

**Macon United Methodist Church**  
**190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133**  
**Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com**  
**September 8, 2024** **Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

*“Happy are generous people, because they give some of their food to the poor”*  
*Proverbs*

**RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL**  
**declaring that Jesus is available to all!**

**PRELUDE**

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

**\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Knowing that God has prepared a place for us; knowing that Christ has come to bring us peace, let us greet one another now in the power of God and the glory of Christ's peace.

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

Jesus brought healing love to all people.

**They talked and marveled about his miracles.**

But they really didn't understand him.

**They wanted the healing, but not necessarily a change in their lives.**

Jesus brings us transforming compassion.

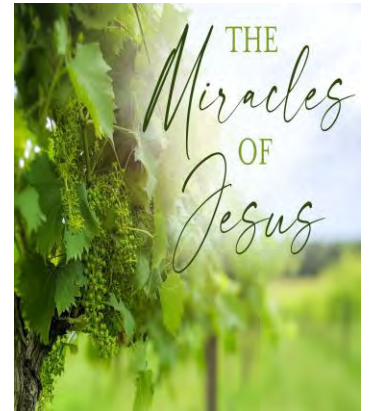
**Lord Jesus, keep our minds and our spirits open to your life-changing words.**

**AMEN.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**      ***“Come Christians, Join to Sing”***      **(UMH # 158)**

1. Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!  
loud praise to Christ our King: Alleluia! Amen!  
Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;  
praise is his gracious choice. Alleluia! Amen!

2. Come, lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen!  
Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!  
He is our guide and friend; to us he'll condescend;  
his love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!



3. Praise yet the Lord again: Alleluia! Amen!  
Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!  
On heaven's blissful shore his goodness we'll adore,  
singing forevermore: "Alleluia! Amen!"

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

Holy One, we call upon your name, for we know that your name and favor are more precious than human riches. You hate wickedness and abhor the neglect of your people. You call us to righteousness, to reach out to others with justice and mercy. You teach us right from wrong, that we may truly live in your grace. In the shadow of that grace, we offer compassion and mercy to others. Abide with us this day that we may serve you forevermore. 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 125 (CEB)**

The people who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion: never shaken, lasting forever. Mountains surround Jerusalem. That's how the LORD surrounds his people from now until forever from now! The wicked rod won't remain in the land given to the righteous so that they don't use their hands to do anything wrong. LORD, do good to people who are good, to people whose hearts are right. But as for those people who turn to their own twisted ways—may the LORD march them off with other evildoers!

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

Gracious God, we come before you today knowing that we often fall short of your call to love one another well. We allow ourselves to be blinded by wealth and power. We ignore those around us who suffer injustice, poverty, and rejection. We tune out the cries of the poor and those on the edges of our communities. Help us to see your great generosity, hear your word of mercy, and feel your great love for all who need your redemptive grace. Strengthen us to reach out in service to those who are in need. Make us aware of those outside our own communities, that we may see them as your precious children and serve them in humility and joy. May we continue to grow in grace as we learn how to serve you in the name of the great Servant, even Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

**Mark 7:24-37 (CEB)**

Jesus left that place and went into the region of Tyre. He didn't want anyone to know that he had entered a house, but he couldn't hide. In fact, a woman whose young

daughter was possessed by an unclean spirit heard about him right away. She came and fell at his feet. The woman was Greek, Syrophenician by birth. She begged Jesus to throw the demon out of her daughter. He responded, “The children have to be fed first. It isn’t right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”

But she answered, “Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”

“Good answer!” he said. “Go on home. The demon has already left your daughter.” When she returned to her house, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone.

After leaving the region of Tyre, Jesus went through Sidon toward the Galilee Sea through the region of the Ten Cities. Some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly speak, and they begged him to place his hand on the man for healing. Jesus took him away from the crowd by himself and put his fingers in the man’s ears. Then he spit and touched the man’s tongue. Looking into heaven, Jesus sighed deeply and said, “*Ephphatha*,” which means, “Open up.” At once, his ears opened, his twisted tongue was released, and he began to speak clearly.

Jesus gave the people strict orders not to tell anyone. But the more he tried to silence them, the more eagerly they shared the news. People were overcome with wonder, saying, “He does everything well! He even makes the deaf to hear and gives speech to those who can’t speak.”

**MESSAGE                      “Miracles and a Whole Lot More”                      Rev. Terry McDorman**

**HYMN    “*The Gift of Love*”    (UMH # 408)**

1. Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,  
and have not love my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.
2. Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,  
but not be giv’n by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.
3. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.

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## **INVITATION TO SHARE**

We who have been richly blessed are called to share that blessing with the world.  
Give freely in the joy of serving your neighbor and your 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)**

**Loving Creator, we dedicate these offerings with hearts guided by your wisdom and grace. As we gather on this September Sunday, may our gifts embody the teachings of Proverbs, spreading honor, kindness, and justice to all. Use these offerings to uplift those in need, fostering hope and peace in our community. May we live out your wisdom in our actions and generosity. This we pray in Christ's name. Amen.**

### **MUSICAL REFLECTION**

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

**We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

### **\*CLOSING HYMN**

***"We Are The Church"***

(UMH # 558)

Chorus

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!  
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes we're the church together!

1. The church is not a building, The church is not a steeple  
The church is not a resting place, The church is a people.  
I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!  
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes we're the church together!

2. We're many kinds of people, with many kinds of faces  
All colors and all ages too, from all times and places.  
I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!  
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes we're the church together!

3. Sometimes the church is marching, sometimes it's bravely burning,  
Sometimes it's riding sometimes hiding, always it's learning.  
I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!  
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes we're the church together!

4. And when the people gather, there's singing and there's praying,  
There's laughing and there's crying sometimes, all of it saying:  
I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!  
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes we're the church together!

5. At Pentecost some people Received the Holy Spirit  
And told the Good News Through the world to all who would hear it.  
I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!  
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes we're the church together!

## **BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

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

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 37**

**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.*

### **“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. 15 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. Sept. 15 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service Welcome Back Sunday  
Sun. Sept. 22 7:00 am Men's Breakfast; Fellowship Hall  
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  
Sun. Sept. 29 10:00 am Outreach Committee Meeting; Pastor's Office

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sept 9 Joyce 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!!**

*They were astounded beyond measure, saying,*



*"He has done **EVERYTHING** well;  
he even makes the deaf to **HEAR**  
and the mute to **SPEAK.**"*

Mark 7:37, NRSV