

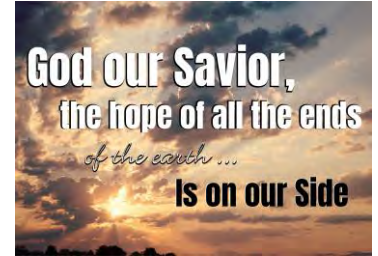
Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com
September 29, 2024 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

If we rely on anything other than God, we are lost. God is on the side of the powerless, calling us to care for and to protect those who are in need. Psalm 124

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL
sound forth the presence of Christ

PRELUDE



GATHERING Words of welcome and announcements

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

When we are rescued from danger and trouble, we know the peace of Jesus Christ. When we are welcomed into the reign of God, we know the peace of Jesus Christ. As those who are rescued and welcomed, let us greet one another with signs of the peace of Christ.

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)**

If it had not been God who was on our side,
the troubles of our world would have swallowed us whole.
If it had not been God who was on our side,
the sorrows of our times would have swept us away.
Are any among us suffering?
Come and pray.
Are any among us cheerful?
Come sing songs of praise.
Are any among us sick?
Come and ask for healing.
Our help is in our God,
the One who made heaven and earth.
Call upon God, creator and rescuer.
God is on our side.

***OPENING HYMN “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” (UMH # 139)**

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation.
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigning bears
thee on eagles wings, e'er in his keeping maintaining.
God's care enfolds all, whose true good he upholds.
Hast thou not known his sustaining?
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, who with his love doth befriend thee.
4. Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish thy life and restore thee,
fitting thee well for the tasks that are ever before thee. Then to thy need God as a
mother doth speed, spreading the wings of grace o'er thee.
5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly forever adore him.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Lord of joy and mercy, be with us this day as we seek your voice and your guidance. Remove the obstacles that block our commitment and help us to truly be your disciples; for we ask this in Christ's 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

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10 (CEB)

When the king and Haman came in for the banquet with Queen Esther, the king said to her, “This is the second day we’ve met for wine. What is your wish, Queen Esther? I’ll give it to you. And what do you want? I’ll do anything—even give you half the kingdom.”

Queen Esther answered, “If I please the king, and if the king wishes, give me my life—that’s my wish—and the lives of my people too. That’s my desire. We have been sold—I and my people—to be wiped out, killed, and destroyed. If we simply had been sold as male and female slaves, I would have said nothing. But no enemy can compensate the king for this kind of damage.”

King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, “Who is this person, and where is he? Who would dare do such a thing?”

Esther replied, “A man who hates, an enemy—this wicked Haman!” Haman was overcome with terror in the presence of the king and queen.

Harbona, one of the eunuchs serving the king, said, “Sir, look! There’s the stake that Haman made for Mordecai, the man who spoke up and did something good for the king. It’s standing at Haman’s house—seventy-five feet high.”

“Impale him on it!” the king ordered. So they impaled Haman on the very pole that he had set up for Mordecai, and the king’s anger went away.



PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Creating and rescuing God, your power amazes us. Yet even in our amazement, we take too long to turn to you, forgetting that you are the power that makes and saves and sustains us. Even when we claim your power, we often do so for our own success and comfort, ignoring your command to use your power on behalf of the weak, the small, and the vulnerable. In Jesus Christ, you show us that you are on the side of all people, but never at the expense of the weakest among us. Forgive us when we try to hoard you for ourselves and try to control who has access to your love. Forgive us when our greed, our control, and our scandals keep others from knowing you. Redeem us and transform us, O God. Open our hearts, our lives, and our ministries, that we may become a doorway to your realm. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Esther 9:20-22 (CEB)

Mordecai wrote these things down and sent letters to all the Jews in all the provinces, both near and far, of King Ahasuerus. He made it a rule that Jews keep the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar as special days each and every year. They are the days on which the Jews finally put to rest the troubles with their enemies. The month is the one when everything turned around for them from sadness to joy, and from sad, loud crying to a holiday. They are to make them days of feasts and joyous events, days to send food gifts to each other and money gifts to the poor.

MESSAGE

“God is on Our Side”

Rev. Terry McDorman

HYMN

“We Walk By Faith”

(FWS #2196)

1. We walk by faith, and not by sight, no gracious words we hear from him who spoke as none e’er spoke, but we believe him near.
2. We may not touch his hands and side, nor follow where he trod; but in his promise we rejoice and cry, “My Lord and God!”

3. Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and may our faith abound to call on you when you are near, and seek where you are found.
4. For you, O resurrected Lord, are found in means divine: beneath the water and the Word, beneath the bread and wine.
5. We walk by faith, and not by sight, no gracious words we hear from him who spoke as none e'er spoke, but we believe him near.

INVITATION TO SHARE

Jesus Christ is on our side, offering us the love of God—a love that gives us all we have, a love that makes us all we are. Jesus Christ is with us in every circumstance, suffering with us when we are in trouble, and rejoicing with us when we are glad. The generosity of Christ calls us to lives of gratitude and generosity. In Jesus Christ we are given new life. Let us celebrate this life by giving generously to the work of God's redeeming love.

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)**

Giving God, we can never match your generosity. When we are in need, you are at our side, present to us even in our darkest moments. You rescue us from harm. Make us into a people who celebrate your goodness, drawing others into the celebration of your many blessings. Receive our offerings, even if they are as small as a drink for someone who thirsts. Transform them into the mystery of your reign here and now on earth, in the name of Jesus, your greatest gift, amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

God, make the words we have heard a living word in the core of our being. Help us put our faith in no other power than the power of your saving love. Make us the agents of your love, blocking no one's entrance into the presence of your love and grace. Through Christ, enable us to be at peace with one another and to salt the earth with the power of your peace. Amen.

(UMH # 526)

1. What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

2. Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!

3. Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

(Please be seated and silent during the Postlude)

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 39

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.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY/BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS, OCT 6.

We shall celebrate Holy Communion in unison with Christians around the world. Following our worship, Pastor Terry will be blessing pets in front of the church. Please be certain that animals are either *leashed or in a cage*.

LAY SERVANT MINISTRY

A Special thanks to Carol Conover for her informative talk about Lay Servant/Lay Speaker opportunities. The next set of classes, which are open to everyone, begin October 19. The cost is \$35.00 which covers lunch and snacks. Full details are posted on the bulletin board and you may also discuss with Pastor Terry.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Sun. Sept. 29 10:00 am Outreach Committee Meeting; Pastor's Office
Sun. Oct. 06 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Oct. 06 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service World Communion
Sun. Oct. 06 11:00 am Blessing of the Animals
Sun. Oct. 13 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Oct. 13 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Oct. 20 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Oct. 20 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Oct. 27 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Oct. 27 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Thur. Oct. 31 5:00 pm Annual Trunk or Treat

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sept 30	Jerry Hinkle	Oct 02	Doug and Lori Huggins
Oct 02	Pat Roush	Oct 05	Dave and Dani 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!!

