

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com
May 26, 2024 **Peace with Justice Sunday**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.” Winston Churchill

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**

Hear this mystery: we are all the children and heirs of the Holy One. Welcome your brothers and sisters with the peace that God has given us through Christ Jesus.

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)**

In a world filled with violence and war,
we gather together to celebrate the promise of peace.
In a world filled with tyranny and oppression,
we gather together to celebrate the promise of justice for all.
In a world filled with hunger and greed,
we gather together to celebrate the promise of plenty for all.
Our hope is in the name of the Almighty God,
the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of heaven and earth.

***OPENING HYMN**

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

(FWS #2145)

1. I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul. I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul.

2. I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul. I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.



3. I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean in my soul. I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean in my soul.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

God of ages past and hope to come, we offer our gratitude for those who have gone before, we offer our hope for those yet to come. As we honor the past, help us dream of a future of love and peace. Comfort us in our sorrow. Strengthen us for the journey. Guide us on the path of justice. Help us live as your people, that others may see and remember your wisdom and truth living in us. In Christ's 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

Galatians 5:13-26 (CEB)

You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only don't let this freedom be an opportunity to indulge your selfish impulses, but serve each other through love. All the Law has been fulfilled in a single statement: *Love your neighbor as yourself*. But if you bite and devour each other, be careful that you don't get eaten up by each other!

I say be guided by the Spirit and you won't carry out your selfish desires. A person's selfish desires are set against the Spirit, and the Spirit is set against one's selfish desires. They are opposed to each other, so you shouldn't do whatever you want to do. But if you are being led by the Spirit, you aren't under the Law. The actions that are produced by selfish motives are obvious, since they include sexual immorality, moral corruption, doing whatever feels good, idolatry, drug use and casting spells, hate, fighting, obsession, losing your temper, competitive opposition, conflict, selfishness, group rivalry, jealousy, drunkenness, partying, and other things like that. I warn you as I have already warned you, that those who do these kinds of things won't inherit God's kingdom.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against things like this. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the self with its passions and its desires.

If we live by the Spirit, let's follow the Spirit. Let's not become arrogant, make each other angry, or be jealous of each other.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of every nation, as we remember those that gave their life for our sake, let us be stirred to action in their memory. We confess that we have not done all that is possible to promote peace and justice in our world. We have not loved our neighbors, let alone our enemies. Forgive us for failing to live up to your commandments. Empower us to work for your Kingdom in this world, and welcome us by your grace into your Kingdom in the next. Amen. (Rev. Robb McCoy)

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 2:4 (CEB)

God will judge between the nations, and settle disputes of mighty nations. Then they will beat their swords into iron plows and their spears into pruning tools. Nation will not take up sword against nation; they will no longer learn how to make war.

MESSAGE

“Turning Bullets into Food”

Pastor Terry

HYMN

“Hymn of Promise”

(UMH # 707)

1. In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
2. There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
3. In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity; in our doubt there is believing; in
our life, eternity. In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory, unrevealed until its
season, something God alone can see.

UNISON PRAYER

Our holy and gracious God, help us to remember. Help us to remember the sacrifices bravely made in which one has given life for another and for all. Help us to remember those that stand in the breach where there is trouble and in which conflict threatens to undo your good creation. Help us to remember that we look for the day when every sword will be replaced by a plow, that all may be fed and live in your peace. Forgive us every sin that makes for division and for war, and bring us all into your kingdom on earth as in heaven. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

INVITATION TO SHARE

Through the miracle of new life given to each of us, we have been adopted into the family of God. More than this, we are heirs to the blessings of God's power, wisdom, and love. So let us share our bounty with others, that we may welcome more into our family.

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)**

It is only because of Jesus Christ that we are bold enough to call you Father and Mother, O Sovereign of the Universe. We do so now, to remind ourselves of our many sisters and brothers, your many children, who need hope and care. Use our gifts to reach others with the story of your great love for our world. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

Gracious Lord, we dream of a world free of poverty and oppression, and we yearn for a world free of vengeance and violence. We pray for your peace. When our hearts ache for the victims of war and oppression, help us to remember that you healed people simply by touching them..., and give us faith in our ability to comfort and heal bodies and minds and spirits that have been broken by violence. When the injustice of this world seems too much for us to handle, help us to remember that you fed five thousand people with only five loaves of bread and two fish..., and give us hope that what we have to offer will turn out to be enough, too. When fear of the power and opinions of others tempts us not to speak up for the least among us, help us to remember that you dared to turn over the tables of money changers..., and give us the courage to risk following you without counting the cost. When we feel ourselves fill with anger at those who are violent and oppressive help us remember that you prayed for those who killed you..., and give us compassion for our enemies, too. When we tell ourselves that we have given all we can to bring peace to this world, help us to remember your sacrifice..., and give us the miracle of losing a little more of ourselves in serving you and our neighbors. Walk with us, Lord, as we answer your call to be peacemakers. Increase our

compassion, our generosity and our hospitality for the least of your children. Give us the courage, the patience, the serenity, the self-honesty and the gentleness of spirit that are needed in a world filled with turmoil and terror. Amen.

--written by Jack Knox, pastor of Salem (Oregon) Mennonite Church

***CLOSING HYMN**

“America the Beautiful”

(UMH # 696)

1. O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain;
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

2. O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine.

3. O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.

MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

(Please be seated and silent during the Postlude)

Special thankyou to all those that assisted with worship today.

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 42

ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING

If you are interested in becoming an Emergency Response Team member to assist UMCOR when disasters strike, there is a training session coming up very soon.

It is Wednesday, June 5th at Peoria First UMC. All the details, including registration information, can be found at this link.

<https://www.igrc.org/calendardetail/ert-basic-training-18169757>

FINANCIALREPORT

Income for January through April is \$47,522; expense is \$40,272.

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.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Sun June 2 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. June 2 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun June 9 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. June 9 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun June 16 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. June 16 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun June 23 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. June 23 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. June 23 11:00 am Outreach Committee Meeting; pastor's office
Sun June 30 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. June 30 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sat. Aug. 03 1:00 pm Rice Packing

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

May 27 McKynlee Kapchinski

MISSIONS



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