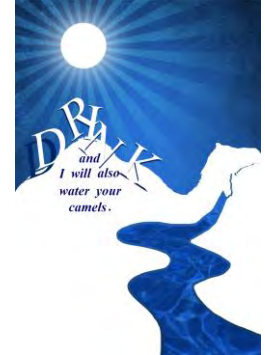


Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com
September 17, 2023 **Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Faith is the conviction that God knows more than we do about this life and He will get us through it." Max Lucado



PRELUDE

GATHERING Words of welcome and announcements

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Let us greet each other in the peace and love of Jesus Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

Children of God, when we face strife, upset, and harm in our midst, we so often turn to God and ask:

How many times should I forgive?

When Jesus answers that we should forgive again and again and again, we are tempted to repeat the question:

How many times should I forgive?

Until God turns the question around: "How many times have I forgiven you?"

Seventy times seven.

"How many times have I loved you?"

Seventy times seven.

"How many times has my grace been sufficient for you?"

Seventy times seven.

Let us learn, then, how to forgive not out of our own power, but out of God's, who forgives us that we might be free to learn to live with one another well.

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)

**Call all the laborers, O God,
Call your laborers who woke early,
Call your laborers who came late,
Call your laborers who feel wronged,
Call your laborers who feel overlooked,
Call your laborers who can't feed their children with this wage,
Call your laborers who know they are working in your fields,
Call your laborers who use their wage to increase your love,
Call all your laborers, O God,
Tell us to roll up our sleeves
For we know that we have work to do.
Let us find you in the work we share here and now,
in Christ's presence we pray. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of grace and mercy, whether we are lifelong laborers, or new arrivals in your vineyard, we know you value us just as we are. Hear now the prayers of thanks and concern that we now speak aloud or raise silently from our hearts.

SILENT PRAYER

Communicate with God about your faith.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 24:1-4, 10-12

As the days went by and Abraham became older, the LORD blessed Abraham in every way. Abraham said to the oldest servant of his household, who was in charge of everything he owned, "Put your hand under my thigh. By the LORD, God of heaven and earth, give me your word that you won't choose a wife for my son from the Canaanite women among whom I live. Go to my land and my family and find a wife for my son Isaac there."

The servant took ten of his master's camels and all of his master's best provisions, set out, and traveled to Nahor's city in Aram-naharaim. He had the camels kneel down outside the city at the well in the evening, when women come out to draw water. He

said, “LORD, God of my master Abraham, make something good happen for me today and be loyal to my master Abraham.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

You know how fickle we are, O Lord. We proclaim your presence with us and then we behave in ways which run counter from your word. We get caught up in our own needs and whine about the injustices we feel in our lives. Help us to place our trust in your mercy and your compassionate love. Forgive us when we stray from your ways and wander into paths of self-pity and self-destruction. Lift us from the deep morass and put us back on track. Give us confidence in your presence and your direction throughout our lives, for we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 24:15-28 (CEB)

Even before he finished speaking, Rebekah—daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah wife of Nahor, Abraham’s brother—was coming out with a water jar on her shoulder. The young woman was very beautiful, old enough to be married, and hadn’t known a man intimately. She went down to the spring, filled her water jar, and came back up.

The servant ran to meet her and said, “Give me a little sip of water from your jar.”

She said, “Drink, sir.” Then she quickly lowered the water jar with her hands and gave him some water to drink. When she finished giving him a drink, she said, “I’ll draw some water for your camels too, till they’ve had enough to drink.” She emptied her water jar quickly into the watering trough, ran to the well again to draw water, and drew water for all of the camels. The man stood gazing at her, wondering silently if the LORD had made his trip successful or not.

As soon as the camels had finished drinking, the man took out a gold ring, weighing a half shekel, and two gold bracelets for her arms, weighing ten shekels. He said, “Please tell me whose daughter you are. Is there room in your father’s house for us to spend the night?”

She responded, “I’m the daughter of Bethuel, who is the son of Milcah and Nahor.” She continued, “We have plenty of straw and feed for the camels, and a place to spend the night.”

The man bowed down and praised the LORD: “Bless the LORD, God of my master Abraham, who hasn’t given up his loyalty and his faithfulness to my master. The LORD has shown me the way to the household of my master’s brother.”

The young woman ran and told her mother’s household everything that had happened.

A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN

MESSAGE

**“Snowballs or a Drink of Water”
Kirk Yenerall, CLM**

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.

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)**

We give you thanks, O Lord, we call on your name. We will make known your deeds among the peoples. We'll sing to you, we'll sing praises to you; we'll tell of all your wonderful works. We glory in your holy name; let the hearts of those who seek you rejoice. We seek you, Lord, and your strength, and your presence continually. We remember the wonderful works you have done, your miracles,

and the judgments you uttered. You are the Lord our God; your judgments are in all the earth. Amen and Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Trevor Schaeffer

CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

Lord of justice and mercy, we quibble over perceived little injustices. We look around us and see mercy being offered to others, when we feel that they have done little to merit such treatment. Our world is in such bad shape. There are true injustices and horrible situations in which peace and mercy seem to be dim and distant hopes. Give us eyes to see where justice and compassion may be offered. Give us hearts to reach out to those who are new in faith and who struggle in life. Enable and strengthen each one of us in your service, that we may offer peace and hope to others, not counting the cost, but sharing the wealth of your mercy and love. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN “*Crown Him with Many Crowns*” (UMH # 327)**

1. Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne,
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.
2. Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died, and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
3. Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end, and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.
4. Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
those wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

***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: 48

ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70

Thank you to the United Methodist Men for hosting early breakfast this morning. If you are interested in learning more about the UMM, please contact Eugene Mura.

Thank you to Kirk Yenerall for filling the pulpit while Pastor Terry is away this weekend.

Today, September 17th 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 for more information.

September 27, 2023, Finance Committee meets at 6:30 pm; Administrative Council meets at 7:00 pm at the church.

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. 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

Wed. Sept 27 6:30 pm Finance Committee at the church

Wed. Sept 27 7:00 pm Administrative Council at the church

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sept 20 Lori Huggins

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.