

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com
October 8, 2023 **Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

*"When you hit rock bottom, what you will find is The Rock."
--Barbara Hoover*

PRELUDE

GATHERING Words of welcome and announcements

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively) (based on Exodus 20)**

O Lord, you are God. There is no other God but you.

We renounce all that we have allowed to come between us.

O Lord, we worship you. We praise and honor your name.

We worship you on this, your holy day.

For your love, for your word, for all that you have given:

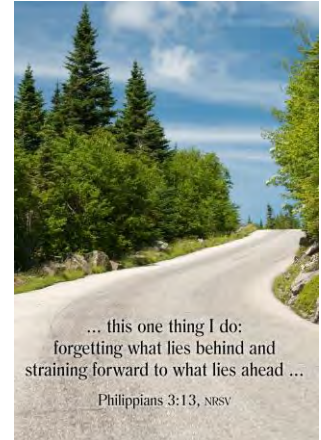
O Lord, we thank you and praise you. We love you.

***OPENING HYMN**

"Rock of Ages"

(UMH # 361)

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood, from thy wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure; save from wrath and make me pure.
2. Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's commands;
could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.
3. Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.
4. While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.



... this one thing I do:
forgetting what lies behind and
straining forward to what lies ahead ...
Philippians 3:13, NRSV

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

**Almighty God, your word bursts forth into our lives
like a glorious sunrise. You speak, and our hearts rejoice.
You command, and our eyes are opened.
The sound of your voice brings revival to our souls.
Your words are purer than the finest gold.
True and righteous one, living Word, light our way.
As we listen to your Spirit, may the words of our mouths
and the thoughts of our hearts be accepted in your sight, O Lord,
our strength and our redeemer. 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 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You must have no other gods before me. Do not make an idol for yourself—no form whatsoever—of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. Do not use the LORD your God’s name as if it were of no significance; the LORD won’t forgive anyone who uses his name that way. Remember the Sabbath day and treat it as holy. Six days you may work and do all your tasks. Honor your father and your mother so that your life will be long on the fertile land that the LORD your God is giving you. Do not kill. Do not commit adultery. Do not steal. Do not testify falsely against your neighbor. Do not desire and try to take your neighbor’s house. Do not desire and try to take your neighbor’s wife, male or female servant, ox, donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the horn, and the mountain smoking, the people shook with fear and stood at a distance. They said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we’ll listen. But don’t let God speak to us, or we’ll die.” Moses said to the people, “Don’t be afraid, because God has come only to test you and to make sure you are always in awe of God so that you don’t sin.”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

No matter how righteous we imagine ourselves to be, Lord, your perfect word reveals our imperfections all too clearly. No matter how hard we strive to fulfill the requirements of your law, we always fall short. We have forgotten that

righteousness and perfection come not from rules and regulations but from faith. We have ignored the truth that your righteousness comes from faith. Open our eyes to see that all we have accomplished is nothing compared to knowing Christ as our Lord. Let us count everything as loss, that we might gain heaven and be found blameless in Christ. In the name of the Savior we pray. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 3: 4b-14

“though I have good reason to have this kind of confidence. If anyone else has reason to put their confidence in physical advantages, I have even more: I was circumcised on the eighth day. I am from the people of Israel and the tribe of Benjamin. I am a Hebrew of the Hebrews. With respect to observing the Law, I’m a Pharisee. With respect to devotion to the faith, I harassed the church. With respect to righteousness under the Law, I’m blameless.

These things were my assets, but I wrote them off as a loss for the sake of Christ. But even beyond that, I consider everything a loss in comparison with the superior value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have lost everything for him, but what I lost I think of as sewer trash, so that I might gain Christ and be found in him. In Christ I have a righteousness that is not my own and that does not come from the Law but rather from the faithfulness of Christ. It is the righteousness of God that is based on faith. The righteousness that I have comes from knowing Christ, the power of his resurrection, and the participation in his sufferings. It includes being conformed to his death so that I may perhaps reach the goal of the resurrection of the dead.

It’s not that I have already reached this goal or have already been perfected, but I pursue it, so that I may grab hold of it because Christ grabbed hold of me for just this purpose. Brothers and sisters, I myself don’t think I’ve reached it, but I do this one thing: I forget about the things behind me and reach out for the things ahead of me. The goal I pursue is the prize of God’s upward call in Christ Jesus.

A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN

MESSAGE

**“How Strong is Your Foundation?”
Rev. Terry McDorman**

HYMN

“How Great Thou Art”

(UMH # 77)

1. O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed.
Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee;
how great thou art, how great thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee;
how great thou art, how great thou art!

2. When through the woods, and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee;
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee;
how great thou art, how great thou art!

3. And when I think, that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin;
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee;
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee;
how great thou art, how great thou art!

4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!"
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee;
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee;
how great thou art, how great thou art!

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**

Lord of grace and forgiveness, you who gave everything and spared nothing to make us your own, we offer back to you that you have so freely given to us. Let all that we say and do, all that we think and plan and consider, be pleasing to you, blessed Creator, Provider, and Savior, in whose name we pray. 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 “*The Church’s One Foundation*” (UMH # 546)**

1. The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are his new creation by water and the Word;
from heaven he came and sought us that we might ever be
his living servant people, by his own death set free.
2. Called forth from every nation, yet one o’er all the earth;
one charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth,
One holy name professing and at one table fed,
to one hope always pressing, by Christ’s own Spirit led.
3. Though with a scornful wonder the world sees us oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, “How long?”
But soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.
4. Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious our longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.
5. We now on earth have union with God the Three in One,
and share through faith communion with those whose rest is won.
Oh, happy ones, and holy! Lord, give us grace that we like them,
the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

Words: Samuel John Stone, 1866, adapt. Laurence Hull Stookey 1983 © 1983 The United Methodist Pub. House

***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: 31
September 29: 24

ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70

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.

All the men of the community are invited to join the United Methodist Men for breakfast next Sunday morning, October 15 at 7 am. Gather in Fellowship Hall.

Trunk or Treat is October 31 from 5 to 7 pm. Please bring candy to the church to be given away at Trunk or Treat.

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 8 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Oct 8 10:00 am Worship and Zoom 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
Tues. Oct 31 5:00 pm Trunk or Treat

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Oct 12 Sheila Rappe`
Oct 14 Gary Henschen

Oct 14 Ron and Darlene Spires

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.