

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com
July 28, 2024 **Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“Don't worry, be happy. In every life we have some trouble. But when you worry you make it double. Don't worry, be happy.” Bobby McFerrin

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL *offering happiness to all that hear it!*

PRELUDE

GATHERING **Words of welcome and announcements**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)**

Turn your hearts to God.

What shall we do when we are worried?

Place your trust in God's love and mercy.

What shall we do when our lives seem too crowded and busy?

Take time for the refreshing words of God's love for you.

Open our hearts, O Lord, and make us ready for your words to us. AMEN.

***OPENING HYMN** **“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”** **(UMH # 117)**

1. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

2. Under the shadow of thy throne, still may we dwell secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

3. Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,
from everlasting, thou art God, to endless years the same.

4. A thousand ages, in thy sight, are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night, before the rising sun.

5. Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all who breathe away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.



6. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come;
be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Lord, we come into your presence this morning with the busy schedules of summer activities crowding our lives. Our souls need to be fed and yet we seem powerless to find nurture and feeding that will sustain us. Open our ears, our eyes, and our hearts this day to hear your words of hope and healing for us. We ask this in Jesus' name. 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 3:14-21 (CEB)

This is why I kneel before the Father. Every ethnic group in heaven or on earth is recognized by him. I ask that he will strengthen you in your inner selves from the riches of his glory through the Spirit. I ask that Christ will live in your hearts through faith. As a result of having strong roots in love, I ask that you'll have the power to grasp love's width and length, height and depth, together with all believers. I ask that you'll know the love of Christ that is beyond knowledge so that you will be filled entirely with the fullness of God.

Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us; glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus for all generations, forever and always. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

You know how we are, Lord. We say that we will take time to refresh our spirits and our souls and then we quickly crowd our lives with activities to the point of exhaustion. We turn to you for feeding and nurture, asking you to give us something to sustain us through our times. We even are willing to tell you what we have, but when we look closely, we discover that we bring so little to you. Take what we have, our gifts and our needs. Heal and forgive us when we boldly disobey your word. Remind us that you have given to us all that we need to serve you in this world. The world abounds with your miracles of love and hope. Open our eyes to see them and our hearts to know that these are from you and not of our own making. Heal and restore us to your everlasting love. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 6:1-21 (CEB)

After this Jesus went across the Galilee Sea (that is, the Tiberias Sea). A large crowd followed him, because they had seen the miraculous signs he had done among the sick. Jesus went up a mountain and sat there with his disciples. It was nearly time for Passover, the Jewish festival.

Jesus looked up and saw the large crowd coming toward him. He asked Philip, “Where will we buy food to feed these people?” Jesus said this to test him, for he already knew what he was going to do.

Philip replied, “More than a half year’s salary worth of food wouldn’t be enough for each person to have even a little bit.”

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said, “A youth here has five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that for a crowd like this?”

Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass there. They sat down, about five thousand of them. Then Jesus took the bread. When he had given thanks, he distributed it to those who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish, each getting as much as they wanted. When they had plenty to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather up the leftover pieces, so that nothing will be wasted.” So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves that had been left over by those who had eaten.

When the people saw that he had done a miraculous sign, they said, “This is truly the prophet who is coming into the world.” Jesus understood that they were about to come and force him to be their king, so he took refuge again, alone on a mountain.

When evening came, Jesus’ disciples went down to the lake. They got into a boat and were crossing the lake to Capernaum. It was already getting dark and Jesus hadn’t come to them yet. The water was getting rough because a strong wind was blowing. When the wind had driven them out for about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the water. He was approaching the boat and they were afraid. He said to them, “I Am. Don’t be afraid.” Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and just then the boat reached the land where they had been heading.

MESSAGE “Aren’t You Worried?--Would it Help?” Rev. Terry McDorman

HYMN “Come and Find the Quiet Center” (FWS #2128)

1. Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

2. Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base,
making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,

raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

3. In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!

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INVITATION TO SHARE

As Jesus took little and fed many, you are invited to give what you can to provide for the many.

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 Lord, you have lavished upon us the riches of your glory. As Jesus fed the masses, providing enough for all with more than enough left over, so you have fed us and provided for us. You shelter us, care for us, and bring us safely to each stop on our journey. As you have given to us out of your abundance, we return our offering to you with praise and thanksgiving. In the name of the Savior, we pray. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Randy Wells, Vocalist

CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

What powerful images the scriptures present today, Lord, of Jesus feeding the thousands of people who have gathered. The Gospel lesson tells us that with the small offering of five barley loaves and two fish, he offered sustenance to the many. We wonder about this and have our doubts that such a thing could really happen in today's world. We see the big picture, the thousands of dollars that are spent on trivial things, but we do not hear about the small wonders that are performed everywhere in your name as good people reach out to those in need. Take away our blindness and our doubt. Surround us with a strong faith that, when we hear the words of healing, we may confidently know that you are in the midst of all our lives. Heal our wounded spirits. Restore in us a spirit of joy. As we have lifted

names of dear ones in our prayers before you, O God, we ask your healing blessing on each of their lives and situations. We also ask your healing mercies on all areas in which there is strife, oppression, and despair. Comfort your people with your love. Empower your disciples to serve you fully in your world. We ask this in Jesus' name, AMEN.

***CLOSING HYMN** *“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”* (UMH # 133)

1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms; leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.
2. O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms; leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.
3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms; leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Please be seated and silent during the Postlude)

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 40

ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70

Our sincere appreciation to all those that contributed to this worship experience!

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.

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 (Chicken Dinner \$10).

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

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 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
Sun. Aug. 25 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Aug. 25 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Aug. 25 11:00 am Worship Team meeting; Pastor's office

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

July 28	Craig Boggs	July 28	Madilyn Kapchinske
July 29	Marsha and Alan Baker	Aug 01	Lisa Bommersbach

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.