

**Macon United Methodist Church**  
**190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133**  
**Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com**  
**March 3, 2024                      Third Sunday in Lent**

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

*“Lent is a time for discipline, for confession, for honesty, not because God is mean or fault-finding or finger-pointing but because he wants us to know the joy of being cleaned out, ready for all the good things he now has in store.” — N.T. Wright*

## RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL:

# PRELUDE

**GATHERING** Words of welcome and announcements

## \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

L: Come with us on this Lenten Journey to the Temple

**P: The temple is the great House of the Lord.**

L: But sometimes even greed and selfishness can enter the Temple.

**P: Be with us, Lord, as we enter this step.**

L: The Lord will be asking us to recognize our selfishness.

**P: Lord, hear our cries. AMEN.**



**\*OPENING HYMN**      *“Where Charity and Love Prevail”*

**(UMH # 549)**

1. Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;  
Brought here together by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.
2. With grateful joy and holy fear God's charity we learn;  
Let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in return.
3. Forgive we now each other's faults as we our faults confess;  
And let us love each other well in Christian holiness.
4. Let strife among us be unknown, let all contention cease;  
Be God's the glory that we seek, be ours God's holy peace.
5. Let us recall that in our midst dwells God's begotten Son;  
As members of his body joined, we are in Christ made one.

6. No race or creed can love exclude, if honored be God's name;  
Our family embraces all whose Father is the same.

### **INVOCATION (unison)**

**Lord, we come to you this day with so many things laying claim to our lives, our hearts, and our spirits. Open our ears and our hearts to hear your words of healing love. Prepare us to be faithful disciples for you. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

#### **SILENT PRAYER**

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

### **BAPTISM OF ELIAS JAMES BOGGS**

*Elias, please bring your parents and sponsors forward*

Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Through the Sacrament of Baptism

we are initiated into Christ's holy Church.

We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation  
and given new birth through water and the Spirit.

All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

### **RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH**

*Since the earliest times, the vows of Christian baptism have consisted first of the renunciation of all that is evil and then the profession of faith and loyalty to Christ.*

*Parents and other sponsors reaffirm these vows for themselves and take on the responsibilities of sponsorship.*

*The pastor addresses parents and other sponsors:*

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,  
reject the evil powers of this world,  
and repent of your sin?

**I do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you  
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression  
in whatever forms they present themselves?

**I do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior,  
put your whole trust in his grace,  
and promise to serve him as your Lord,  
in union with the Church which Christ has opened  
to people of all ages, nations, and races?

**I do.**

Will you nurture these children (persons)  
in Christ's holy Church,  
that by your teaching and example they may be guided  
to accept God's grace for themselves,  
to profess their faith openly,  
and to lead a Christian life?

**I will.**

*The pastor addresses the congregation, and the congregation responds:*

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church,  
reaffirm both your rejection of sin  
and your commitment to Christ?

**We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life  
and include these persons now before you in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news  
and live according to the example of Christ.**

**We will surround these persons  
with a community of love and forgiveness,  
that they may grow in their service to others.**

**We will pray for them,  
that they may be true disciples  
who walk in the way that leads to life.**

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith  
as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic\* church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

*This prayer is led by the pastor and joined by the people. It recalls scriptural images and meanings of Holy Baptism and is comparable to the Great Thanksgiving at Holy Communion. (All may rise as you are able).*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Eternal Father:

When nothing existed but chaos,  
you swept across the dark waters  
and brought forth light.

In the days of Noah  
you saved those on the ark through water.

After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow.

When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt,  
you led them to freedom through the sea.

Their children you brought through the Jordan  
to the land which you promised.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus,  
nurtured in the water of a womb.

He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit.

He called his disciples  
to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection  
and to make disciples of all nations.

