us, are thirsty for your grace. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us lift our prayers in thoughts of praise.

SILENT PRAYER

We praise Jesus for His act of salvation.

THE LORD'S PRAYER**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING****Exodus 17:1-7**

The whole Israelite community broke camp and set out from the Sin desert to continue their journey, as the LORD commanded. They set up their camp at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people argued with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.”

Moses said to them, “Why are you arguing with me? Why are you testing the LORD?” But the people were very thirsty for water there, and they complained to Moses, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt to kill us, our children, and our livestock with thirst?” So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What should I do with this people? They are getting ready to stone me.”

The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of Israel’s elders with you. Take in your hand the shepherd’s rod that you used to strike the Nile River, and go. I’ll be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Hit the rock. Water will come out of it, and the people will be able to drink.” Moses did so while Israel’s elders watched. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites argued with and tested the LORD, asking, “Is the LORD really with us or not?”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

We would want to be fountains of hope for others, God of glory, but people find only hardened hearts. We would like to be transformed people, but our stubborn pride prevents us from bending a knee to you. We long to stand with those who are in need, but our selfishness keeps our backs rigid in judgment. Forgive us, God who came down to us. Humble us, that we might be true servants to the broken and lost. Split open our frozen hearts, that compassion might flow freely to those who are hurting. Fill our minds with the presence of your Spirit, that we might learn how to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, into that kingdom of grace and hope.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 21:23-32 (CEB)

Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?”

Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?”

They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.”

So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.”

Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’ “‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. “Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.

“Which of the two did what his father wanted?” “The first,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and sinners are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the sinners did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN

MESSAGE

**“Nurturing Our Worldwide Community”
Rev. Terry McDorman**

HYMN

“One Bread, One Body”

(UMH # 620)

Refrain: One bread, one body, one Lord of all one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

1. Gentile or Jew, Servant or free, Woman or man no more.

Refrain: One bread, one body, one Lord of all one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

2. Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all.

Refrain: One bread, one body, one Lord of all one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

3. Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one for all.

Refrain: One bread, one body, one Lord of all one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

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**

Holy God of infinite patience and grace, we bring our offerings today knowing that our actions too often don't live up to our intentions and aspirations. When calling ourselves Christians, we announce ourselves as followers of Christ, knowing how many times our choices have made us unrecognizable as his disciples. Yet you wait patiently for us to find our way back to the path. May our giving this day and our living reflect our desire to be on the path that would be recognized as faithful to the Savior, in whose blessed name we pray. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty (almighty God), creator of heaven and earth.
You have made from one every nation and people
to live on all the face of the earth.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join 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.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,

and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

He commissioned us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth
and to make disciples of all nations,
and today his family in all the world is joining at his holy table.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,

gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

Renew our communion with your Church throughout the world,
and strengthen it in every nation and among every people
to witness faithfully in your name.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.
Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and forever.

Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

The weight of your words, your laws, your commandments and decrees can become an impossible burden, Lord, if we allow them to overwhelm and crush us. Yet they were meant to be life-giving, vital and alive—the foundation for our lives, the chief cornerstone of your church, the living temple of God. Loving God, this is your handiwork. How amazing and wonderful it is!

***CLOSING HYMN**

"What Wondrous Love is This"

(UMH # 292)

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

2. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of life
to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
to lay aside his crown for my soul.

3. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme I will sing.

4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on.

***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

World Communion Sunday Special Sunday Collection

Please consider support the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief as they provide long-term disaster assistance around the globe, including Greece and Libya.

FINANCES

Expenses for the year through the end of August are \$76,049 and incomes for the year through the end of August are \$71,968.

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

Be certain to check the church website, <https://maconilumc.net/> for updated 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. Oct 1 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Oct 1 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Mon. Oct 2 6:30 pm UWF meet in Fellowship Hall
Sun. Oct 8 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Oct 8 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Oct 01	Joyce Roush	Oct 02	Doug and Lori Huggins
Oct 02	Pat Roush	Oct 05	Dave and Dani Craft
Oct 06	Tracy Snyder		

MISSIONS



Items requested by the food pantry are: Any kind of 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

We are still in need of 30lbs of plastic caps in order to purchase a bench for outside the church. This will be made of recycled plastic. Please donate caps whenever possible.