

**Macon United Methodist Church**  
**190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133**  
**Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com**  
**August 18, 2024** **Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY** *“Love is taking a few steps backward maybe even more... to give way to the happiness of the person you love.” Winnie the Pooh*

**RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL**  
**announcing the joy of Christ to the community**

**PRELUDE**

**GATHERING**      **Words of welcome and announcements**

**\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

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

Disciples of Christ, have you come today to receive a good word?

**Yes! We come to receive a good word and blessing to carry with us into the world.**

God blessed Solomon in a dream. Are you ready to dream?

**Yes! We come to dream of God’s blessings we will carry with us into the world.**

God blesses us when we worship together. Are you ready to worship?

**Yes! We come to worship God together as we share in the good word of God’s grace.**

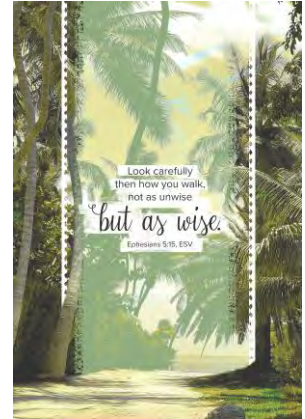
Then, come! Let us worship with rejoicing!

**Praise be to God who gives us wisdom and draws us together as the family of God! Amen.**

**\*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)**

**O God of Consistency, how good it is to hear your Word. How good it is to experience your Word for ourselves! For you are a God who keeps your Word! Close-up God, you sent us Jesus to show us how to match our words with our actions. For Jesus, there could be no “God bless you” without providing actual blessings. For Jesus, there could be no lip service to inclusiveness, but his ministry was to the poor and rich, to the Jew and to the Gentile, to the righteous and to the unrighteous, to the young and to the old, to men and to women. We continue to be honored by the grace that poured from Jesus’ lips and his actions.**

**This Sunday we want to work to be consistent. We want to work to shed that “other face” and just show “one face” to the world. Teach us how to be consistent in all that we say and do. Deliver us from “nice-nastiness.” Take these earthen vessels we call our lives and make us “doers” of your Word. Just as we depend on you, God, let others be able to depend on us. Put in us the desire to be *real*. Make us “Examples of Your Word.” In the name of the One who embraced us and showed us how to embrace the non-embraceable, Jesus Christ, 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**

**Psalms 111 (CEB)**

Praise the LORD! I thank the LORD with all my heart in the company of those who do right in the congregation. The works of the LORD are magnificent; they are treasured by all who desire them. God’s deeds are majestic and glorious. God’s righteousness stands forever. God is famous for his wondrous works. The LORD is full of mercy and compassion. God gives food to those who honor him. God remembers his covenant forever. God proclaimed his powerful deeds to his people and gave them what had belonged to other nations. God’s handiwork is honesty and justice; all God’s rules are trustworthy—they are established always and forever: they are fulfilled with truth and right doing. God sent redemption for his people; God commanded that his covenant last forever. Holy and awesome is God’s name! Fear of the LORD is where wisdom begins; sure knowledge is for all who keep God’s laws. God’s praise lasts forever!

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

**You must shake your head in wonder at our ways, Keeper of the Covenant. How can we say we want wisdom, when we foolishly squander the knowledge we have of your ways? How can we claim to follow you, when we walk the slippery roads of the world not caring where they lead us? How can we desire your great and steadfast love, when the simple seductions of our society are in full view every day? How can you have mercy on such unwise and unfaithful people, Perfect Wisdom? Yet, that is exactly what you do: and our greed turns to gratitude, our pettiness to praise, our tantrums to thanksgiving, as hope and joy become our blessing through the One we call our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.**

## **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

**Ephesians 5:15-20 (CEB)**

So be careful to live your life wisely, not foolishly. Take advantage of every opportunity because these are evil times. Because of this, don't be ignorant, but understand the Lord's will. Don't get drunk on wine, which produces depravity. Instead, be filled with the Spirit in the following ways: speak to each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs; sing and make music to the Lord in your hearts; always give thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **MESSAGE**

**“Heffalumps and Woozles”**

**Rev. Terry McDorman**

## **HYMN**

***“We Are Called”***

**(FWS #2172)**

1. Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!

We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God!

We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly,

We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God!

2. Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!

We are called to be hope for the hopeless

So all hatred and blindness will be no more!

We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly,

We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God!

3. Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!

God will reign and we'll walk with each other

as sisters and brothers united in love!(united in love)

We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly,

We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God!

Source: [Musixmatch](https://www.musixmatch.com)

## **INVITATION TO SHARE**

Holy God, source of all good things, you have blessed your children with many gifts, and each of us can serve and help build your kingdom here on earth. We know at times we have denied our giftedness and dismissed the impact our gifts can have. As we ask you to dedicate our tithes and offerings today, we remind ourselves that you seek not only that we open our wallets, but open our hearts and our whole being to the work of making your love and compassion the norm, not the exception in this world. We pray this in Christ's name. Amen

## **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)**

**Holy God, in this moment of offering, we stand before you, acknowledging your boundless wisdom and unfailing love. As we present our gifts, we also lift our prayers for guidance and understanding. Grant us the wisdom to discern your will and the courage to walk in your ways, following the example set before us by Solomon. Bless these offerings and our lives, so that we may continue to worship you in spirit and truth. Amen.**

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

***“Jericho”***

**Ross and Grace Moyer, Brass Duet**

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

**O Lord, open my eyes to see where you would lead me. Awaken my ears that I would hear your voice guiding me. Inspire my mind that I may comprehend your love for me. Soften my heart that I would offer grace to those I meet. Watch my feet that I would tread upon your kingdom paths. Guard my heart from selfishness that I would give freely. Inspire my words that I may speak of hope and healing. O Lord, I follow you. Amen.**

### **\*CLOSING HYMN**

***“Now Thank We All Our God”***

**(UMH # 102)**

1. Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

2. O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;  
and keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed;  
and free us from all ills, in this world and the next.

3. All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given;  
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven;  
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

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

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 35**

**ATTENDANCE GOAL: 80**

*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](mailto:webmaster.maconumc@gmail.com) to submit updates or additions to the church website.*

### ***“Welcome Back Sunday” is September 15<sup>th</sup>***

This is a special day each year where we take to time out to welcome each other back from all the activities of the summer. It is a day to renew, to reacquaint and to refocus. Worship will be at 10 a.m. followed by a potluck luncheon provided by all of you. It is also a day to bring someone to church with you that has not been here before or it has been a while. A neighbor, a friend, a stranger, someone new to the community. Time to reach out. Offer to bring them and take them back home. **This is our year of Discipleship and this is a great way to kick it off!**

**Worship team meeting today in the Pastor’s office at 11:00am.**

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND 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  
 Sun. Sept. 1 9:00 am Sunday School  
 Sun. Sept. 1 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service  
 Sun. Sept. 8 9:00 am Sunday School  
 Sun. Sept. 8 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service  
 Sun. Sept. 15 9:00 am Sunday School  
 Sun. Sept. 15 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service Welcome Back Sunday

## **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

Aug 20 Leo Bilyeu

Aug 24 Darlene Spires

## **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.

**Macon UMC is collecting canned vegetables for the food pantry for the next two months. Contest between female vs male. Let's have Great Participation!!**