

**Macon United Methodist Church**  
**190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133**  
**Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com**  
**February 18, 2024** **First Sunday in Lent**

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

*“Prayer is where the action is.”* John Wesley

# PRELUDE

## GATHERING Words of welcome and announcements

## \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)**

L: There are some journeys for which we long.

**P: But the journey to the cross looks as though it will be difficult.**

L: The way of discipleship and faith is difficult.

**P: We would prefer something easier. We are not ready for this trip.**

L: Put your hearts at ease. You are not traveling alone.

**P: Perhaps we can accomplish this trip. At least we will try the first step.**



**\*OPENING HYMN**                      *“This Is My Father’s World”*                      (UMH # 144)

1. This is my Father's world, And to my listening ears  
All nature sings, and round me rings The music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas--His hand the wonders wrought.

2. This is my Father's world: The birds their carols raise,  
The morning light, the lily white, Declare their Maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world: He shines in all that's fair;  
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me everywhere.

3. This is my Father's world: O let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world Why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is King: let the heavens ring! God reigns; let earth be glad!

## **OPENING PRAYER (unison)**

**The season of Lent is here again and, as with so many times before, we find that we are not really ready for this journey of discipleship. So many things claim our lives and prevent us from being ready to take the steps in faith. As we look at our barrier of readiness, help us to remember that Christ is with us, every step of the way. We are not alone. Christ will help lift our hearts and spirits and direct our paths. Enable us, loving Savior, to take this journey of faith to new life with you. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **SILENT PRAYER**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

**1 Peter 3:18-22 (CEB)**

Christ himself suffered on account of sins, once for all, the righteous one on behalf of the unrighteous. He did this in order to bring you into the presence of God. Christ was put to death as a human, but made alive by the Spirit. And it was by the Spirit that he went to preach to the spirits in prison. In the past, these spirits were disobedient—when God patiently waited during the time of Noah. Noah built an ark in which a few (that is, eight) lives were rescued through water. Baptism is like that. It saves you now—not because it removes dirt from your body but because it is the mark of a good conscience toward God. Your salvation comes through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is at God's right side. Now that he has gone into heaven, he rules over all angels, authorities, and powers.

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

**We have lists of things to do, for all the areas of our lives. Our lives are so time bound and duty bound that we feel imprisoned in them. Now we are challenged by Christ to take a journey of discipleship. We don't feel ready for this journey. We need more time. And we complain and cry about how much we have to do. Forgive us, Lord, when we place so many "duties" in the path to serving you. Reset our priorities so that we will be ready to commit our lives in your service. Lord, help us to be ready when you call us. Help us to courageously answer the summons you bring. Let us place our trust in you in all things. Amen.**

### **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

**Mark 1:9-15 (CEB)**

About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting

open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. And there was a voice from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness.”

At once the Spirit forced Jesus out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among the wild animals, and the angels took care of him.

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!”

## **A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN**

### **MESSAGE**

**“Be Still, Our Souls”  
Rev. Terry McDorman**

### **HYMN**

***“Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley”***

**(FWS # 2112)**

### **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)**

**Holy God, we bring our tithes and offerings to your altar, understanding that on the journey in Lent, we can’t avoid or detour around the wilderness. It is essential that we hear Jesus call us to repentance! Bless our gifts for your unfinished kingdom work. Remind us, as we worship here, that this redemption of our lives did not come without a price; without our own repentance, we can miss the enormity of the gift Jesus gave. Knowing we cannot earn this redemption and forgiveness, this wiping clean of our ledger, we can only hope to reflect such grace and compassion in our encounters with others. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.**

### **MUSICAL REFLECTION**

## **CLOSING PRAYER (unison)**

**Creating and Renewing God.** In this Lenten season we each need the opportunity to clear our eyes of the glaze of indifference and apathy. Help us get our minds off distractions, obsessions and self-pity so that we don't feel helpless. Help us to start over, to re-orient heads and hearts so that we may fill our whole selves with life-affirming activities and thoughts.

## **\*CLOSING HYMN**

***"Shall We Gather at the River"***

**(UMH # 723)**

1. Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,  
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain:

Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

2. On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,  
we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day.  
Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

3. Ere we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down;  
grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown.  
Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

4. Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;  
soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.  
Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

## **\*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: 43**

**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](mailto:webmaster.maconumc@gmail.com) to submit updates or additions to the church website.*

## **LENTEN STUDY OPPORTUNITIES**

**Adult Sunday School:** (Sunday mornings at 9:00am in Fellowship Hall) the class will be exploring “Jesus and the Outsiders and Outcasts” by Adam Hamilton. Starts February 18, 2024.

## **PASTRY WITH THE PASTOR**

Held on Tuesday mornings from 9:30-10:30 starting February 20, 2024, and concluding on March 26, 2024. This group will explore "Seven Words, Listening to Christ from the Cross" by Susan Robb

## **CELEBRATION 165 SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024**

Be certain to mark your calendars and spread the word, as it will be a special day indeed. Worship will be led by Bishop Frank Beard. It is also Palm Sunday and there will be a catered celebration meal and fellowship immediately following worship. Please plan on attending and bringing anyone you know that has been a part of this church through the years.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Please contact Brad Roush to volunteer There are tasks big and small to choose from. Many hands are needed. to help with the 165<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. We need all hands-on deck to make it a rousing success.

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE**

Sun Feb 25 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. Feb 25 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service  
Sun Mar 03 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. Mar 03 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service  
Mon. Mar 04 6:30 pm United Women of Faith; Fellowship Hall  
Sun Mar 10 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. Mar 10 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

## **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

Feb 20	Grady Mayer	Feb 20	Emerson Mayer
Feb 20	Billie Poland	Feb 22	Henry Moyer
Feb 22	Kelsey Stewart		

## **CHOIR**

Those wanting to sing in choir, stay after church on February 18. Let's plan to sing Palm Sunday and Easter.

## **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**

Great news! We have collected enough lids and our new bench, made out of recycled caps, will be arriving soon. Thank you to everyone that has made this gift to the community possible.