

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com
January 21, 2024 **Third Sunday after Epiphany**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“There are always new places to go fishing. For any fishermen, there’s always a new place, always a new horizon.” Jack Nicklaus

PRELUDE

GATHERING Words of welcome and announcements

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST



*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Are you listening? God is doing a new thing! Will you join in?

Group A: Yes! We will follow!

Leader: Listen! Did you miss it? God calls us again to build the kingdom of heaven. Will you join in?

Group B: Yes! We will be builders of the kin-dom.

Leader: Wait, did you catch that? Again, God calls us to declare the good news to those in need. Will you join in?

Group A: Yes! We will declare the good news with our voices and our lives.

Leader: And still, God calls. God never quits calling us to live and to give abundant life. Will you join in?

Group B: Yes! We will join with God in sharing the gracious gift of abundant life with the world.

ALL: May we respond to God's loving and persistent call with a loving and persistent yes! A yes for us, a yes for our neighbors, and a yes for our world to be transformed by the good news that God's kingdom has come near. Amen.

***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.

INVOCATION (unison)

Perfect Light of revelation, as you shone in the life of Jesus, whose epiphany we celebrate, so shine in us and through us, that we may become beacons of truth and compassion, enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us lift our prayers in thoughts of Joy.

SILENT PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Jonah 3:1-5, 10 (CEB)

The LORD’s word came to Jonah a second time: “Get up and go to Nineveh, that great city, and declare against it the proclamation that I am commanding you.” And Jonah got up and went to Nineveh, according to the LORD’s word. (Now Nineveh was indeed an enormous city, a three days’ walk across.)

Jonah started into the city, walking one day, and he cried out, “Just forty days more and Nineveh will be overthrown!” And the people of Nineveh believed God. They proclaimed a fast and put on mourning clothes, from the greatest of them to the least significant.

God saw what they were doing—that they had ceased their evil behavior. So God stopped planning to destroy them, and he didn’t do it.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Holy One, what a blessing and privilege we share here in this sacred space and among this loving community. But, like Jonah, we sometimes are jealous of what we share here. We know that others are longing and thirsting for what we know and experience. Forgive us our reluctance to open our doors, open our hearts to others; some like us, some not. We repent of our hesitations and unwillingness to witness to those we have considered strangers and even enemies for fear they just might become friends. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:14-20 (CEB)

After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee announcing God's good news, saying, "Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!"

As Jesus passed alongside the Galilee Sea, he saw two brothers, Simon and Andrew, throwing fishing nets into the sea, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," he said, "and I'll show you how to fish for people." Right away, they left their nets and followed him. After going a little farther, he saw James and John, Zebedee's sons, in their boat repairing the fishing nets. At that very moment he called them. They followed him, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired workers.

A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN

MESSAGE

"Exactly What Are You Waiting For?"

Rev. Terry McDorman

HYMN

"Abide with Me"

(UMH # 700)

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

4. I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

5. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

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 (unison)**

Generous God, we ask you to bless the gifts we give this morning. We ask that you help grow the trust in us so that we might follow without looking back and we might leave behind more of our old lives to experience more deeply new life in you. Help us to leave our nets on the shore and leave those things that seemed essential before we heard the call, so that we might travel the road you have put before us. In the name of Christ who goes before us and beside us, we pray. Amen.

A MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

Insistent God, by night and day you summon your slumbering people, so stir us with your voice and enlighten our lives with your grace that we give ourselves fully to Christ's call to mission and ministry. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN *"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"* (FWS #2129)**

1. I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus no turning back, no turning back.
2. The world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me no turning back, no turning back.
3. Though none go with me, still I will follow,
though none go with me, still I will follow,
though none go with me, still I will follow, no turning back, no turning back.

***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: 34

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 EVENINGS 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. If there are any questions, please see Pastor Terry.

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. This is both a mission and fund-raising project. Please bring to church on Sunday and Henry Moyer will collect them or drop them in the pastor's office. Thank you!

CELEBRATION 165

On Palm Sunday, the church will be celebrating it's 165th anniversary. If you would be willing to help in planning this event, please contact our Ad Council Chair, Brad Roush.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND 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
Sun Feb 04 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Feb 04 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Wed. Feb 14 Ash Wednesday

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Jan 25 Garry and Christine Cutler

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.