

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com
September 1, 2024 **Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“You know when you're young you think you will always be. As you become more fragile, you reflect and you realize how much comfort can come from the past. Hymns can carry you into the future.” Andy Griffith

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)**

O Lord, open our lips,

and our mouth will proclaim your praise.

It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night.

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;

let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

***OPENING HYMN**

“My Life Flows On”

(FWS 2212)

1. My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.

I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

Refrain: No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.

Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

2. Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.

It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.

Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?



Sing psalms and
hymns and
spiritual songs ...
singing and
making melody to the
Lord in your hearts.

3. What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth.
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Thank you for the music all around us. Each morning we hear it from the moment we open our ears; the low notes of wind around the eaves, the whoosh of water as it comes from the tap the glug-glug as it drains, the throaty whistle of the boiling kettle the metallic tap of the spoon against the cup, the jazz percussion of our feet on the steps. The sounds of our day, so familiar we hardly pay attention. Thank you for the ability to hear. Thank you for the sounds of life, the chatter of the squirrel' the deep purr of a cat, the sharp calls of a blue jay, the sound of someone we love laughing. Give us wisdom to enter this day with good sounds, tones and pitches and words that affirm, encourage, cherish, our sounds affecting the world in a positive way.

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

James 1:17-27 (CEB)

Every good gift, every perfect gift, comes from above. These gifts come down from the Father, the creator of the heavenly lights, in whose character there is no change at all. He chose to give us birth by his true word, and here is the result: we are like the first crop from the harvest of everything he created.

Know this, my dear brothers and sisters: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to grow angry. This is because an angry person doesn't produce God's righteousness. Therefore, with humility, set aside all moral filth and the growth of wickedness, and welcome the word planted deep inside you—the very word that is able to save you.

You must be doers of the word and not only hearers who mislead themselves. Those who hear but don't do the word are like those who look at their faces in a mirror. They look at themselves, walk away, and immediately forget what they were like. But there are those who study the perfect law, the law of freedom, and continue to do it. They

don't listen and then forget, but they put it into practice in their lives. They will be blessed in whatever they do.

If those who claim devotion to God don't control what they say, they mislead themselves. Their devotion is worthless. True devotion, the kind that is pure and faultless before God the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their difficulties and to keep the world from contaminating us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Holy God, we do not deserve to be in your dwelling place. We have not led a blameless life. We have not done what is right in your sight or spoken the truth that you have sealed in our hearts. We have done evil to both those we love and to those we refuse to love as we should. We have not been faithful stewards of that which we have been blessed and have hoarded that which should be shared with the least of these. Hear our cry, God of our hope, as we confess that which weighs us down...

Redeeming God, save us from our foolishness and guide us to your wisdom. Gather us in your righteousness and redemption. Forgive us for we are seeking your light and your salvation. Cleanse us of our brokenness that we might do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 150:3-6 (CEB)

Praise God with the blast of the ram's horn. Praise God with lute and lyre! Praise God with drum and dance! Praise God with strings and pipe! Praise God with loud cymbals! Praise God with clashing cymbals! Let every living thing praise the LORD!

MESSAGE

Why We Make Music in Church"

Rev. Terry McDorman

HYMN

"Lord of the Dance"

(UMH # 261)

1. I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

2. I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the dance went on.

Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

3. I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame,
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high;
and they left me there on a cross to die.
Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.
4. I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone'
but I am the dance and I still go on.
Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.
5. They cut Me down and I leapt up high, I am the life that'll never, never die,
I'll live in you if you'll live in Me; I am the Lord of the Dance, said He.
Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

INVITATION TO SHARE

“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift is from above.” (*James 1:17*)
Thank you for the generosity within us that comes from you.
Fill us with the hope of young love. May we give generously to your Church.

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)**

God, we offer these gifts in thanksgiving for the gift of voice, the gift of hearing, the gift of language, the gift of song, the gift of music. All of these enrich our lives, at times in ways we do not fully understand, yet we know that through song our hearts are lifted, our emotions are open, our hearts are healed. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

We pray especially for those who have lost their voice and feel silenced or oppressed. There are many singing freedom songs around our world, and so today we pray for the safety of these singers. Give their song the strength to convince and convert, the power to ward off war. There are too many war songs, we don't want to hear another one.

Thank you for your songs, love songs, which we are invited to sing. Thank you for all the parts you've made for the song; soprano, alto, tenor, bass.

You are the Great Composer. We long to be composed each day in your image, singing your elegant score truly, clearly, following your rhythm by heart, finding our voice in your beautiful world. Hearing you in the music of life. This is our prayer. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN *"Lift Every Voice and Sing"* (UMH # 519)**

1. Lift ev'ry voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty. Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us. Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us. Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.

2. Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died; yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our people sighed? We have come over a way that with tears has been watered. We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered, out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.

3. God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way, thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee; lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee; shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

(Please be seated and silent during the Postlude)

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 50

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.

“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. 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
Sun. Sept. 22 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Sept. 22 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Wed. Sept. 25 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting; Pastor's Office
Wed. Sept. 25 7:00 pm Administrative Council Meeting; Pastor's Office
Sun. Sept. 29 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Sept. 29 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sept 2 Jack Hinkle Sept 4 Russ and Marsha Hedges
Sept 6 Greg and Angie Smith

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!!