

**Macon United Methodist Church**  
**190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133**  
**Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com**  
**May 12, 2024** **Ascension Sunday, Seventh Sunday of Easter**

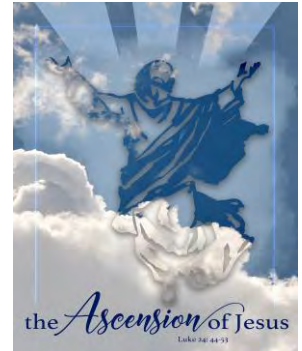
### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

*Celebrate, dear friends! God's Spirit will be coming to you to give you hope and courage. (Barbara Hoover)*

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

**Inviting the entire community to join in worship**

### **PRELUDE**



### **GATHERING**

**Words of welcome and announcements**

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

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

**L:** Welcome! We are gathered here to celebrate the great promise!

**P:** **Our hearts are ready to receive this good news.**

**L:** Jesus asked all of his friends to live lives reflecting the love of God.

**P:** **We are numbered among these friends!**

**L:** Open your hearts today. Hear God's special word just for you!

**P:** **Lord, help us to be ready to receive your word and to live in your love. AMEN.**

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

***"Crown Him with many Crowns"***

**(UMH #327)**

1. Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne,  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

2. Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,  
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.  
His glories now we sing, who died, and rose on high,  
who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

3. Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways  
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise.  
His reign shall know no end, and round his pierced feet  
fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

4. Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,  
those wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;  
thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

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

**Gracious Lord, this morning we come to you with so many things on our hearts. Keep our hearts and our minds open to your words of healing and of hope. Give us spirits of courage for all the times ahead. We ask your blessing on all those this day who are afflicted with illness and debilitating diseases, for those who mourn, for those who feel lost and alienated from family and from friends. Be with these dear people. Help them to feel your comforting and restoring presence. Give to us also, Lord, a spirit of peace and joy that we might live your love through our attitudes and actions. In Jesus' Name we pray. 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 1:1-11 (CEB)**

Theophilus, the first scroll I wrote concerned everything Jesus did and taught from the beginning, right up to the day when he was taken up into heaven. Before he was taken up, working in the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus instructed the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed them that he was alive with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days, speaking to them about God's kingdom. While they were eating together, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what the Father had promised. He said, "This is what you heard from me: John baptized with water, but in only a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

As a result, those who had gathered together asked Jesus, "Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now?"

Jesus replied, "It isn't for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority. Rather, you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

After Jesus said these things, as they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going away and as they were staring toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood next to them. They said, "Galileans,

why are you standing here, looking toward heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you saw him go into heaven.”

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

**Patient God, it hasn't been easy for us to be disciples or witnesses to your love. We get caught in traps of anger, impatience and fear. Our words and spirits become cynical and jaded. Yet, at all times, you are with us, guiding and guarding us. On this day in which we celebrate the ascension of Jesus into heaven, we are reminded that we are not being left without guidance. The promise of the Spirit is given and in that promise we have hope and courage to become true disciples. Forgive us when we forget that! Forgive us when we act as though you didn't care about us or about this world. We are called to be those who live the faith of hope and reconciliation, of courage and understanding. Lift us up when we have fallen, guide our hearts when we speak, for it is in the name of our risen Savior Jesus that we ask these things. Amen.**

### **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

**Luke 24:44-53 (CEB)**

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. Look, I'm sending to you what my Father promised, but you are to stay in the city until you have been furnished with heavenly power.”

He led them out as far as Bethany, where he lifted his hands and blessed them. As he blessed them, he left them and was taken up to heaven. They worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem overwhelmed with joy. And they were continuously in the temple praising God.

### **MESSAGE**

**“Ascension into a Kingdom”**

**Pastor Terry**

### **HYMN**

**““He Lives”**

**(UMH # 310)**

1. I serve a risen Savior, he's in the world today;  
I know that he is living, whatever foes may say.  
I see his hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer,  
and just the time I need him, he's always near.  
He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.

He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.

2. In all the world around me I see his loving care,  
and though my heart grows weary, I never will despair.  
I know that he is leading through all the stormy blast;  
the day of his appearing will come at last.  
He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.  
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.

3. Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing  
eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!  
The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find;  
none other is so loving, so good and kind  
He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.  
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.

## **INVITATION TO SHARE**

Filled with the hope to which Christ has called us, let us lay our gifts and offerings at the foot of the cross.

## **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)**

**With joy and confidence in your abiding love and presence with us, we present these gifts, tokens of our lives, as an offering for service in and to this world which you have entrusted to us. Bless these gifts and bless all those who place their trust in you. Amen.**

## **MUSICAL REFLECTION**

### **CLOSING PRAYER (unison)**

**Dear Lord, we are so fortunate to be gathered here this morning to hear the good news of the promised Spirit of Truth. We celebrate that we are a community of people, each at a different point on his or her faith journey, each seeking your healing love and mercy. We are called to witness to the good news of Jesus who taught us about God's love for each one of us and for God's magnificent creation. But there are those for whom this word seems a distant hope or experience. They struggle with the difficulties of everyday living, with addictions, with illness, with alienation. Help us to bring the good news to them in gentle kindness and compassionate understanding. Let our actions and attitudes reflect all that Jesus taught us. For just a moment we take a deep breath and remember those we love who are in difficulty.**

### **\*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**

**(Please be seated and silent during the Postlude)**

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

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 44**

**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.*

## **PASTORAL CARE**

**Did you know that the church has a ministry of pastoral care to serve those that reside in retirement and/or multi-level care facilities? If you or someone you know might benefit from a visit or phone call, please let the church office know so that contact can be made.**

## **DEDICATION OF CHURCH BENCH**

**Next Sunday is Pentecost. Please wear something red as we shall celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. Immediately after worship, we shall move outside to dedicate the new church bench to the people of Macon.**

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE**

Sun May 19 7:00 am UMM Breakfast, Fellowship Hall  
Sun May 19 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. May 19 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service  
Sun. May 19 11:00 am Dedication of Church Bench  
Wed May 22 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting; Pastor's office  
Wed May 22 7:00 pm Administrative Meeting; Pastor's office  
Sun May 26 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. May 26 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service  
Sun June 2 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. June 2 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service  
Sun. June 23 11:00 am Outreach Committee Meeting; pastor's office

## **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

## **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.