Pour out your Holy Spirit,  
to bless this gift of water and those who receive it,  
to wash away their sin  
and clothe them in righteousness  
throughout their lives,  
that, dying and being raised with Christ,

they may share in his final victory.  
**All praise to you, Eternal Father,  
through your Son Jesus Christ,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit  
lives and reigns for ever.**

**Amen.**

Elias James, I baptize you in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Immediately after the administration of the water, the pastor places hands on the candidate's head and invokes the work of the Holy Spirit. Persons nearby, including baptized members of the candidate's family, may join the pastor in this action. Others present may join by extending their hands toward the candidate. All say the Amen.*

*Pastor, laying hand on the newly baptized:*

The Holy Spirit work within you,  
that being born through water and the Spirit,  
you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Through baptism**

**you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit  
into God's new creation**

**and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood.**

**We are all one in Christ Jesus.**

**With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you  
as a member of the family of Christ.**

*The pastor addresses the congregation:*

Members of the household of God,  
I commend this person to your love and care.

Do all in your power to increase his faith,  
confirm his hope, and perfect him in love.

*The congregation responds:*

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you  
and we welcome you in Christian love.**

**As members together with you  
in the body of Christ  
and in this congregation  
of The United Methodist Church,  
we renew our covenant  
faithfully to participate  
in the ministries of the Church**

**by our prayers, our presence,  
our gifts, our service and our witness,  
that in everything God may be glorified  
through Jesus Christ.**

The God of all grace,  
who has called us to eternal glory in Christ,  
establish you and strengthen you  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
that you may live in grace and peace. Amen

### **FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

**Exodus 20:1-17(CEB)**

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

You must have no other gods before me.

Do not make an idol for yourself—no form whatsoever—of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. Do not bow down to them or worship them, because I, the LORD your God, am a passionate God. I punish children for their parents' sins even to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me. But I am loyal and gracious to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Do not use the LORD your God's name as if it were of no significance; the LORD won't forgive anyone who uses his name that way.

Remember the Sabbath day and treat it as holy. Six days you may work and do all your tasks, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. Do not do any work on it—not you, your sons or daughters, your male or female servants, your animals, or the immigrant who is living with you. Because the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them in six days, but rested on the seventh day. That is why the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Honor your father and your mother so that your life will be long on the fertile land that the LORD your God is giving you.

Do not kill.

Do not commit adultery.

Do not steal.

Do not testify falsely against your neighbor.

Do not desire and try to take your neighbor's house. Do not desire and try to take your neighbor's wife, male or female servant, ox, donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.

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

**Lord, sometimes we have difficulty hearing the story of Jesus cleansing the Temple of those who would lie, cheat, and steal. We always want Jesus to be patient, meek, and mild. But there are many times when bold action is required to cleanse the cancer of greed and avarice from our lives. Lord, help us to remember that Jesus' patient words often fell upon deaf ears. Remind us that we need to be bold in our faith; first examining our lives and clearing out the pain, greed and fear. Replace our anxieties with confidence in your all-sustaining love and grace. Enable us to put our service to you and your people above our selfishness. As we reach out to others in need, remind us that we also stand in need of your mercy; for we ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

**John 2:13-22(CEB)**

It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple those who were selling cattle, sheep, and doves, as well as those involved in exchanging currency sitting there. He made a whip from ropes and chased them all out of the temple, including the cattle and the sheep. He scattered the coins and overturned the tables of those who exchanged currency. He said to the dove sellers, "Get these things out of here! Don't make my Father's house a place of business." His disciples remembered that it is written, *Passion for your house consumes me*.

Then the Jewish leaders asked him, "By what authority are you doing these things? What miraculous sign will you show us?"

Jesus answered, "Destroy this temple and in three days I'll raise it up."

