

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com
November 12, 2023 **Sunday**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Each of us has a unique part to play in the healing of the world."
— Marianne Williamson

PRELUDE

GATHERING Words of welcome and announcements

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Sisters and brothers, we are part of the new heaven and new earth . In God's love we can reach across the differences that divide us. Greet one another in this spirit of reconciliation and peace.



***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

Are you awake? Are you alert?

Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.

Are you watching the signs?

Are you interpreting what is happening today?

Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.

Do you see opportunities for ministry?

Do you see the poor, the homeless, the hungry, the needy?

Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.

Come, let us worship and let us work in the reign of God.

Christ has extended the invitation:

let us work together in the reign of God on earth.

***OPENING HYMN** *"O God Our Help in Ages Past"* (UMH # 117)

CENTERING PRAYER (unison)

We worship you, O God, as the one in whom we have placed our hope. We share the desire of your people of old to tell of the blessings you have effected in our lives. When we think about the greatest blessing of all—the gift of yourself in human flesh—Jesus Christ—we joyfully acknowledge that our hope in you is not misplaced. We choose to serve you because you chose to touch our lives so graciously in Christ. May our faithful witness and the service of our lives reveal

the depth of our love and gratitude as we worship you, O God, and as we praise and adore you in Jesus' name and in the power of the Holy Spirit. 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

Psalm 78:1-7 (CEB)

Listen, my people, to my teaching; tilt your ears toward the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth with a proverb. I'll declare riddles from days long gone—ones that we've heard and learned about, ones that our ancestors told us. We won't hide them from their descendants; we'll tell the next generation all about the praise due the LORD and his strength—the wondrous works God has done. He established a law for Jacob and set up Instruction for Israel, ordering our ancestors to teach them to their children. This is so that the next generation and children not yet born will know these things, and so they can rise up and tell their children to put their hope in God—never forgetting God's deeds, but keeping God's commandments.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

We confess that we neglect to acknowledge you as God in our lives. We live like we have complete control over our own future. We forget that you created us and that we are the sheep of your pasture. We separate ourselves from the flock and abandon our bonds with one another as we try to do it all on our own. We have traded gratitude for individualism and thanksgiving for self-reliance. Forgive us, we pray. Free us to live as your grateful people.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 25:1-13(CEB)

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten young bridesmaids who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom. Now five of them were wise, and the other five were foolish. The foolish ones took their lamps but didn't bring oil for them. But the wise ones took their lamps and also brought containers of oil.

“When the groom was late in coming, they all became drowsy and went to sleep. But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Look, the groom! Come out to meet him.’

“Then all those bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. But the foolish bridesmaids said to the wise ones, ‘Give us some of your oil, because our lamps have gone out.’

“But the wise bridesmaids replied, ‘No, because if we share with you, there won't be enough for our lamps and yours. We have a better idea. You go to those who sell oil

and buy some for yourselves.’ But while they were gone to buy oil, the groom came. Those who were ready went with him into the wedding. Then the door was shut. “Later the other bridesmaids came and said, ‘Lord, lord, open the door for us.’ “But he replied, ‘I tell you the truth, I don’t know you.’ “Therefore, keep alert, because you don’t know the day or the hour.

A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN

MESSAGE

**“Be On the Alert”
Rev. Terry McDorman**

HYMN

“The Summons”

(FWS #2130)

WELCOMING OF NEW MEMBERS

As members of Christ's universal church, will you be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

I will.

As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?

I will.

Brothers and sisters, I commend to your love and care Charmin and Tim whom we this day receive into the membership of this congregation. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope and perfect them in love.

***We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit bless, preserve and keep you, now and forever more.

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)

(you are invited to raise your arms in prayer as we sing)

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**

Holy Shepherd of all generations, we bring our gifts this morning with thanksgiving and praise! We present these tithes and offerings not from hearts of obligation or debt, but with the confidence and joy that through your love made incarnate in your son Jesus, you've forever removed our debt. Our joy and gratitude are hard to contain. Use our gifts and our lives to do your work of compassion, mercy, and redemption. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Maureen McDorman (flute) and Julie Donnell (piano)

CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

You let us choose, O God, between you and the false gods of this world.

In the midst of the night of sin and death, wake us from our slumber and call us forth to greet Christ, so that with eyes and hearts fixed on him, we may follow to eternal light. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"Blessed Assurance"

(UMH # 369)

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

All are invited to sit and reflect during the Postlude

**Please rise as you are able*

Our sincere appreciation to all those that contributed to this worship experience

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 42

ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70

New Member Welcome potluck luncheon Immediately following worship today in Fellowship Hall.

UMM BREAKFAST

Sunday, November 19th at 7:00 a.m. All men of the community are invited to attend.

ANNUAL HANGING OF THE GREENS

Mark your calendars now and be ready to have some fun after worship on **November 26th**. Many hands make easy work, and don't worry if you have never done this before, join in and learn. Pizza will be served.

PASTRY WITH THE PASTOR

Tuesday mornings from 9:30 -10:30, Pastor Terry will be holding a special Advent Study "Heaven and Earth, Advent and the Incarnation." In Advent, we celebrate and anticipate the earth-shaking, life-transforming good news that God is coming to us. Sessions begin November 28th and conclude December 19th. All you need to bring is yourself (and maybe a guest).

A SPECIAL CHALLENGE

The Church Outreach Committee has presented a fun and meaningful challenge to the congregation to see if the women or the men can bring in more cans of soup to donate to the Food Pantry. The challenge runs between now and December 2nd. It does not matter what brand of soup or what particular kind, although please remember that these will be for meals. So, bring in your cans and place them in the appropriate boxes at the rear of the church. They will be counted each week before being taken to the pantry. So far, well over 200 cans have been donated.

TRUNK OR TREAT CANDY

The left-over candy from Trunk or Treat has been shipped to our women and men in the military. On this Veterans Day weekend, we hold them in our prayers and thank them for their service.

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. Nov 12 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Nov 12 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Nov 12 11:00 am Potluck lunch
Sun. Nov 19 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Nov 19 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Nov 24 9:00 am Sunday School

Sun. Nov 24 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Nov 24 11:00 am Hanging of the Greens

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Nov 12 Gary and Janice Berry Nov 16 Hannah Craft
Nov 17 Ruth Hilvety

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 10lbs of plastic caps to purchase a bench for outside the church. This will be made of recycled plastic. Please donate caps whenever possible.