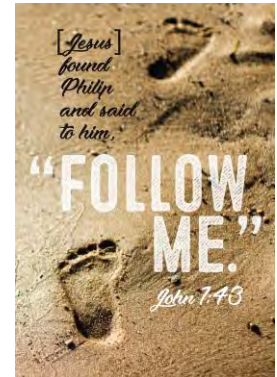


Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com
January 14, 2024 Second Sunday after Epiphany

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“You have a choice to answer the call, be it on your phone or from God.” Barbara Hoover



PRELUDE

GATHERING Words of welcome and announcements

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

***CALL TO WORSHIP (unison)**

Lord God, you know me through and through, *you know my sitting down, and my getting up.* You sense what I am thinking from far away, *you understand my journeying and my resting.* In fact, you are familiar with the way I do everything; *even before I speak, you know what's on my mind.* You are in my past, and in my future *you surround me with your love and your reassuring hand is upon me.* This wonderful knowledge is beyond my understanding; *it surpasses everything, and is beyond my grasp.*

***OPENING HYMN** *“Open My Eyes that I May See”* (UMH # 454)

1. Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me; place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

**2. Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

3. Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere; open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

INVOCATION (unison)

We forget sometimes that the Jesus whose birth we celebrated at Christmas spent many years growing up in a small Jewish family, growing wiser and stronger, learning a trade, waiting for his moment. Waiting for the pieces of the bigger picture to fall into place, when he would enter the waters of the Jordan, the Holy Spirit descend on him and that voice come from heaven proclaiming, "You are my one dear Son; in you I take great delight." Father God, as we join together in worship let us not forget your infinite patience and love in dealing with your people, of which we count ourselves. Use us in your service, that we might draw others into your kingdom. To your praise and glory we ask this. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us lift our prayers in thoughts of Joy.

SILENT PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (CEB)

Now the boy Samuel was serving the LORD under Eli. The LORD's word was rare at that time, and visions weren't widely known. One day Eli, whose eyes had grown so weak he was unable to see, was lying down in his room. God's lamp hadn't gone out yet, and Samuel was lying down in the LORD's temple, where God's chest was.

The LORD called to Samuel. "I'm here," he said.

Samuel hurried to Eli and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

"I didn't call you," Eli replied. "Go lie down." So he did.

Again the LORD called Samuel, so Samuel got up, went to Eli, and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

"I didn't call, my son," Eli replied. "Go and lie down."

(Now Samuel didn't yet know the LORD, and the LORD's word hadn't yet been revealed to him.)

A third time the LORD called Samuel. He got up, went to Eli, and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

Then Eli realized that it was the LORD who was calling the boy. So, Eli said to Samuel, "Go and lie down. If he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD. Your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down where he'd been.

Then the LORD came and stood there, calling just as before, "Samuel, Samuel!"

Samuel said, "Speak. Your servant is listening."

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Ever present God of grace, by your Spirit you gather us to worship you; you who formed my very consciousness, and wove me together in my mother's womb, you who are so awesomely wonderful, you whose creativity is so marvelous. Engage us by your word and change us: open our ears to hear you; open our eyes to see what we might become; open our hearts to follow your ways. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:43-51 (CEB)

The next day Jesus wanted to go into Galilee, and he found Philip. Jesus said to him, "Follow me." Philip was from Bethsaida, the hometown of Andrew and Peter.

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law and the Prophets: Jesus, Joseph's son, from Nazareth."

Nathanael responded, "Can anything from Nazareth be good?"

Philip said, "Come and see."

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said about him, "Here is a genuine Israelite in whom there is no deceit."

Nathanael asked him, "How do you know me?"

Jesus answered, "Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree."

Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are God's Son. You are the king of Israel."

Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these! I assure you that you will see heaven open and God's angels going up to heaven and down to earth on the Human One."

A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN

MESSAGE

"Faith and Shaving Cream"

Rev. Terry McDorman

HYMN

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

(UMH # 399)

1. Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.

Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

2. Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.

Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.

Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.

3. Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.

Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

INVITATION TO SHARE

We indeed have been provided, through the wisdom of God, all the gifts we need to serve each other. Let us now take the opportunity to share these things.

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 (unison)**

Generous God, for all that sustains us; air to breath, warmth and light, food to eat, water to drink, we offer our thanks and praise. For spiritual gifts that bind us together; one people, one body empowered for service we offer our hands and voices. For the Good News of the Gospel, healing and wholeness, freedom and justice we offer our hearts in service. Amen

A MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER (unison but muted)

Loving Father, you alone are the source of every good gift. We praise you for all your gifts to us, and we thank you for your generosity. Everything we have, and all that we are, comes from you. Help us to be grateful and responsible. You have called us to follow your son, Jesus, without counting the cost. Send us your Holy Spirit to give us courage and wisdom to be faithful disciples. We commit ourselves to being good stewards. Help us to be grateful, accountable, generous, and willing to give back with increase. Help us to make stewardship a way of life. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen

***CLOSING HYMN “I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry” (FWS #2051)**

***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: 30

ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70

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.

“GRIEF SHARE” WEDNESDAY, STARTING JANUARY 10, 2024 AT 6:00PM

Loss, grief and all the collective emotions can be overwhelming for anyone. Whether your loss is recent or not, coping can be very difficult. This program is designed to help you. A new group is starting up at First Christian Church in Moweaqua on Wednesday evenings at 6pm. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Terry.

MACON UMM BREAKFAST

All men of the community are invited to come and enjoy food and fellowship next Sunday, January 21, at 7:00 a.m. for the monthly breakfast.

OLD NECKTIES NEEDED

Time to clean out the closets and tie racks and donate those no longer needed neckties so they can be turned into angels. Please bring to church on Sunday and Henry Moyer will collect them or drop them in the pastor's office. Thank you!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Sun Jan 21 7:00 am UMM Breakfast, Fellowship Hall

Sun Jan 21 9:00 am Sunday School

Sun. Jan 21 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

Wed. Jan 24 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting in Pastor's Office

Wed. Jan 24 7:00 pm Administrative Council Meeting in Pastor's Office

Sun Jan 28 9:00 am Sunday School

Sun. Jan 28 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

Sun. Jan 28 2:00 pm Cutler's 50th Anniversary Celebration, Community Center

2023 FINANCES

Income for 2023 was \$103,436 while expense was \$99,673. Thank you for your contributions throughout the year. Garry Cutler, financial secretary

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Jan 14 Alex Rappe`

Jan 18 Carol Smith

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 shampoo. Cash donations are always welcome.

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.