

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com
November 10, 2024 Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

*“To our men and women in uniform, past, present, and future,
God bless you and thank you.”*

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE



GATHERING Words of welcome and announcements

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)**

Children of God, take a deep breath. Breathe in the goodness of God’s abundance all around you.

God’s abundance is enough for all that we need.

Think of all the things our society calls abundance. Ever-growing bank accounts, possessions galore, status and notoriety—what are these things compared to God’s abundance?

God’s abundance is enough for all that we need.

God’s abundance notices the poor, the downtrodden, those whose labor and unmet needs fill the coffers of corporations and those who are wealthy beyond measure.

God’s abundance is enough for all that we need.

How, then, will you offer yourself up to God? Like the Pharisees or the widow?

We will give as people who trust in God’s provision, because God’s abundance is enough for all that we need.

***OPENING HYMN “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” (UMH # 384)**

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

God, Protector of the widow, the orphan, and the stranger--in a world where many know despair, you raised your Son Jesus to give hope for humanity and renewal to the earth. Continue to strengthen and unify your Church in its struggles against the forces of death in the world, where violence against creation and humanity

obscurer the hope of the new life you offer. This we pray in the name of the Risen Lord, in the power of His Spirit. 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

Hebrews 9:24-28 (CEB)

Christ didn’t enter the holy place (which is a copy of the true holy place) made by human hands, but into heaven itself, so that he now appears in God’s presence for us. He didn’t enter to offer himself over and over again, like the high priest enters the earthly holy place every year with blood that isn’t his. If that were so, then Jesus would have to suffer many times since the foundation of the world. Instead, he has now appeared once at the end of the ages to get rid of sin by sacrificing himself. People are destined to die once and then face judgment. In the same way, Christ was also offered once to take on himself the sins of many people. He will appear a second time, not to take away sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.



PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Lord God, We ask that by your holy light you illuminate the instances in our lives where we have not lived up to your name. We denounce “obvious” evils in our society such as murder, rape, domestic violence, thievery, and sexual exploitation. However, we often fail to remember that your gospel calls us to see the world as you see it—from the vantage point of the “least of these.” In looking around us in this manner, we see the daily evils that boldly counter your gospel. We see societal ills that habitually oppress the poor. We see societal ills that blatantly disobey your Word. We confess that we have not been extravagantly generous with our time, resources, or prayers. Lord, forgive us. Forgive us for not speaking against an immoral budget that exploits our brothers and sisters. Forgive us for ignoring the plight of those unable to afford health care because of rising costs. Forgive us for denying the tremendous damage that racism does to our society. Forgive us for remaining silent over issues of immigration, the death penalty, and the need for a living wage. Convict us to act in the name of Jesus Christ for justice and mercy, just as you have shown toward all. Remind us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Forgive us, dear Lord, for our daily hypocrisy. Cleanse our souls and our bodies with your saving grace. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 12:38-44 (CEB)

As he was teaching, he said, “Watch out for the legal experts. They like to walk around in long robes. They want to be greeted with honor in the markets. They long for places of honor in the synagogues and at banquets. They are the ones who cheat widows out of their homes, and to show off they say long prayers. They will be judged most harshly.”

Jesus sat across from the collection box for the temple treasury and observed how the crowd gave their money. Many rich people were throwing in lots of money. One poor widow came forward and put in two small copper coins worth a penny. Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I assure you that this poor widow has put in more than everyone who’s been putting money in the treasury. All of them are giving out of their spare change. But she from her hopeless poverty has given everything she had, even what she needed to live on.”



MESSAGE

“Giving Everything”

Rev. Terry McDorman

A PRAYER FOR VETERANS DAY (let us join together in prayer)

God of peace, We pray for those who have served our nation and laid down their lives to protect and defend our freedom, asking that we remember their sacrifice and make right use of our liberty. We pray for those who still bear the scars of their service, asking for healing for them in mind, body, and spirit. We pray for those who serve us now, especially for those in harm’s way, asking that you shield them from danger and bring them home in safety. We pray for all those who govern, asking that you turn their hearts and minds to the work of establishing a peace born of justice and equity. We pray for all those who are caught up in conflict around the globe this day, civilians and peacekeepers and the poor who have no escape, asking that we have the courage to defend the defenseless, make room for those who flee for safety, and look to that day when we will train for war no more. May the peace you gave us, the peace that passes all human understanding, be the peace that guides and sustains us. For it is in Jesus’ name that we pray. Amen.

HYMN

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

(UMH # 431)

INVITATION TO SHARE

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)**

Gracious God, whose compassion knows no bounds, we offer these gifts as a reflection of our love and gratitude. Just as the widow gave all she had, may we also give sacrificially, trusting in your provision. Use these offerings to further your kingdom, bringing hope and healing to those in need. Bless our giving, that it may glorify your name and extend your grace to all. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

We see signs of summer's passing in golden leaves, shortening days, misty mornings, autumn glow. We sense its passing in rain that dampens, winds that chill, Harvest's bounty placed on show. Creator God, who brings forth both green shoot and hoar frost, sunrise and sunset, we bring our thanks for seeds that have grown, harvests gathered, storehouses filled, mouths fed. And, as your good earth rests through winter's cold embrace, we look forward to its re-awakening when kissed by Spring's first touch.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“The Gift of Love”

(UMH # 408)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

(Please be seated and silent during the Postlude)

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 41

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.

CAN OPENERS NEEDED

Thank you to all that contributed to fill the need for simple can openers for Kummler Outreach Ministries in Springfield. There's still time to donate. Pastor Terry will deliver them this Wednesday.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Our annual time to decorate the church for the Advent Season is on Sunday, November 24 immediately following worship. Many hands make quick work, so please plan on helping with the transformation.

FOR ALL THE GUYS

Next Sunday, November 17 at 7 a.m. the United Methodist Men shall gather for a hearty breakfast and fellowship. Bring a friend. Bring a neighbor. No one is a stranger around our breakfast table.

FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE RESULTS

Wow, you responded generously with cans of vegetables for the pantry clients. It was as close a count as possible. Men 246, Women 245. Total 491 cans. Absolutely remarkable. God's grace active at Macon UMC.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Sun. Nov. 17 7:00 am Men's Breakfast; Fellowship Hall
Sun. Nov. 17 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Nov. 17 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Nov. 24 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Nov. 24 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Nov. 24 11:00 am Hanging of the Greens
Tue. Nov. 27 9:00 am Advent "Pastry with the Pastor" Bible Study
Sun. Dec. 01 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Dec. 01 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service Advent Begins
Sun. Dec. 08 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Dec. 08 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Dec. 08 11:00 am Annual Cookie Walk

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Nov 06 Hannah Craft

MISSIONS



Items requested by the food pantry are: Any kind of cereal and/or oatmeal, canned fruit and vegetables, canned soup, canned pasta, macaroni and cheese, and shampoo. Cash donations are always welcome. **Thanksgiving needed items: pie filling or frozen pies, cake mixes, frostings, and boxes of Jello and pudding mixes; all are due on November 16 for distribution on November 23.**