

**Macon United Methodist Church**  
**190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133**  
**Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com**  
**September 10, 2023** **Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

*Church isn't where you meet. Church isn't a building. Church is what you do.  
Church is who you are. Church is the human outworking of the person of Jesus  
Christ. Let's not go to Church, let's be the Church.*  
*Bridget Willard*

### **PRELUDE**

**GATHERING** Words of welcome and announcements



**\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** *On this day that we, as a people of faith  
and followers of Jesus Christ have set aside as "Welcome Back Sunday," lets us  
warmly welcome each other.*

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

Pilgrims on the way, when we feel lost and ask for a sign to show us the way out of  
our confusion,

**We remember that when we gather to worship, we find God in our midst.**

When we face obstacles and barriers that keep us from the life God has called us to,  
**We remember that God is always at work among us, protecting and tending our  
well-being.**

When cannot find our way out of conflict and discord,

**We remember that God calls and equips us for the work of reconciliation.**

When we struggle to pay attention to how God is at work all around us,

**We remember God's call to sit, eat, and tell one another the stories of God's  
faithfulness.**

Pilgrims on the way, when we watch for signs of God among us,

**Let us remember that we too are signs of God's presence for others! Amen.**

### **\*OPENING HYMN**

***"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"***

**# 89**

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love; hearts unfold like flowers  
before thee, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the  
dark of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

2. All thy works with joy surround thee, Earth and heaven reflect thy rays, stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.
3. Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest, well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest! Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine; teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.
4. Mortals, join the mighty chorus, which the morning stars began; love divine is reigning o'er us, binding all within its span. Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife; joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

#### **INVOCATION (unison)**

**Sing to the LORD a new song; sing God's praise in the assembly of the faithful! Let Israel celebrate its maker; let Zion's children rejoice in their king! Let them praise God's name with dance; let them sing God's praise with the drum and lyre! Because the LORD is pleased with his people, God will beautify the poor with saving help. Let the faithful celebrate with glory; let them shout for joy on their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouths and a double-edged sword in their hands, to get revenge against the nations and punishment on the peoples, binding their rulers in chains and their officials in iron shackles, achieving the justice written against them. That will be an honor for all God's faithful people. Praise the LORD!**

#### **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**

#### **Exodus 12:1-14 (CEB)**

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, "This month will be the first month; it will be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole Israelite community: On the tenth day of this month they must take a lamb for each household, a lamb per house. If a household is too small for a lamb, it should share one with a neighbor nearby. You should divide the lamb in proportion to the number of people who will be eating it. Your lamb should be a flawless year-old male. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You should keep close watch over it until the fourteenth day of this month. At twilight on that day, the whole assembled Israelite community should

slaughter their lambs. They should take some of the blood and smear it on the two doorposts and on the beam over the door of the houses in which they are eating. That same night they should eat the meat roasted over the fire. They should eat it along with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Don't eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over fire with its head, legs, and internal organs. Don't let any of it remain until morning, and burn any of it left over in the morning. This is how you should eat it. You should be dressed, with your sandals on your feet and your walking stick in your hand. You should eat the meal in a hurry. It is the Passover of the LORD. I'll pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I'll strike down every oldest child in the land of Egypt, both humans and animals. I'll impose judgments on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. The blood will be your sign on the houses where you live. Whenever I see the blood, I'll pass over you. No plague will destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. "This day will be a day of remembering for you. You will observe it as a festival to the LORD. You will observe it in every generation as a regulation for all time.

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

**Holy God, we ask for your help, your power, your Spirit, so that we can amend our lives and grow more each day into the image of Christ.**

**We confess that we fear what is different. We confess that it's easier to lock the doors of our community than to receive those who don't look like we look, love like we love, or vote the way we vote. We confess that we have not lived out your call to share in abundant life and unconditional love.**

**We believe that you have the power to turn us around to a more inclusive way of living, so we ask you to do that. We ask you to give us the courage to change. We ask that you give us the energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to be your people in all we say and do. Amen.**

### **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

**Romans 13:8-14**

Don't be in debt to anyone, except for the obligation to love each other. Whoever loves another person has fulfilled the Law. The commandments, *Don't commit adultery, don't murder, don't steal, don't desire what others have*, and any other commandments, are all summed up in one word: *You must love your neighbor as yourself*. Love doesn't do anything wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is what fulfills the Law.

