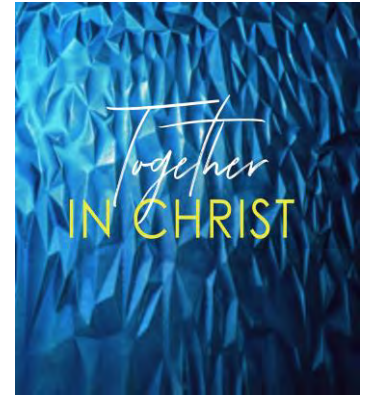


**Macon United Methodist Church**  
**190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133**  
**Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com**  
**October 15, 2023      Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost      LAITY SUNDAY**

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

*“Beauty was created by God for a purpose: to give us the experience of wonder. And wonder, in turn, is intended to lead us to the ultimate human expression and privilege: worship.” Barbara Hoover*



**PRELUDE**

**GATHERING** Words of welcome and announcements

**\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

*Brothers and sisters, Christ is present in the eyes of a stranger. As beloved children of God, Christ is recognized as we touch one another. Turn to one another, seeing and touching Christ as we share the peace of Christ.*

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

We are all called to recognize and join God’s mission of love.

**We gather to become more like Jesus.**

We learn how grace has met other lives.

**We wait for God’s empowering presence to open our eyes.**

We engage our neighbors, online and in person.

**And God’s love, power, and justice help repair the world.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*“Great is Thy Faithfulness”*

**(UMH # 140)**

**INVOCATION (unison)**

**God of the first and the last, and all those in between, Your grace reaches out to all of us—life-long believers or newcomers alike. You call us to live as citizens of heaven, to work together with one mind and one purpose, to reach out in love to those in need. Strengthen us so that we might live in a manner worthy of the Good News we have received, offering our lives to the building up of Your upside-down kingdom, where the last are first, and the first are last, and there is grace enough for all. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

**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 33:12-23 (CEB)**

Moses said to the LORD, "Look, you've been telling me, 'Lead these people forward.' But you haven't told me whom you will send with me. Yet you've assured me, 'I know you by name and think highly of you.' Now if you do think highly of me, show me your ways so that I may know you and so that you may really approve of me. Remember too that this nation is your people."

The LORD replied, "I'll go myself, and I'll help you."

Moses replied, "If you won't go yourself, don't make us leave here. Because how will anyone know that we have your special approval, both I and your people, unless you go with us? Only that distinguishes us, me and your people, from every other people on the earth."

The LORD said to Moses, "I'll do exactly what you've asked because you have my special approval, and I know you by name."

Moses said, "Please show me your glorious presence."

The LORD said, "I'll make all my goodness pass in front of you, and I'll proclaim before you the name, 'The LORD.' I will be kind to whomever I wish to be kind, and I will have compassion to whomever I wish to be compassionate. But," the LORD said, "you can't see my face because no one can see me and live." The LORD said, "Here is a place near me where you will stand beside the rock. As my glorious presence passes by, I'll set you in a gap in the rock, and I'll cover you with my hand until I've passed by. Then I'll take away my hand, and you will see my back, but my face won't be visible."

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

**God pours blessings upon us, even as we choose to go our own way. God is present and seeks to bring healing and wholeness to all. When we have fashioned idols of our own desire or worshiped the temples of our own tradition, Lord, have mercy.**

**When have denied your invitation to the banquet of love and justice, or failed to extend the invitation to others, Christ, have mercy.**

**When we have adorned ourselves with worry rather than joy or failed to be gentle, knowing you are near, Lord, have mercy.**

### **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

**1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 (CEB)**

From Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy.

To the Thessalonians' church that is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace to all of you.

We always thank God for all of you when we mention you constantly in our prayers. This is because we remember your work that comes from faith, your effort that comes from love, and your perseverance that comes from hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father. Brothers and sisters, you are loved by God, and we know that he has chosen you. We know this because our good news didn't come to you just in speech but also with power and the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know as well as we do what kind of people we were when we were with you, which was for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord when you accepted the message that came from the Holy Spirit with joy in spite of great suffering. As a result you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. The message about the Lord rang out from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place. The news about your faithfulness to God has spread so that we don't even need to mention it. People tell us about what sort of welcome we had from you and how you turned to God from idols. As a result, you are serving the living and true God, and you are waiting for his Son from heaven. His Son is Jesus, who is the one he raised from the dead and who is the one who will rescue us from the coming wrath.

## **A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN**

### **MESSAGE**

**“Together”  
Rev. Terry McDorman**

### **HYMN**

***“Together We Serve”***

**(FWS #2175)**

### **OFFERTORY**

### **INVITATION TO SHARE**

In gratitude for all God's blessings in our lives, let us receive our morning offering.

### **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**

**God, source of all that is, lover of justice and source of equity, help us live boldly and truthfully as we seek to follow your ways. Embolden us to share with others the gift of grace that you have so abundantly given us. Receive and bless these gifts that we return to you now. In the name of the One who gives us life, we pray. Amen.**

### **MUSICAL REFLECTION**

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

**Living God, move among us and awaken us to your loving presence. When we lose our way and put our confidence in our possessions and our wisdom, call us back to you. Remind us that our very identity is dependent on your abiding mercy. Show us how to walk with steadfast faithfulness, following the path of justice and goodness in our daily lives. May our days be filled with joy and hope as we share the good news of abundant life that comes from following Jesus Christ. In the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.**

### **\*CLOSING HYMN**

***“We Are Called”***

**(FWS # 2172)**

### **\*BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

*All are invited to sit and reflect during the Postlude*

*\*Please rise as you are able*

*Special thankys to all those that assisted with worship today.*

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 23**

**ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70**

**It’s “Trunk or Treat” time. You can dress up, decorate your vehicle and join in this annual community outreach to kids of all ages! October 31<sup>st</sup> starting at 5pm in the parking lot (Fellowship Hall if weather requires). Can’t make it, that’s okay but please consider donating a bag or two of candy so that we can make certain everyone receives a bunch! *There will be prizes for best decoration and best costumes!***

Thank you to the UMM for hosting their monthly breakfast today. Every month on the third Sunday at 7:00 a.m. Bring a friend or family member for the November gathering.

*Assistance needed: Volunteers are needed to learn how to operate our new sanctuary technology. Perhaps this is the ministry opportunity you have been waiting for. Please contact Ross Moyer directly with any questions.*

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. Oct 15 7:00 am UMM Breakfast in Fellowship Hall  
Sun. Oct 15 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. Oct 15 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service  
Sun. Oct 22 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. Oct 22 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service  
Sun. Oct 29 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. Oct 29 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service  
Tues. Oct 31 5:00 pm Trunk or Treat

### **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

Oct 19 Lynette Puckett

### **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 to purchase a bench for outside the church. This will be made of recycled plastic. Please donate caps whenever possible.