

**Macon United Methodist Church**  
**190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133**  
**Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com**  
**July 21, 2024** **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

## **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

*"Every time you find some humor in a difficult situation, you win." Snoopy*

## **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)**

All around us are pressures, both for work and for leisure.

**Even our meal times are rushed as we dash from one activity to another.**

You need a time to rest and reflect on God's word.

**We need a place in which the sweetness of God's love can be poured upon us.**

Let us sing together of such a quiet place.

**Cong: singing verse 1 of "Come and Find the Quiet Center" (FWS #2128)**

Enter into the time of peace.

**AMEN.**

## **\*OPENING HYMN**

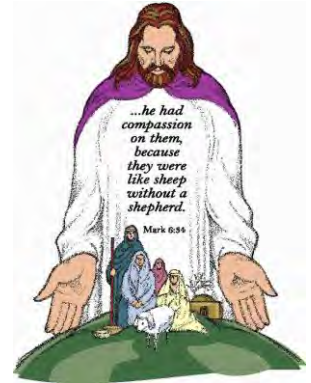
***"Help Us Accept Each Other"***

**(UMH # 560)**

1. Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us; teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace. Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe: we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

2. Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith. Teach us to care for people, for all - not just for some, to love them as we find them or as they may become.

3. Let your acceptance change us so that we may be moved in living situations to do the truth in love; to practice your acceptance until we know by heart the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.



4. Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need, who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread, we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on: renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

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

**Lord, we gather here this morning with lives that are filled with activity and movement. We rush from one thing to another as though we are going to run out of time to accomplish everything. Help us to let go of the hectic times and the stresses and find our rest in you. Relax our spirits and refresh our souls. Remind us that there will always be things to do and places to go, but that we need the rest of spirit that you provide. 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**

**Ephesians 2:11-22 (CEB)**

So remember that once you were Gentiles by physical descent, who were called “uncircumcised” by Jews who are physically circumcised. At that time you were without Christ. You were aliens rather than citizens of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of God’s promise. In this world you had no hope and no God. But now, thanks to Christ Jesus, you who once were so far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Christ is our peace. He made both Jews and Gentiles into one group. With his body, he broke down the barrier of hatred that divided us. He canceled the detailed rules of the Law so that he could create one new person out of the two groups, making peace. He reconciled them both as one body to God by the cross, which ended the hostility to God.

When he came, he announced the good news of peace to you who were far away from God and to those who were near. We both have access to the Father through Christ by the one Spirit. So now you are no longer strangers and aliens. Rather, you are fellow citizens with God’s people, and you belong to God’s household. As God’s household, you are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. The whole building is joined together in him, and it grows up into a temple that is dedicated to the Lord. Christ is building you into a place where God lives through the Spirit.

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

**Patient God, we wait all year for the summer months when we can rest and relax. Our schedules change from the demands of weekly living to times which are supposed to be devoted to leisure. But we have redefined leisure to mean a flurry of activities. We need some time to rest, to sit quietly and listen to the beautiful sounds of the world. Forgive us when we are determined to crowd every moment of our lives with activity. Help us to find a quiet center with you where we can just relax and not try to get everything done as though life was some sort of a contest. Give us peace for a little while. Refresh our souls so that we can truly serve you, not out of exhaustion but out of enthusiasm. Be with us this day, for we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

## **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

**Mark 6:30-34 (CEB)**

The apostles returned to Jesus and told him everything they had done and taught. Many people were coming and going, so there was no time to eat. He said to the apostles, "Come by yourselves to a secluded place and rest for a while." They departed in a boat by themselves for a deserted place.

Many people saw them leaving and recognized them, so they ran ahead from all the cities and arrived before them. When Jesus arrived and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Then he began to teach them many things.

## **MESSAGE**

**"Taking Time to Be a Person"**

**Rev. Terry McDorman**

## **HYMN**

***"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"***

**(UMH # 557)**

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.
3. We share each other's woes, our mutual burdens bear;  
and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.
4. When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain;  
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

## **INVITATION TO SHARE**

As we consider the all the peoples of the world; all the business, all the hurriedness; all the time spent doing things that really do not matter; let us offer our gifts for the benefit of others whom, like us, need to rest in the comfort that is Jesus Christ.

## **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)**

Glorious God, we like to practice random acts of kindness. Your Word even confirms that we further your kingdom when we show kindness and compassion to another person. We pray that Jesus' life and teaching may be our example for sharing intentionally our talents, prayers, time, and offerings. We humbly give this offering as an expression of our faith. Amen.

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

**Isaac Hunt, Amy Conder, and Grace Moyer**

### **CLOSING PRAYER (unison)      Litany for Christian Unity      (UMH # 556)**

Let us ask the Lord to strengthen in all Christians faith in Christ, the Savior of the world. Listen to us, O Lord. Let us ask the Lord to sustain and guide Christians with his gifts along the way to full unity. Listen to us, O Lord. Let us ask the Lord for the gift of unity and peace for the world. Listen to us, O Lord. Let us pray. We ask you, O Lord, for the gifts of your Spirit. Enable us to penetrate the depth of the whole truth, and grant that we may share with others the goods you have put at our disposal. Teach us to overcome divisions. Send us your Spirit to lead to full unity your sons and daughters in full charity, in obedience to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

### **\*CLOSING HYMN**

***"We Are the Church"***

**(UMH # 558)**

Chorus

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!  
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes we're the church together!

1. The church is not a building, The church is not a steeple  
The church is not a resting place, The church is a people.  
I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!  
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes we're the church together!

2. We're many kinds of people, with many kinds of faces  
All colors and all ages too, from all times and places.  
I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!  
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes we're the church together!

3. Sometimes the church is marching, sometimes it's bravely burning,  
Sometimes it's riding sometimes hiding, always it's learning.  
I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!  
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes we're the church together!

4. And when the people gather, there's singing and there's praying,  
There's laughing and there's crying sometimes, all of it saying:  
I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!  
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes we're the church together!

5. At Pentecost some people Received the Holy Spirit  
And told the Good News Through the world to all who would hear it.  
I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!  
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes we're the church together!

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

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

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 62**

**ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70**

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

*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.*

## **RICE PACKING**

Rice packing for Midwest Missions is Saturday, August 3, from 1:00 to 3:00pm.

## **PICNIC IN THE PARK**

Church Picnic in the Park on Front Street is August 11, 2024 at 11:30 am with church service and praise music. Bring a picnic lunch or purchase lunch at Whit's End.

## **MENTORING YOUTH**

Mentoring the youth is an opportunity to be a direct influence upon the life of the young people of our community. Weekly mentoring, listening and encouraging a youth at the elementary school in Blue Mound. Takes just one hour per week to be a positive influence in a life without many. It all takes place at the school and you will need to undergo a background check as school children are involved. To sign up, contact Christine Cutler or Pastor Terry.

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE**

Wed July 24 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting; Pastor's office  
Wed July 24 7:00 pm Administrative Council Meeting; Pastor's office  
Sun July 28 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. July 28 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service  
Sat. Aug. 03 1:00 pm Rice Packing  
Sun. Aug. 04 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. Aug. 04 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service  
Sun. Aug. 11 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. Aug. 11 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service  
Sun. Aug. 11 11:30 am Picnic and Church in the Park  
Sun. Aug. 18 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. Aug. 18 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

## **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

July 23 Ross and Susannah Moyer      July 27 Randy Wells

## **MISSIONS**



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