

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com
September 24, 2023 **Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, not withstanding these smaller difference." John Wesley

PRELUDE

GATHERING Words of welcome and announcements

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

Watch and listen for the wonders of our God.

Our God is among us.

Watch and listen for the goodness of our God.

Our God moves among us.

Watch and listen, for God is here.

Our God dwells among us.

***OPENING HYMN**

"Morning Has Broken"

(UMH # 145)

1. Morning has broken, like the first morning, blackbird has spoken, like the first bird. Praise for the singing, praise for the morning, praise for them springing fresh from the word.

2. Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven, like the first dew fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where His feet pass.

3. Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning, born of the one light Eden saw play. Praise with elation, praise every morning, God's re-creation of the new day.



OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Canticle of the Creatures

All praise be yours, My Lord through all that you have made.

And first my lord Brother Sun, who brings the day...

How beautiful is he, how radiant in all his splendor!

Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Moon and Stars;

In the heavens you have made them, bright and precious and fair.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air...

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Water,

So useful, lowly, precious and pure.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Brother Fire,

through whom you brighten up the night...

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Earth, our mother,

Who feeds us...and produces various fruits

With colored flowers and herbs...Praise and bless my Lord, and give him thanks,

And serve him with great humility.

- Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi

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

Philippians 2:1-13 (The Message)

If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you *care*— then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became *human*! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion.

Because of that obedience, God lifted him high and honored him far beyond anyone or anything, ever, so that all created beings in heaven and on earth—even those long ago dead and buried—will bow in worship before this Jesus Christ, and call out in praise that he is the Master of all, to the glorious honor of God the Father.

What I'm getting at, friends, is that you should simply keep on doing what you've done from the beginning. When I was living among you, you lived in responsive obedience. Now that I'm separated from you, keep it up. Better yet, redouble your efforts. Be energetic in your life of salvation, reverent and sensitive before God. That energy is *God's* energy, an energy deep within you, God himself willing and working at what will give him the most pleasure.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Let us pray for an end to the Waste and desecration of God's creation For access to the fruits of creation To be shared equally among all people And for communities and nations to find sustenance In the fruits of the earth and the water God has given us.

Almighty God, you created the world and gave it Into our care so that, in obedience to you, We might serve all people: Inspire us to use the riches of creation with wisdom, and to ensure that their blessings are shared by all; That, trusting in your bounty, all people may be Empowered to seek freedom from poverty, famine, and oppression.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 20:1-16 (CEB)

“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. After he agreed with the workers to pay them a denarion, he sent them into his vineyard.

“Then he went out around nine in the morning and saw others standing around the marketplace doing nothing. He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I’ll pay you whatever is right.’ And they went.

“Again around noon and then at three in the afternoon, he did the same thing. Around five in the afternoon he went and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you just standing around here doing nothing all day long?’

“‘Because nobody has hired us,’ they replied.

“He responded, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’

“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the workers and give them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and moving on finally to the first.’ When those who were hired at five in the afternoon came, each one received a denarion. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But each of them also received a denarion. When they received it, they grumbled

against the landowner, ‘These who were hired last worked one hour, and they received the same pay as we did even though we had to work the whole day in the hot sun.’
“But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I did you no wrong. Didn’t I agree to pay you a denarion? Take what belongs to you and go. I want to give to this one who was hired last the same as I give to you. Don’t I have the right to do what I want with what belongs to me? Or are you resentful because I’m generous?’ So those who are last will be first. And those who are first will be last.”

A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN

MESSAGE

**“Agree with Each Other”
Rev. Terry McDorman**

HYMN

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

(FWS #2153)

1. I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
2. I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
3. I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
4. I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

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**

Generous God, you have given so much to us in love and joy--every good thing in our life reflects your caring. Even in the giving of our offerings, we have tried to give our best but know we could do more. In a world where forgiveness has

become a rare commodity, it is often an asset we hold back to maintain power over one another. Help us to hear the teaching of Jesus in the generosity of forgiveness. May we learn to give that to others with wild extravagance! We pray in Christ's name, who gave all. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

The United Methodist Social Creed

We believe in God, Creator of the world; and in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of creation. We believe in the Holy Spirit, through whom we acknowledge God's gifts, and we repent of our sin in misusing these gifts to idolatrous ends.

We affirm the natural world as God's handiwork and dedicate ourselves to its preservation, enhancement, and faithful use by humankind.

We joyfully receive for ourselves and others the blessings of community, sexuality, marriage, and the family. We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and people with disabilities; to improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights and dignity of all persons.

We believe in the right and duty of persons to work for the glory of God and the good of themselves and others and in the protection of their welfare in so doing; in the rights to property as a trust from God, collective bargaining, and responsible consumption; and in the elimination of economic and social distress.

We dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world, to the rule of justice and law among nations, and to individual freedom for all people of the world.

We believe in the present and final triumph of God's Word in human affairs and gladly accept our commission to manifest the life of the gospel in the world. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

(UMH # 139)

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation.

O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!

2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigning bears
thee on eagles wings, e'er in his keeping maintaining.

God's care enfolds all, whose true good he upholds.

Hast thou not known his sustaining?

3. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.

Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, who with his love doth befriend thee.

4. Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish they life and restore thee,
fitting thee well for the tasks that are ever before thee. Then to thy need God as a
mother doth speed, spreading the wings of grace o'er thee.

5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly forever adore him.

***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: 42

ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70

September 27, 2023, Finance Committee meets at 6:30 pm; Administrative Council meets at 7:00 pm. Both meetings will be held in the pastor's office.

Next Sunday, October 1st is World Communion Sunday when we unite with Christians around the globe in sharing the bread and juice of the grapes in remembrance of Jesus Christ.

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 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
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

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Oct 24 Judee Green
Oct 30 Jerry Hinkle

Oct 26 Dan Moyer

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.