

**Macon United Methodist Church**  
**190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133**  
**Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com**  
**August 25, 2024** **Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

*“The only way you're going to reach places you've never gone is if you trust God's direction to do things you've never done.” — Germany Kent*

**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)**

In the quiet of the morning, as we stir to greet the day...  
**God hears our sighs and gives strength to our spirits.**  
In the busyness of the day, as we work and strive...  
**God goes with us, giving us courage and confidence.**  
In the tiredness of the evening, as we begin to settle down...  
**God is present, refreshing and comforting our souls.**  
In the hush of night, as sleep overcomes our weariness...  
**There is God, watching over us with patient love.**  
Thanks be to God throughout all our days.  
**Amen.**

### **\*OPENING HYMN**      ***“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”***      **(UMH # 154)**

1. All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;  
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.  
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.
  
2. Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, ye ransomed from the fall,  
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.  
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.



3. Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget the wormwood and the gall,  
go spread your trophies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all.  
Go spread your trophies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all.

4. Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball,  
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all.  
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all.

5. Crown him, ye martyrs of your God, who from his altar call;  
extol the Stem of Jesse's Rod, and crown him Lord of all.  
Extol the Stem of Jesse's Rod, and crown him Lord of all.

6. O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.  
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.

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

**Holy Wisdom, you granted Solomon's request for an understanding mind and the knowledge to discern good from evil. Fill us with such understanding and knowledge that we may act as instruments of your loving desire for creation, working with you to transform our conceit into concern for others, our fear into love, our violence into peace, and our brokenness into wholeness. 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 84:1-12 (CEB)**

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord of heavenly forces! My very being longs, even yearns, for the Lord's courtyards. My heart and my body will rejoice out loud to the living God! Yes, the sparrow too has found a home there; the swallow has found herself a nest where she can lay her young beside your altars, Lord of heavenly forces, my king, my God! Those who live in your house are truly happy; they praise you constantly. Those who put their strength in you are truly happy; pilgrimage is in their hearts. As they pass through the Baca Valley, they make it a spring of water. Yes, the early rain covers it with blessings. They go from strength to strength, until they see the supreme God in Zion. Lord God of heavenly forces, hear my prayer; listen closely, Jacob's God! Look at our shield, God; pay close attention to the face of your anointed one! Better is a single day in your courtyards than a thousand days anywhere else! I would prefer to stand outside the entrance of my God's house than live comfortably in the tents of the

wicked! The Lord is a sun and shield; God is favor and glory. The Lord gives—doesn't withhold!—good things to those who walk with integrity. Lord of heavenly forces, those who trust in you are truly happy!

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

**We profess that you are God, O Holy One. We have no other gods, and yet, we do not always serve you with sincerity and faithfulness. Our “other gods” are not the ones of our ancestors—the ones beyond the River, or in Egypt, or of the Amorites. We struggle with “other gods” here and now who seek to fulfill us by consumerism and with self-importance. We hear gods who instill in us such fear of our enemies that we seek power from weapons of destruction. Help us, O God, to find fulfillment in you. Forgive us that we are skeptical of love's transforming power. We repent of our sins and turn our hearts again to you. Amen.**

### **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

**Ephesians 6:10-20 (CEB)**

Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and his powerful strength. Put on God's armor so that you can make a stand against the tricks of the devil. We aren't fighting against human enemies but against rulers, authorities, forces of cosmic darkness, and spiritual powers of evil in the heavens. Therefore, pick up the full armor of God so that you can stand your ground on the evil day and after you have done everything possible to still stand. So stand with the belt of truth around your waist, justice as your breastplate, and put shoes on your feet so that you are ready to spread the good news of peace. Above all, carry the shield of faith so that you can extinguish the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is God's word. Offer prayers and petitions in the Spirit all the time. Stay alert by hanging in there and praying for all believers. As for me, pray that when I open my mouth, I'll get a message that confidently makes this secret plan of the gospel known. I'm an ambassador in chains for the sake of the gospel. Pray so that the Lord will give me the confidence to say what I have to say.

### **MESSAGE “What Are You Going to Do About It?” Rev. Terry McDorman**

### **HYMN**

***“O God of Every Nation”***

**(UMH # 435)**

1. O God of every nation, Of every race and land, Redeem the whole creation With your almighty hand. Where hate and fear divide us And bitter threats are hurled, In love and mercy guide us And heal our strife-torn world.

