

**Macon United Methodist Church**  
**190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133**  
**Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com**  
**November 24, 2024 Hanging of the Greens Christ the King Sunday**

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

*"The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God." C. S. Lewis*

**RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL**  
**in celebration of Christ the King!**

**PRELUDE**



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

**\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

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

Children of God, whom do you follow?

**We follow Christ, Ruler of us all.**

Children of God, what kind of Ruler is Christ?

**Christ reigns with love and truth, justice and mercy, compassion and peace.**

Children of God, how will you live in the reign of Christ?

**We will join Christ in choosing love, truth, justice, mercy, compassion, and peace even when our world tells us not to.**

Children of God, come, let us worship God whose Love reigns over us, exemplified in Jesus Christ!

**Come, let us worship! Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*"We Gather Together"*

**(UMH # 131)**

**OPENING PRAYER (unison)**

**We come this day, rejoicing, in the presence of the King of Kings, Jesus Christ. At his birth the angels proclaimed his name to be Emmanuel, God with us. Today in this place, in this time of worship, may we truly feel the power and presence of Jesus Christ in our lives. May our hearts and spirits be warmed and challenged to proclaim with our lives, "Christ is Lord!" 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**

**Revelation 1:4b-8 (CEB)**

John, to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace and peace to you from the one who is and was and is coming, and from the seven spirits that are before God's throne. and from Jesus Christ—the faithful witness, the firstborn from among the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To the one who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, who made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father—to him be glory and power forever and always. Amen.



Look, he is coming with the clouds! Every eye will see him, including those who pierced him, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of him. This is so. Amen. “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “the one who is and was and is coming, the Almighty.”

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

**We have trouble believing in a King in our lives. Early in our nation's history, we rejected monarchy as something undesirable. Yet, this day we are called to recognize Jesus Christ as the King of our lives, our sovereign ruler. His kingdom is based on the laws of love; loving God as God has truly loved us and loving our neighbor as we ourselves want to be loved. That love extends beyond the borders of our lives, into a world in which there is fear and alienation, hunger and disease, hopelessness and darkness. Jesus, our sovereign ruler, our friend, our Master and guide has asked us to reach out to feed the hungry; give drink to the thirsty; clothe the naked, visit the sick and those imprisoned; welcome the stranger. These words are not unfamiliar to us, yet somehow, we have treated them as nice words but not an active part of our life of faith. Forgive us, Lord, for the meagerness of our faith and the weakness of our witness. Rule our lives again with your powerful love that we might truly be worthy disciples of yours. Help us to find the forgiveness which you have given to us and to do your will. Amen.**

### **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

**John 18:33-37 (CEB)**

Pilate went back into the palace. He summoned Jesus and asked, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

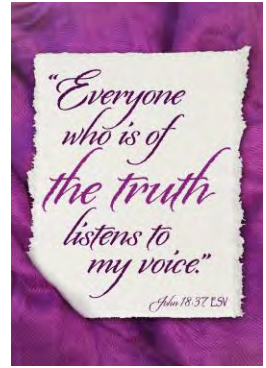
Jesus answered, “Do you say this on your own or have others spoken to you about me?”

Pilate responded, "I'm not a Jew, am I? Your nation and its chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?"

Jesus replied, "My kingdom doesn't originate from this world. If it did, my guards would fight so that I wouldn't have been arrested by the Jewish leaders. My kingdom isn't from here."

"So you are a king?" Pilate said.

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. I was born and came into the world for this reason: to testify to the truth. Whoever accepts the truth listens to my voice."



## MESSAGE

**"Gratitude and Thanksgiving"**

**Rev. Terry McDorman**

## HYMN

***"Now, Thank We All Our God"***

**(UMH # 102)**

***(during the singing of the hymn, please come forward and place your notes of gratitude into the basket. If you require assistance, please advise the usher)***

## INVITATION TO SHARE

As we have entered this church with thanksgiving on our hearts, let us remember that we have the opportunity to joyfully share from the bounty which God has provided. In the love and name of Christ, let us receive our morning offering.

## 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)**

**With gratitude for all the blessings you have poured into our lives, Lord Jesus, we come bringing these our gifts that they may be used in service to those in need. Bless these gifts and those who have given them that they may truly be a blessing in your holy name. Amen.**

## MUSICAL REFLECTION

## **CLOSING PRAYER (responsively)**

From the first day of Advent, so long ago, we have come full circle to the celebration of the Reign of Christ, also known as Christ the King Sunday. We have witnessed the wonderful birth, the great healing moments, the teachings that have sustained people throughout the centuries. We cried in sorrow at the Crucifixion and rejoiced with absolute joy on the sunrise of Easter when Jesus conquered our greatest fear, death. We celebrated the great good news of the disciples as they risked everything to finally proclaim the good news to all people. Now on this Sunday, we invite Jesus to enter our hearts. Amen.

**\*CLOSING HYMN**                      *“Come, Ye Thankful People Come”*                      (UMH # 694)

## **BENEDICTION**

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

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 48**                                      **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.*

## **HANGING OF THE GREENS**

Hanging of the greens will take place immediately after worship today. Please plan on participating in the transformation of the sanctuary in preparation for Advent.

## **PASTRY WITH THE PASTOR ADVENT BIBLE STUDY**

All adults are invited to join Pastor Terry starting Tuesday morning November 26 at 9:30 for a discussion on “An Unlikely Advent” by Rachel Billups. Nothing to bring but yourself.

## **ANNUAL COOKIE WALK**

December 8 following worship. An opportunity to have lunch, purchase some baked goods and craft items with all the funds raised being used for the outreach ministries of our United Women in Faith. It is always fun and the food is fantastic!

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15--UGLY SWEATER SUNDAY**

Yes, it is time to dig out those ugly Christmas Sweaters and wear them to church. This is part of enjoying the life that God has blessed us with. The choir will also be singing.

## **FINANCE/ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL--WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 4**

The Finance Committee will meet at 6:30 and Administrative Council at 7:00 in the Pastor's Office.

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE**

Sun. Nov. 24 11:00 am Hanging of the Greens  
Tue. Nov. 26 9:30 am Advent "Pastry with the Pastor" Advent Study  
Sun. Dec. 01 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. Dec. 01 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service Advent Begins  
Tue. Dec. 03 9:30 am "Pastry with the Pastor" Advent Study  
Wed. Dec. 04 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting; Pastor's Office  
Wed. Dec. 04 7:00 pm Administrative Meeting; Pastor's Office  
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  
Tue. Dec. 10 9:30 am "Pastry with the Pastor" Advent Study  
Sun. Dec. 15 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. Dec. 15 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service  
Tue. Dec. 17 9:30 am "Pastry with the Pastor" Advent Study

## **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

|        |                  |        |                  |
|--------|------------------|--------|------------------|
| Nov 25 | Connie Baker     | Nov 27 | Michelle Huggins |
| Nov 30 | Maureen McDorman | Nov 30 | Jack Smith       |
| Nov 30 | Mike Stewart     |        |                  |

## **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.