

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com
March 17, 2024 **Fifth Sunday in Lent**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God" Ann Weems

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL:

PRELUDE

GATHERING Words of welcome and announcements

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)**

Lenten travelers, how long have you traveled this road with your gaze pointed down at the dust and gravel and asphalt as you walk or limp or roll down the path?

Sometimes it is easier to look at the road than at the people who share the journey with us.

Lift up your heads! Look, listen, reach out a hand. Who are your neighbors on this road?

We lift our heads and look to our Savior who journeys with us and helps us notice our neighbors all around us.

This is the Lenten journey—to learn to love God and love our neighbors just as Jesus showed us.

Our journey teaches us to lose our lives to God as we find and follow Christ in our service to others.

Come, let us worship God who caravans with us on this road to the cross.

Come, let us worship! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** *"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"* **(UMH # 297)**

1. Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land; a home within the wilderness,
a rest upon the way, from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

2. Upon that cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see the very dying form of One who
suffered there for me; and from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess:
the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.



3. I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place; I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face; content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss, my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

As your family we gather here today. Not because we have to, but because we want to. We are here to offer you our worship, our prayers and our lives in service to you and to our neighbor. We have as our example your Son who chose not to rule but to serve who gave of himself and you a love so strong that it flowed like a river from his hands and his heart.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SILENT PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. It won’t be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant with me even though I was their husband, declares the Lord. No, this is the covenant that I will make with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my Instructions within them and engrave them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. They will no longer need to teach each other to say, “Know the Lord!” because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord; for I will forgive their wrongdoing and never again remember their sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Love that knows no boundaries: we crowd our lives with so much activity that it is hard to find time for you. We become so focused on ourselves, we can overlook those around us who are searching for hope. We fill our spiritual emptiness with junk, rather than feasting on your Word.

Abundant Mercy, forgive us. Open our eyes, that we may see your new covenant written in plain sight on our hearts. Open our hearts, that we may join you in serving the broken of the world. Open our love, so we may pour it out as abundantly and graciously as your love is given to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 12:20-33 (CEB)

Some Greeks were among those who had come up to worship at the festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and made a request: “Sir, we want to see Jesus.” Philip told Andrew, and Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

Jesus replied, “The time has come for the Human One to be glorified. I assure you that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it can only be a single seed. But if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their lives will lose them, and those who hate their lives in this world will keep them forever. Whoever serves me must follow me. Wherever I am, there my servant will also be. My Father will honor whoever serves me. “Now *I am deeply troubled*. What should I say? ‘Father, save me from this time’? No, for this is the reason I have come to this time. Father, glorify your name!” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”

The crowd standing there heard and said, “It’s thunder.” Others said, “An angel spoke to him.”

Jesus replied, “This voice wasn’t for my benefit but for yours. Now is the time for judgment of this world. Now this world’s ruler will be thrown out. When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to me.” He said this to show how he was going to die.

A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN

MESSAGE “Not For My Benefit, but For Yours” Rev. Terry McDorman

HYMN “Here I Am Lord” (UMH # 593)

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who make the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, where you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

2. I the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a lone.
I will speak my words to them. Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, where you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?
ere I am, Lord. Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, where you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

INVITATION TO SHARE

Jesus compels us to join him in service to others. Our church accepts the invitation and challenge to show Jesus' way using the resources we share. Let us give as we are able to the ministries of our church.

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)**

God of the ages, we share our tithes and offerings this day with, but we acknowledge that most of the time, we are clinging tightly to what we have, afraid we might lose something we need and afraid somehow there won't be enough to live our lives. The scarcity mindset overtakes us, and it robs us of the joy of our days. Remind us that Jesus has called us to be ready to let go of this life so that we might claim the abundance of life eternal. In our redeemer's name, we pray. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

God of the covenant, in the glory of the cross your Son embraced the power of death and broke its hold over your people. In this time of repentance, draw all people to yourself, that we who confess Jesus as Lord may put aside the deeds of death and accept the life of your kingdom. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN**“Jesus Shall Reign”*****(UMH # 157)**

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom spread from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
2. To Jesus endless prayer be made, and endless praises crown his head;
his name like sweet perfume shall rise with every morning sacrifice.
3. People and realms of every tongue dwell on his love with sweetest song;
and infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on his name.
4. Blessings abound where'er he reigns; all prisoners leap and loose their chains;
the weary find eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blest.
5. Let every creature rise and bring honors peculiar to our King;
angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud amen!

BENEDICTION*POSTLUDE***All are invited to sit and reflect during the Postlude***Please rise as you are able**Special thankyous to all those that assisted with worship today.***ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 40****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.

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 165th anniversary celebration. We need all hands-on deck to make it a rousing success.

165TH ANNIVERSARY SLIDE SHOW

If you have photos, newspaper clippings etc. that you would like to share for a slide presentation during the banquet, please send to Leo at leobilyeu@gmail.com.

HOLY THURSDAY WORSHIP

Please plan on attending our special Holy Thursday service, March 28 at 6pm in the sanctuary. There will be readings from scripture and appropriate music as we remember the passion of Jesus Christ as He saved us from our sins for all eternity. If you know someone that could benefit from understanding the Lord, invite them to come with you.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Sun Mar 24 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Mar 24 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service—165th Anniversary Celebration
Sun. Mar 24 11:00 am 165th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon; Fellowship Hall
Wed Mar 27 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting, Pastor's office
Wed Mar 27 7:00 pm Administrative Council Meeting, Pastor's office
ThursMar 28 6:00 pm Holy Thursday Service
Sun Mar 31 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Mar 31 10:00 am Easter Worship and Zoom Service

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Mar 22 Danni Craft

Mar 22 Eleanor Moyer

MISSIONS



Items requested by the food pantry are: Any kind of cereal and/or oatmeal, canned fruit, macaroni and cheese; toilet paper and shampoo. Cash donations are always welcome.

MACON SERVES AT THE PANTRY IN MARCH.

CHURCH BENCH

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