

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

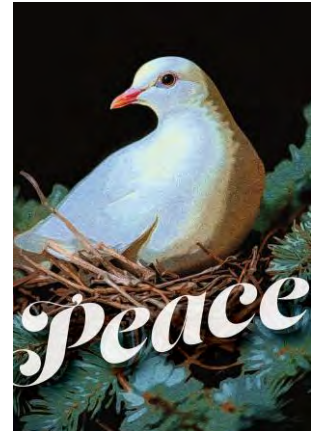
THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“Christ came to bring peace on earth and goodwill to all”
Max Lucado

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL
announcing the Advent Season

PRELUDE

GATHERING **Words of welcome and announcements**



***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Paul urges the Romans to welcome one another, just as Christ has welcomed them. Let us greet one another with words and signs of peace and welcome.

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)**

The Reign of God is drawing near:

The prophet calls us to change our lives!

Prepare the way for the Lord:

A just and peaceful path!

Welcome one another, for Christ welcomes you:

For the glory of God!

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE—Peace

Erin, Eleanor and Max Moyer

Reader 1: Today we light two candles--the first Candle is called HOPE and it is a reminder that God's promises are true.

Reader 2: The second Candle is called PEACE, God's gentle loving peace for our lives.

Reader 1: We seek God's peace in this time of stress.

Reader 2: Come, all is ready. Let the light of these candles, called HOPE and PEACE, bring brightness to your spirits.

The candles of Hope and Peace are lit.

***OPENING HYMN**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

(UMH # 234)

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Holy God, we long for your peace, and trust in your promise; we hear your call to turn toward you. Meet us here and fill our minds with your wisdom and our hearts with your peace, that our worship together may open us to the challenge of your dream of wholeness for all. In the Name of the One who is coming, we pray. 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

Luke 1:68-79 (CEB)

“Bless the Lord God of Israel because he has come to help and has delivered his people. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in his servant David’s house, just as he said through the mouths of his holy prophets long ago. He has brought salvation from our enemies and from the power of all those who hate us. He has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and remembered his holy covenant, the solemn pledge he made to our ancestor Abraham.

He has granted that we would be rescued from the power of our enemies so that we could serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness in God’s eyes, for as long as we live. You, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way. You will tell his people how to be saved through the forgiveness of their sins. Because of our God’s deep compassion, the dawn from heaven will break upon us, to give light to those who are sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide us on the path of peace.”



PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

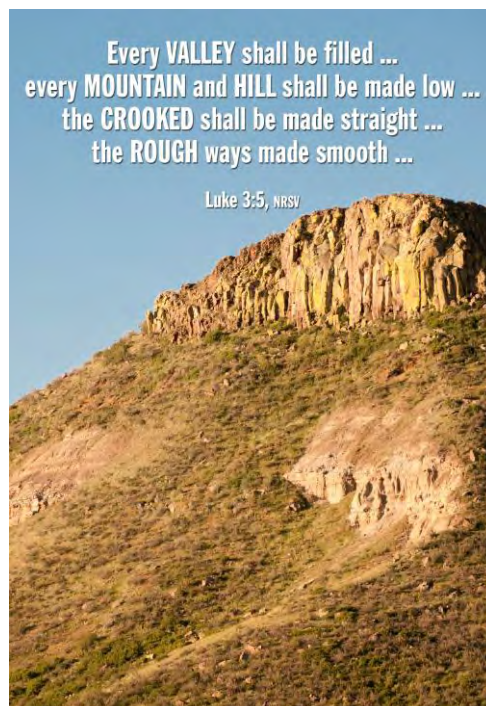
Holy God, we confess that we are busy with many preparations. We are busy with parties, with feasts, with giving. We are busy cleaning house and wrapping presents. We are busy with the stuff of the holiday. And we confess that our busyness may be misplaced, that we spend more time preparing for things than preparing for You. Draw us back to the center, which is You. Remind us that our hearts and souls have work to do, too. Enable us to let go of that which does not matter, and to see what does matter. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:1-6 (CEB)

In the fifteenth year of the rule of the emperor Tiberius—when Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea and Herod was ruler over Galilee, his brother Philip was ruler over Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was ruler over Abilene during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas—God’s word came to John, son of Zechariah in the wilderness. John went throughout the region of the Jordan River, calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. This is just as it was written in the scroll of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

A voice crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be leveled. The crooked will be made straight and the rough places made smooth. All humanity will see God’s salvation.”



MESSAGE

“The Gift of Peace”

Rev. Terry McDorman

A time to remember and celebrate: *(All are invited to come forward and place an ornament upon the tree. If you need assistance, please notify the usher)*

HYMN

“Spirit of the Living God”

(UMH # 393)

INVITATION TO SHARE

The Ruler of Peace coming, the prophet Isaiah says, and we await that Gift of God together; our gifts today in this season of waiting and hope help us to strengthen one another and to offer hope to the world as we look forward to that great day of everlasting joy. Let us gather our gifts together and present them as an offering to 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 God, in this Advent season, we bring our offerings with hearts open to your call. Just as John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, may our gifts help prepare the way for your kingdom. Use these offerings to bring hope, justice, and transformation. Help us to look beyond the surface, to see your work in surprising places and people. Bless our giving, that it may shine with the presence of Emmanuel. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Shelly Herschfeld

CLOSING PRAYER (responsively)

Compassionate God, greet us with your grace this day, for we need you. We cannot save ourselves. Though we may be frantic with activity, our efforts do not yield peace, peace as you can give. Today we would be quiet enough to hear your voice. Today we would be still enough to feel your touch. Help us to find that place where we can receive as well as give, wait as well as act, and listen as well as speak. Our whole world needs your peace. Let us come before you and learn your ways, laying down our weapons and feeding the hungry. Come to us now, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"The Snow Lay on the Ground"

(FWS # 2093)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

(Please be seated and silent during the Postlude)

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 36

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.

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.

LOVE PACKAGES

Macon UMC sent 35 pounds of Devotional and Bibles to Love Packages. Love Packages has distributed 1500 tons of materials to 22 nations this year.

HEIFER PROJECT

Macon is taking donations to support the heifer project again this Advent season.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND 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—Ugly Christmas Sweater Day
Mon. Dec. 16 7:00 pm Ecumenical Service of Peace; First Evangelical Lutheran
Tue. Dec. 17 9:30 am "Pastry with the Pastor" Advent Study
Sun. Dec. 22 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Dec. 22 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Tues. Dec. 24 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Service
Sun. Dec. 29 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Dec. 29 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service—Hymn Sing

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Dec 12 Steve Craft

MISSIONS



Items requested by the food pantry are: Items requested by the food pantry are: Any kind of cereal, cereal bars and/or oatmeal, canned fruit, canned soup, canned pasta, shampoo, bar soap and dish liquid. Cash donations are always welcome.

Items needed for the Christmas boxes: boxes of au gratin or scalloped potatoes, boxes of jello and pudding mix, cake mix, frosting, pie filling, and items to bake with. Items needed by December 14.