

**Macon United Methodist Church**  
**190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133**  
**Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com**  
**November 19, 2023** **Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

*"Reflect upon your present blessings, of which every man has plenty; not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some." Charles Dickens*

### **PRELUDE**

**GATHERING** Words of welcome and announcements

### **\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

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

Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, Rejoice!

**God, we delight in your creation. We thank you for soft breezes, crisp apples, and changing seasons that remind us of your presence and provision.**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, Rejoice!

**God, we delight in our connectedness. We thank you for friends who check in, for church family who lift one another up, for neighbors who show up in the good and challenging times.**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, Rejoice!

**God, we delight in your peace that dwells among us. We give thanks for neighbors who offer help in times of trouble, gentleness in the midst of pain, and acts of kindness during seasons of struggle.**

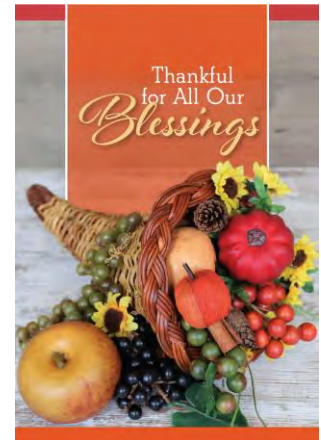
Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving and rejoicing!

**Come! Let us worship God together. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** *"Come, Ye Thankful People Come"* (UMH # 694)

### **INVOCATION (unison)**

**Lord of heaven and earth of all nations and peoples all faiths and no faith reveal yourself to those who are suffering, reveal yourself to all who are refugees, reveal yourself to those who are powerful, reveal yourself to all who are powerless, reveal yourself to ordinary people in their everyday lives, that this world might reflect your love and your glory.**



## **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 123 (CEB)**

I raise my eyes to you—you who rule heaven. Just as the eyes of servants attend to their masters' hand, just as the eyes of a female servant attend to her mistress' hand—that's how our eyes attend to the LORD our God until he has mercy on us. Have mercy on us, LORD! Have mercy because we've had more than enough shame. We've had more than enough mockery from the self-confident, more than enough shame from the proud.

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

**Lord, Lord, we know who you are, we know you bring in the kingdom of heaven. But when you assign us the job of lighting the way, we barely announce your divine rule to ourselves. Our worship hour has solemn times and festivals. And we celebrate your redemptive action in history with our calendar--Sundays, seasons, year after year. Yet we become drowsy: unprepared, because we are not disciples each day, at all hours. Those times we live for ourselves. We do not need you right now. So we do not want justice, unless we judge for ourselves, and self-righteousness is easier than right relationship. Forgive us Lord the sins we can bear to name, save us Lord from the sins we will not speak.**

### **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

**Matthew 25:14-30(CEB)**

The kingdom of heaven is like a man who was leaving on a trip. He called his servants and handed his possessions over to them. To one he gave five valuable coins, and to another he gave two, and to another he gave one. He gave to each servant according to that servant's ability. Then he left on his journey.

“After the man left, the servant who had five valuable coins took them and went to work doing business with them. He gained five more. In the same way, the one who had two valuable coins gained two more. But the servant who had received the one valuable coin dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money.

“Now after a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five valuable coins came forward with five additional coins. He said, ‘Master, you gave me five valuable coins. Look, I've gained five more.’

“His master replied, ‘Excellent! You are a good and faithful servant! You've been faithful over a little. I'll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.’ “The

second servant also came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two valuable coins. Look, I’ve gained two more.’

“His master replied, ‘Well done! You are a good and faithful servant. You’ve been faithful over a little. I’ll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.’

“Now the one who had received one valuable coin came and said, ‘Master, I knew that you are a hard man. You harvest grain where you haven’t sown. You gather crops where you haven’t spread seed. So I was afraid. And I hid my valuable coin in the ground. Here, you have what’s yours.’

“His master replied, ‘You evil and lazy servant! You knew that I harvest grain where I haven’t sown and that I gather crops where I haven’t spread seed? In that case, you should have turned my money over to the bankers so that when I returned, you could give me what belonged to me with interest. Therefore, take from him the valuable coin and give it to the one who has ten coins. Those who have much will receive more, and they will have more than they need. But as for those who don’t have much, even the little bit they have will be taken away from them. Now take the worthless servant and throw him out into the farthest darkness.’

“People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.

## **A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN**

### **MESSAGE**

**“What Gifts Are You Thankful For?”**

**Rev. Terry McDorman**

### **HYMN**

***“We Gather Together”***

**(UMH # 131)**

### **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**

**God, whose giving knows no ending, we offer up the treasure that you have entrusted to us; we offer up the skills and time that you have graciously given to**

**us; we offer up ourselves in service and praise. Receive these gifts by your grace. Multiply and use them through the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish Christ's work of love in the world. Amen.**

## **MUSICAL REFLECTION**

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

**Generous God, in abundance you give us things both spiritual and physical. Help us to hold lightly the fading things of this earth and grasp tightly the lasting things of your kingdom, so that what we are and do and say may be our gifts to you through Christ, who beckons all to seek the things above, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**                      *"Now Thank We All Our God"*                      **(UMH # 102)**

### **\*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: 44**

**ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70**

### **ANNUAL HANGING OF THE GREENS NEXT SUNDAY**

Mark your calendars now and be ready to have some fun after worship on **November 26<sup>th</sup>**. 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 28<sup>th</sup> and conclude December 19<sup>th</sup>. All you need to bring is yourself (and maybe a guest).

### **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL**

The meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, November. 28 starting at 630 and 7:00 respectively.

### **HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

The church office will be closed on Thursday and Friday this week for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Pastor Terry is available via cell phone, email or text.

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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.

*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. 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  
Tues. Nov 28 6:00 pm Administrative Council in Pastor's Office  
Tues. Nov 28 7:30 pm Finance Committee in Pastor's Office

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Nov 19	Ida Boggs	Nov 20	Eric Nixon
Nov 21	Neal and Irma Stombaugh	Nov 23	Matthew Schmahl
Nov 25	Connie Baker		

## 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. The following items are needed for the holidays: stuffing mix, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, canned milk, box mashed potatoes, cake mixes, frostings, pie fillings, mandarin oranges, pineapple, cream of chicken soup, cream of mushroom soup, puddings and jello. Donations requested for the Wee Care Fund to purchase Christmas gifts for children.

## CHURCH BENCH

We are still in need of **FIVE POUNDS** of plastic caps to purchase a bench for outside the church. This will be made of recycled plastic. Please donate caps whenever possible.