2. From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right, From trust in bombs that shower Destruction through the night, From pride of race and station And blindness to your way, Deliver every nation, Eternal God, we pray.

3. Lord, strengthen those who labor That all may find release  
From fear of rattling saber,  
From dread of war's increase; When hope and courage falter,  
Your still small voice be heard;  
With faith that none can alter, Your servants under-gird.

4. Keep bright in us the vision Of days when war shall cease,  
When hatred and division  
Give way to love and peace, Till dawns the morning glorious  
When truth and justice reign  
And Christ shall rule victorious O'er all the world's domain.

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## **INVITATION TO SHARE**

Have you ever thought why the Doxology follows the offering? Doxology comes from the Greek *doxologia*, meaning “words of glory.” It follows an ascription of praise. Seen this way, this offering is an act of praise to God. It is through this offering that we honor God. Let us be generous in our praise to God.

## **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)**

**Accept our offerings of praise in grateful thanksgiving for your presence in our lives and the many blessings you bestow upon us. Consecrate our offering, O God, that it may become bread to fill the emptiness and heal the brokenness of the lives in this community and beyond. And may we be reminded that our real life begins when we give with generous hearts to proclaim the gospel in the name of Christ Jesus. Amen.**

## **MUSICAL REFLECTION**

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

### **The Whole Armor of God**

**It's invisible, like a spiritual layer between me and the world, with the strength of Jesus' resurrection power. My helmet: salvation is knowing in my mind that Jesus is my Savior. I remember that I can count on Jesus' faithfulness because he has**

**already saved me. My breastplate: righteousness is doing what is right and good in God's sight. I listen to the Holy Spirit in my heart; the Holy Spirit gives me courage to do the right thing. My shield: faith is a strong shield that I hold and move. Faith deflects the fiery messages of doubt and unbelief. They just bounce off, fizzle out, and don't get through to me. My sword of the Spirit is God's word. God's word cuts through lies and gives me wisdom. My belt: truthfulness and honesty hold everything together securely. My shoes: make me ready to proclaim the gospel of peace, the good news of Jesus Christ. I am always prepared to go, to walk forward and speak a peaceful word to people.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

***"Onward Christian Soldiers"***

**(UMH # 575)**

1. Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,  
with the cross of Jesus going on before.  
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe;  
forward into battle see his banners go!  
Refrain: Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,  
with the cross of Jesus going on before.

2. At the sign of triumph Satan's host doth flee;  
on then, Christian soldiers, on to victory!  
Hell's foundations quiver at the shout of praise;  
brothers, lift your voices, loud your anthems raise.  
(Refrain)

3. Like a mighty army moves the church of God;  
brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod.  
We are not divided, all one body we,  
one in hope and doctrine, one in charity.  
(Refrain)

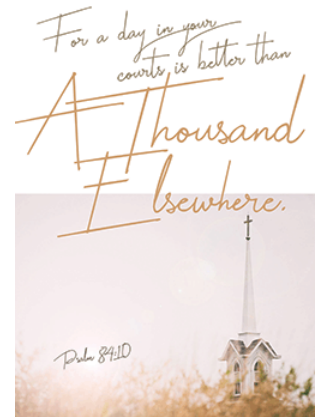
4. Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane,  
but the church of Jesus constant will remain.  
Gates of hell can never gainst that church prevail;  
we have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail.  
(Refrain)

5. Onward then, ye people, join our happy throng,  
blend with ours your voices in the triumph song.  
Glory, laud, and honor unto Christ the King,  
this through countless ages men and angels sing.  
(Refrain)

## **BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**  
**during the Postlude)**

**(Please be seated and silent**



**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 32**  
**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”**

**Mark your calendars for September 15. This is our annual event where we celebrate the return of folks from summer destinations and activities and invite former members, friends, family, neighbors and strangers to join with us in the celebration. Worship starts at 10:00 AM with an old-fashioned potluck luncheon afterwards in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish or two to share!**

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE**

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 25 Steve and Kerry Craft                      Aug 29 Dave Craft  
Aug 29 Matthew Nixon

## 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!!**