As you do all this, you know what time it is. The hour has already come for you to wake up from your sleep. Now our salvation is nearer than when we first had faith. The night is almost over, and the day is near. So let's get rid of the actions that belong to the darkness and put on the weapons of light. Let's behave appropriately as people who live in the day, not in partying and getting drunk, not in sleeping around and obscene behavior, not in fighting and obsession. Instead, dress yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ, and don't plan to indulge your selfish desires.

## A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN

### MESSAGE

**“Welcome Back, Welcome Home”  
Pastor Terry McDorman**

### HYMN

***“Kum Ba Yah”***

**( UMH # 494)**

1. Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah! Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!  
Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah! O Lord, kum ba yah!

2. Someone’s praying, Lord, kum ba yah! Someone’s praying, Lord, kum ba yah!  
Someone’s praying, Lord, kum ba yah! O Lord, kum ba yah!

3. Someone’s crying, Lord, kum ba yah! Someone’s crying, Lord, kum ba yah!  
Someone’s crying, Lord, kum ba yah! O Lord, kum ba yah!

4. Someone needs you, Lord, kum ba yah! Someone needs you, Lord, kum ba yah!  
Someone needs you, Lord, kum ba yah! O Lord, kum ba yah!

5. Someone’s singing, Lord, kum ba yah! Someone’s singing, Lord, kum ba yah!  
Someone’s singing, Lord, kum ba yah! O Lord, kum ba yah!

6. Let us praise the Lord, kum ba yah! Let us praise the Lord, kum ba yah!  
Let us praise the Lord, kum ba yah! O Lord, kum ba yah!

### 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 love and compassion, we ask you to dedicate the tithes and offerings we bring to worship. We do this in the hope that you will do more with them than we could ever do on our own to heal the brokenness and division in our world.**

**Remind us that the work of reconciliation does not get removed from our list because we put something in the offering and that mission field is within our arms' reach. This we pray in the redeemer's holy name, Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:**

*Today we are trying something new. I am going to ask you to participate with me in singing the words of the sacrament. The tune is "Here I Am Lord," which the accompanist will play. The words will be projected on the screens.*

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

*You are invited to come forward, take a piece of bread and dip it into the cup of juice and then return to your seats. If you are unable to do so, please let the usher know and we shall bring the elements to you.*

### **SPECIAL MUSICAL REFLECTION**

**Erin Moyer**

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

**Lord God, we are so grateful to be together worshiping and praising you. Lord, we desire to know better. We ask that you strengthen our faith, and help us to be bolder in how we live our lives, and serve you. Give us faith that can move mountains. We want to be strong in you. Ready to give an answer for our faith and do battle against any lies of the enemy we may encounter. Lord, please fill us with wisdom and faith that only come from you. In your name, we pray, Amen.**

### **\*CLOSING Hymn                      "Blest Be the Tie that Binds"                      (UMH # 557)**

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.
3. We share each other's woes, our mutual burdens bear;  
and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.
4. When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain;  
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

### **\*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: 19**

**ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70**

**Today is “WELCOME BACK! Sunday. A great big welcome to all current, past and future members of this awesome church family. You are all invited to a potluck luncheon following worship in fellowship hall. Forgot or did not know to bring something; no problem, there is plenty for all!**

**Next Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> the Midwest Distribution Center is hosting a yearly event to pack rice meals in honor of “Mission Sunday.” It is from 1-4pm at the center. [www.midwestmission.org/mmsunday](http://www.midwestmission.org/mmsunday) for more information.**

**Next Sunday, Mr. Kirk Yenerall, CLM, will be filling in for Pastor Terry as he will be away for a few days.**

**The United Methodist Men invite all the men of the area to breakfast next Sunday morning in Fellowship Hall. See you at 7 a.m.**

## **REQUEST**

Cheryl Goaley, a member of this church is looking for someone to help drive to a dog show in Deluth, Georgia the first part of November (leaving Wednesday, November 1 and returning Tuesday November 7). She is looking for someone dependable with a driver’s license. If interested, call Cheryl at 217 412-3360 by September 15.

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

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE**

Sun. Sept 10 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. Sept 10 10:00 am “Welcome Back Sunday” Worship and Zoom Service  
Sun. Sept 10 11:00 am “Welcome Back Sunday” Potluck Lunch  
Sun. Sept 17 7:00 am UMM Breakfast in Fellowship Hall  
Sun. Sept 17 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. Sept 17 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service  
Sun. Sept 24 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. Sept 24 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

## **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

Sept 16 Alex 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.