The Jewish leaders replied, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and you will raise it up in three days?" But the temple Jesus was talking about was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered what he had said, and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

## **MESSAGE**

**"Making Space for What Matters the Sacraments"**

**Rev. Terry McDorman**

## **HYMN**

***"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"***

**(UMH # 402)**

1. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart. In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

2. Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart. In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

3. Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart. In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

4 Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart. In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

### **INVITATION TO SHARE**

*As we continue our journey of faith, we are invited to spread the Good News through our generosity to others. Amen.*

### **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 hope, you have called us to walk a journey of faith. Sometimes we follow closely. Occasionally, we wander off the path to explore something new that has caught our eye; and often we forget the journey all together. Then there are times when, in fear, we want to stop moving at all, and we cower in our uncertainty. May the offering we receive this morning remind us of why we are on the journey. May it be a reaffirmation of our trust in the one who leads and encourages us. May it be used to shine light in the dark places, so that others will follow on the journey as well. In Christ's Holy name, we pray. Amen.**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We are yours, O God.**

Bless the Lord!  
**God's holy name be praised!**

Praised in heaven, praised in earth,  
praised throughout your creation  
is your name, Holy Triune God.

From generation to generation,  
**your people rejoice in your Name.**

Your give your commandments to make us holy.  
**You enact and preserve your righteousness as we live them.**

So with prophets, leaders, and faithful people,  
**we, with all creation, cry “Holy!”**

**Holy, Holy, Holy,  
Lord God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is Christ who comes in your name!  
Hosanna in the highest!**

Blessed are you, Jesus Christ,  
Word made flesh.  
You are the fullness of the image of God,  
showing what it means to fulfill God’s law  
through perfect love  
of God and every neighbor,  
especially those we refuse to treat as neighbor.

**Blessed are you, Jesus Christ.**

Blessed are you for coming among us  
and for offering yourself to us  
in this holy meal  
to fill our hungry and erring souls,  
and to empower us to break free from Satan’s lies  
and follow where you lead,  
living your commands.

With your first disciples, on the night of your betrayal into death,  
you took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it, saying:  
Take and eat this, my body given for you.

Then you took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it, saying:  
Drink this, my blood of the new covenant for you.

Even so, here and now, come, Holy Spirit.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Come upon these gifts and upon us.  
Make them be for us Christ's body and blood,  
that we who receive them may be for all  
the body of Christ enlivened by his blood.

Come, Holy Spirit.  
**Make us one.**

Come, Holy Spirit.  
**Unite us with you.**

Come, Holy Spirit.  
**Revive us!**

Dwell in us and teach us to be faithful  
and to become holy, as we await that day  
when we shall see Christ as he is  
at the feast of new creation.

To Christ, to you, and to the All-Merciful Creator,  
One God, living and true,  
be all praise, and honor, and glory  
now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

All are invited to come forward, take a piece of bread & dip the bread into the juice.

## **MUSICAL REFLECTION**

## **CLOSING PRAYER (unison)**

**Jesus, thank you! You have fed us with your flesh that in our flesh we may perform your works, and even greater works than these to the glory of God and the honor of your name. By the power of the Holy Spirit, continue in us what has begun today that we may grow in faithful service and holiness all the days of our lives. Amen.**

## **\*CLOSING HYMN**

***“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”***

**(UMH # 404)**

Refrain:

Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

1. Upon the mountain, my Lord spoke, out his mouth came fire and smoke.

All around me looks so shine, asked my Lord if all was mine.

Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

2. Jordan River runs right cold, chills the body, but not the soul.

Ain't but one train on this track, runs to heaven and right back.

Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

## **\*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: 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**

Mon. Mar 04 6:30 pm United Women of Faith; Fellowship Hall  
Sun Mar 10 Daylight Saving Time Begins  
Sun Mar 10 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. Mar 10 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service  
Sun Mar 17 7:00 am UMM Breakfast; Fellowship Hall  
Sun Mar 17 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. Mar 17 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service  
Sun Mar 24 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. Mar 24 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service—165<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
Sun. Mar 24 11:00 am 165<sup>th</sup> 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

## **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

Mar 03 Neal Stombaugh

## **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.