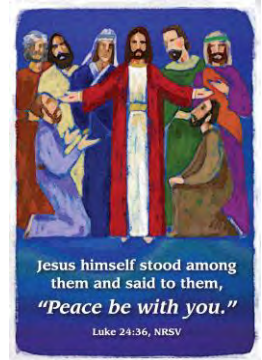


**Macon United Methodist Church**  
**190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133**  
**Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com**  
**April 14, 2024** **Third Sunday of Easter**

### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

“Everything you do or say should be done to obey Jesus your Lord”  
(Colossians 3:17)



### **RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL:**

### **PRELUDE**

### **GATHERING**

**Words of welcome and announcements**

### **\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

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

**L:** Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before Christ, our Redeemer—

**P:** **Who was anointed by the spirit of God to bring good news to the poor.**

**L:** Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before Christ, our Redeemer—

**P:** **Who was crucified by the keepers of order for heeding the summons of God.**

**L:** Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before Christ, our Redeemer—

**P:** **Who baptizes us with the Holy Spirit for bringing the reign of God to earth.**

**A:** Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before Christ, our Redeemer!

#### **\*OPENING HYMN**

***“Great is Thy Faithfulness”***

**(UMH # 140)**

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever will be. Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten

thousand beside! Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

### **OPENING PRAYER (unison)**

**God of love and light, we come as witnesses of your glory and faithfulness, amazed to discover your transformative love. God, we desire for you to abide within us, and for your grace to be revealed anew daily. Be with us and awaken within us the call to love one another, in the way it was made real through Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

### **COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

Let us lift our prayers in thoughts of praise.

### **SILENT PRAYER**

Let us share our doubts with God.

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)**

### **FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

**Acts 3:12-19 (CEB)**

Seeing this, Peter addressed the people: “You Israelites, why are you amazed at this? Why are you staring at us as if we made him walk by our own power or piety? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of our ancestors—has glorified his servant Jesus. This is the one you handed over and denied in Pilate’s presence, even though he had already decided to release him. You rejected the holy and righteous one, and asked that a murderer be released to you instead. You killed the author of life, the very one whom God raised from the dead. We are witnesses of this. His name itself has made this man strong. That is, because of faith in Jesus’ name, God has strengthened this man whom you see and know. The faith that comes through Jesus gave him complete health right before your eyes.

“Brothers and sisters, I know you acted in ignorance. So did your rulers. But this is how God fulfilled what he foretold through all the prophets: that his Christ would suffer. Change your hearts and lives! Turn back to God so that your sins may be wiped away.

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

**Would we be counted among the doubters hiding in the shadow cast by that cruel cross? Or, when challenged, like Peter openly deny you? There are times, Lord when doubts assail and the distance between us seems to increase. There are times, Lord when sin has its hold, like a barrier between us that will not move. Who is there we can turn to when we feel so overwhelmed? Who can roll away the stone and reveal the empty tomb? No-one but you, Jesus, no-one but you!**

## **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

**Luke 24:36b-48 (CEB)**

While they were saying these things, Jesus himself stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” They were terrified and afraid. They thought they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you startled? Why are doubts arising in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet. It’s really me! Touch me and see, for a ghost doesn’t have flesh and bones like you see I have.” As he said this, he showed them his hands and feet. Because they were wondering and questioning in the midst of their happiness, he said to them, “Do you have anything to eat?” They gave him a piece of baked fish. Taking it, he ate it in front of them.

Jesus said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law from Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. He said to them, “This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and a change of heart and life for the forgiveness of sins must be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

**MESSAGE      “Peace Be with You--Reflections on the Cross”      Pastor Terry**

**HYMN                      “*Make Me a Channel of Thy Peace*”                      (FWS #2171)**

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred let me bring your love  
Where there is injury, your pardon Lord, and where there is doubt true faith in You.

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is despair in life let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness only light, and where there's sadness ever joy

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console,  
To be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
in giving to ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console,  
To be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is despair in life let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness only light, and where there's sadness ever joy

**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)**

Gracious Provider, we gather with hearts filled with gratitude for the love and light you've shown us. Your word reminds us that true love is seen in the self-sacrifice of Christ. As we offer our tithes and offerings, we are reminded of the importance of generosity and stewardship in every aspect of our lives. May these gifts be a reflection of the love we have experienced in Christ and our commitment to steward them faithfully for the work of your kingdom. Use these offerings to bring justice, mercy, and hope to a world in need. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

**SPECIAL MUSIC****Julie Donnell and Maureen McDorman*****"All Creatures of Our God and King"*****(Arrangement by: James Koerts)****CLOSING PRAYER (unison)**

Almighty God, we bless you for our lives, we give you praise for your abundant mercy and grace we receive. We thank you for your faithfulness even though we are not that faithful to you. Lord Jesus, we ask you to give us all around peace in our mind, body, soul and spirit. We want you to heal and remove everything that is causing stress, grief, and sorrow in our lives. Please guide our path through life and make our enemies be at peace with us. Let your peace reign in our family, at our place of work, businesses and everything we lay our hands on. Let your angels of peace go ahead of us when we go out and stay by our side when we return. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

**\*CLOSING HYMN*****"Let There Be Peace On Earth"*****(UMH # 431)**

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me;  
let there be peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
With God as our creator, children all are we. Let us walk with each other  
in perfect harmony. Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow: to take each moment and live  
each moment in peace eternally. Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

**\*BENEDICTION**

## POSTLUDE:

*Special thankyou to all those that assisted with worship today.*

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 36**

**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.*

## KILZER 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**Charlie and Shirley Kilzer are celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with an Open House, Sunday, April 14, 2024, from 1:00 to 3:30 PM at Imboden Creek.**

## RICE MEALS

**Macon UMC would like to host another rice-meal packing event this summer. The congregation has already contributed \$650 toward the required \$1,350. Donations are requested to cover the remainder.**

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Sun Apr 21 7:00 am UMM Breakfast; Fellowship Hall  
Sun Apr 21 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. Apr 21 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service  
Sun Apr 28 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. Apr 28 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service  
Sun May 5 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. May 5 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Apr 14 Charlie and Shirly Kilzer Apr 14 Susannah Moyer  
Apr 19 Devin Forden

## MISSIONS



Items requested by the food pantry are: Any kind of cereal and/or oatmeal, canned fruit and vegetables, canned soup, pasta sauce, and shampoo. Cash donations are always welcome.