

**Macon United Methodist Church**  
**190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133**  
**Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com**  
**August 4, 2024** **Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

*If life gives you lemons, don't settle for simply making lemonade - make a glorious scene at a lemonade stand." Elizabeth Gilbert*

### **RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL**

*offering happiness to all that hear it!*

### **PRELUDE**

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



### **\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The love of Christ touches every person, transforming us with grace. It is this grace that turns the lemons of life into sweet lemonade.

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

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life."

**We are hungry for the bread of heaven.**

Jesus said, "The bread of God gives life to the world."

**We are hungry for eternal life.**

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

**We are here to become what we already are: the body of Christ, food for a hungry world.**

### **\*OPENING HYMN**

***"Morning Has Broken"***

**(UMH # 145)**

1. Morning has broken, like the first morning, blackbird has spoken, like the first bird. Praise for the singing, praise for the morning, praise for them springing fresh from the word.
2. Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven, like the first dew fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where His feet pass.
3. Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning, born of the one light Eden saw play. Praise with elation, praise every morning, God's re-creation of the new day.

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

**Along life's pathways as we encounter the difficulties of life, our personal sour lemons, we search continually for signs to point us in positive directions. Christ has given us a sign which points us to healing and hope: that is the sign of the Bread of Life. No more shall we hunger and thirst after the things which cannot sustain us. Now we have been fed and nourished by Christ! Open our hearts in gratitude, Lord, for all the wondrous things you have done for us. Open our Spirits to hear your words of hope for us today. 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**

**Psalm 51:1-12 (CEB)**

Have mercy on me, God, according to your faithful love!

Wipe away my wrongdoings according to your great compassion!

Wash me completely clean of my guilt, purify me from my sin!

Because I know my wrongdoings, my sin is always right in front of me.

I've sinned against you—you alone. I've committed evil in your sight.

That's why you are justified when you render your verdict, completely correct when you issue your judgment. Yes, I was born in guilt, in sin,

from the moment my mother conceived me. And yes, you want truth in the most hidden places; you teach me wisdom in the most secret space.

Purify me with hyssop and I will be clean; wash me and I will be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and celebration again; let the bones you crushed rejoice once more.

Hide your face from my sins; wipe away all my guilty deeds!

Create a clean heart for me, God; put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me!

Please don't throw me out of your presence; please don't take your holy spirit away from me. Return the joy of your salvation to me and sustain me with a willing spirit.

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

**God, we confess that we often spoon-feed ourselves items and ideas that do not provide us the energy we need to do your work. This creates space between you and us, between ourselves and each other, as members of Christ's one body. Oftentimes, we are willing to risk our sustained health and well-being for immediate satisfaction. We often gripe and complain about all the lemons in our life, rather than rejoicing in the gifts that the fruit can provide. Lord, give us the wisdom to recognize all your gifts, remembering that it is not the wrapper, but what has been wrapped that is important.**

## SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

**Ephesians 4:1-16 (CEB)**

Therefore, as a prisoner for the Lord, I encourage you to live as people worthy of the call you received from God. Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love, and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together. You are one body and one spirit, just as God also called you in one hope. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all, and in all.

God has given his grace to each one of us measured out by the gift that is given by Christ. That's why scripture says, *When he climbed up to the heights, he captured prisoners, and he gave gifts to people.*

What does the phrase "he climbed up" mean if it doesn't mean that he had first gone down into the lower regions, the earth? The one who went down is the same one who climbed up above all the heavens so that he might fill everything.

He gave some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers. His purpose was to equip God's people for the work of serving and building up the body of Christ until we all reach the unity of faith and knowledge of God's Son. God's goal is for us to become mature adults—to be fully grown, measured by the standard of the fullness of Christ. As a result, we aren't supposed to be infants any longer who can be tossed and blown around by every wind that comes from teaching with deceitful scheming and the tricks people play to deliberately mislead others. Instead, by speaking the truth with love, let's grow in every way into Christ, who is the head. The whole body grows from him, as it is joined and held together by all the supporting ligaments. The body makes itself grow in that it builds itself up with love as each one does its part.

**MESSAGE      "What to Do with All Those Lemons"      Rev. Terry McDorman**

**HYMN      "This Little Light of Mine"      (UMH # 585)**

1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine, this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine; this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. (let it shine)

2 Everywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine, Everywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine; Everywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. (let it shine)

3 All through the night, I'm goin'a let it shine, All through the night, I'm goin'a let it shine; All through the night, I'm goin'a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. (let it shine)

## **INVITATION TO SHARE**

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." Let us offer our loaves and fishes in the service of God's kin-dom.

## **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)**

**O God, we share these gifts in the spirit of those who shared their loaves and fishes: we ask that you take these gifts and use them to feed all of creation—to produce seed and grain, filling humans and animals alike, and to restore wholeness in the places where malnourishment exists. Amen**

## **HOLY EUCHARIST CELEBRATION**

Holy are you, O God, ever creating, and ever moving among your people,  
raising up the lowly, amplifying the voices of the marginalized,  
the dreams of people long oppressed, and through them declaring jubilee,  
release and restoration for all.

**Holy are you, O God.**

Holy are you, O God, enfleshed in Jesus, showing the way,  
teaching the truth, living the life of your Spirit  
in the face of ridicule, rejection, and execution,  
and rising to announce your kingdom's triumph over all.

**Holy are you, O God.**

Holy the food Jesus gave, when on the night of his betrayal  
he took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to his disciples.  
Holy the words he spoke then, and your Spirit speaks still:

**"This is my body broken for you. Remember me."**

Holy the drink Jesus offered, when that same night he took the cup,  
thanked you and shared it. Holy the words he spoke then,  
and your Spirit speaks still:

**"This is my blood of the new covenant for you. Remember me."**

We remember you, Source, Wisdom and Spirit of Holiness.  
We praise you not only with our lips but with our lives:  
Jesus Christ, crucified, you called and claimed us,  
risen, you have raised us, coming again, you make all things new.  
Even so, come Lord Jesus! Hallelujah!  
Even so, come and fill this feast, Holy Spirit, Spirit of Power, Spirit of Life.  
Come upon us and these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us what Jesus says they are, Christ's body, Christ's blood.  
Make us become what Jesus prays we are,  
one body in him empowered and enlivened by his blood.

**SHARING COMMUNION:** All are invited to come forward, taking a piece of bread,  
dipping into the cup and partaking. If you are unable to come forward, please advise  
the usher and the elements will be brought to you. Our bread is gluten free.

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**Jacob Baker, Vocalist**

**CLOSING PRAYER (unison)**

**Today, we have learned that you provided lemons for us, not only as fruit, but as challenges. In Your wisdom, you have reminded us that we need to look at the fruits of life from Your perspective, not ours. We want to shine as disciples of Jesus Christ and transform the world making it radiant in the love you have provided for us. Amen**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

***"Shine, Jesus Shine"***

**(FWS #2173)**

Chorus

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory,  
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire,  
flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy,  
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

1. Lord, the light of your love is shining in the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us, Set us free by the truth You now bring us.  
Shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus

2. Lord, I come to Your awesome presence from the shadows into your radiance; by the blood, I may enter your brightness, search me, try me, consume all my darkness. Shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus

3. As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness; ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here, may our lives tell your story. Shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus

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

## **PICNIC IN THE PARK**

**Worship Next Sunday- Church Picnic. Worship will begin in the park at 11:30 and will be followed by a picnic lunch. In case of inclement weather, we will move here to the sanctuary with lunch downstairs in Fellowship Hall.**

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND 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

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 08 Kerry Craft

## **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!!**