

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com
November 26, 2023 **Christ the King Sunday**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Two thousand years ago there was One here on this earth who lived the grandest life that ever has been lived yet - a life that every thinking man, with deeper or shallower meaning, has agreed to call divine. (Frederick Robertson)

PRELUDE

GATHERING Words of welcome and announcements

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

Come! Let us give thanks to God!

We give thanks for the gift of warm bread, the smell of dinner cooking in the oven, and the joy of gathering around a table together.

Come! Let us give thanks to God!

We give thanks for all the times God has made a way out of no way, providing for us in body and spirit just when we need it.

Come! Let us give thanks to God!

We give thanks for the ways God weaves us together as a community of love and care, supporting one another in the ebbs and flows of daily life.

Let us come into God's presence with grateful praise!

Come! Let us worship God together. Amen.



***OPENING HYMN**

"Jesus Shall Reign"

(UMH # 157)

INVOCATION (unison)

God of Healing and Transformation, we hunger and thirst for your abundant life. We bring you our sorrow and ask for the bread of joy; we bring you our despair and ask for the bread of hope; we bring you our weariness and ask for the bread of inspiration.

Meet us here. We need the bread of heaven to sustain us as we journey to find our way, that we may be one with you. In Jesus' name, we pray. 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

Ephesians 1:15-23 (CEB)

Since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, this is the reason that I don't stop giving thanks to God for you when I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation that makes God known to you. I pray that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God's call, what is the richness of God's glorious inheritance among believers, and what is the overwhelming greatness of God's power that is working among us believers. This power is conferred by the energy of God's powerful strength. God's power was at work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and sat him at God's right side in the heavens, far above every ruler and authority and power and angelic power, any power that might be named not only now but in the future. God put everything under Christ's feet and made him head of everything in the church, which is his body. His body, the church, is the fullness of Christ, who fills everything in every way.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

We talk about how little we have and do not recognize the abundance we have when we share. We allow resources and gifts to be wasted in our neighborhoods instead of valuing and preserving the smallest fragments the world so often casts aside. We rush about life attempting to do everything on our own instead of being grateful for all the ways we love and support one another. We grumble about all that is going wrong instead of approaching you with gratitude and trust that you will provide. Forgive us, we pray. Free us to live as your grateful people.

Leader:

Receive this good news: God's love never fails! The same Christ who commanded his disciples to gather leftover bread and fish so that nothing would be lost has not overlooked or forgotten you. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 25:31-46(CEB)

"Now when the Human One comes in his majesty and all his angels are with him, he will sit on his majestic throne. All the nations will be gathered in front of him. He will separate them from each other, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right side. But the goats he will put on his left.

"Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who will receive good things from my Father. Inherit the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world began. I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I

was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.'

"Then those who are righteous will reply to him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes to wear? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

"Then the king will reply to them, 'I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.'

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Get away from me, you who will receive terrible things. Go into the unending fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels. I was hungry and you didn't give me food to eat. I was thirsty and you didn't give me anything to drink. I was a stranger and you didn't welcome me. I was naked and you didn't give me clothes to wear. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me.'

"Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and didn't do anything to help you?' Then he will answer, 'I assure you that when you haven't done it for one of the least of these, you haven't done it for me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment. But the righteous ones will go into eternal life."

A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN

MESSAGE

"Anointed One"
Rev. Terry McDorman

HYMN

"Come, Christians Join to Sing"

(UMH # 158)

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 of abundance, as we bring gifts to your altar, we confess that we have

wallowed in scarcity thinking. We worry that we might not have enough--not just in our own lives but also as part of your church eternal. Our scarcity thinking has sentenced us to think small in what we can do and moved us to believe in the dark corners of our consciousness that you are somehow limited. Forgive us when we have been afraid to believe that t you have enough to meet every need the world had in the past, has now and will have in the future. As witnesses of Christ's abundant love, we pray. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER Psalm 100 (unison)

Shout triumphantly to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with celebration! Come before him with shouts of joy! Know that the LORD is God—he made us; we belong to him. We are his people, the sheep of his own pasture. Enter his gates with thanks; enter his courtyards with praise! Thank him! Bless his name! Because the LORD is good, his loyal love lasts forever; his faithfulness lasts generation after generation.

***CLOSING HYMN** *“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”* (UMH # 154)

***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: 38

ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70

ANNUAL HANGING OF THE GREENS TODAY

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).

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

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

FINANCE REPORT

Income through end of October is \$83,930 while expenses are \$86,565.

ADVENT BEGINS DECEMBER 1.

Pastor Terry is inviting everyone, either individually or as families, to take time each day to read a chapter from the Gospel of Luke. There are 24 chapters so that on Christmas Eve, you will have read an entire account of the life of Jesus Christ. The gift at the end is hopefully a much more meaningful Christmas day.

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.

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 26 11:00 am Hanging of the Greens
Tues. Nov 28 6:30 pm Finance Committee in Pastor's Office
Tues. Nov 28 7:00 pm Administrative Council in Pastor's Office
Sun. Dec 03 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Dec 03 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Dec 10 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Dec 10 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Dec 10 11:00 am Annual Cookie Walk
Sun. Dec 17 Ugly Christmas Sweater Day

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Nov	27	Michelle Huggins	Nov	30	Maureen McDorman
Nov	30	Jack Smith	Nov	30	Mike Stewart
Dec	01	Mary Belskamper	Dec	02	Irma Stormbaugh

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.