

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com
February 2, 2025 **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

*"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy."
Matthew 5:7.*

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

calling all that hear to experience the light of Christ

PRELUDE



GATHERING **Words of welcome and announcements**

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

Children of God, we come to worship today with expectations: how we expect to feel, what we expect to experience, songs we expect to sing, or prayers we expect to pray. We find comfort in the familiar.

We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here.

Sometimes what feels familiar grows stale. We stop noticing the power of our prayers. We hear but don't listen to the Word. We sing without letting the music seep into our hearts. Yet, God is still here, moving and working among us.

We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here.

We may meet God in a familiar voice speaking a hard word, in a song we love that pierces our hearts, in a prayer that we receive in a new way. Because God is here, moving and working among us.

We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here.

Children of God, come! Let us worship, ready to embrace God's Word already at work among us, even when we are challenged to recognize God in the familiar and unfamiliar alike.

We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” (UMH # 110)**

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

In a cynical and despairing world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your hope. In a violent and angry world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your peace. In a dismissive and disinterested world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your compassion. In a lonely and inhospitable world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your love. In a grieving and weeping world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your joy. May we be so captivated by your hope, O God, that we cannot help but to whisper, to sing, and to enact, the message of your reign which is always coming into our world; and may our quietly prophetic lives be channels of your restoring grace wherever we may go. Amen.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Let us lift our prayers in thoughts of praise.

SILENT PRAYER

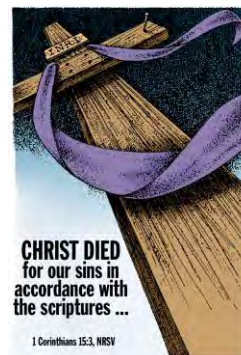
Let us share our doubts with God.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

First Corinthians 15:1-4 (CEB)

Brothers and sisters, I want to call your attention to the good news that I preached to you, which you also received and in which you stand. You are being saved through it if you hold on to the message I preached to you, unless somehow you believed it for nothing. I passed on to you as most important what I also received: Christ died for our sins in line with the scriptures, he was buried, and he rose on the third day in line with the scriptures.



PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God, you share with us words of hope, words of Good News. But sometimes, we are unable to hear them because the source is too familiar. You call us to share the Good News with those around us. But sometimes we are unable to share, because the people know us too well. You encourage us to send messengers to other places where they will be heard better. But we can be jealous, wanting the Good News to be for us, not them. In the multitude of ways, we can and have subverted your message of freedom and healing, in all the ways we have kept the Jubilee year from happening, we have left the path of true wisdom and call upon your Grace to lead us back on track. This is the time of God's favor, God's grace continues to proclaim release to the captives, Good News to the poor and freedom to the oppressed. We live as loved, forgiven, and free people through the grace of God! Hallelujah! Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 5:1-11 (CEB)

One day Jesus was standing beside Lake Gennesaret when the crowd pressed in around him to hear God's word. Jesus saw two boats sitting by the lake. The fishermen had gone ashore and were washing their nets. Jesus boarded one of the boats, the one that belonged to Simon, then asked him to row out a little distance from the shore. Jesus sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he finished speaking to the crowds, he said to Simon, "Row out farther, into the deep water, and drop your nets for a catch." Simon replied, "Master, we've worked hard all night and caught nothing. But because you say so, I'll drop the nets."

So they dropped the nets and their catch was so huge that their nets were splitting. They signaled for their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They filled both boats so full that they were about to sink. When Simon Peter saw the catch, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Leave me, Lord, for I'm a sinner!" Peter and those with him were overcome with amazement because of the number of fish they caught. James and John, Zebedee's sons, were Simon's partners and they were amazed too.

Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid. From now on, you will be fishing for people." As soon as they brought the boats to the shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.

**"Go away from me, Lord,
for I am a sinful man!"**

Luke 5:8, NRSV



MESSAGE

"They Left Everything and Followed Jesus"

Rev. Terry McDorman

HYMN

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

(UMH # 399)

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)**

Compassionate God, who sees beyond our boundaries and loves without limit, we bring these offerings with grateful hearts. Use them to proclaim your good news,

heal the broken, and extend your love to all, especially those we struggle to accept. Transform our gifts into a beacon of hope and inclusion that reflects the boundless love of Christ in every corner of our community. In his holy name, we pray. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty (almighty God), creator of heaven and earth.
Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the
earth,
from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God.
You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth.
You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.
You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets.
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,
in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation. You sent a star to
guide wise men to where the Christ was born;
and in your signs and witnesses, in every age and through all the world,
you have led your people from far places to his light.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."
And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.
Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (*God*), now and forever.
Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion:

All are invited to come forward and share taking a piece of bread, dipping it into the cup of grape juice and then eating. If are unable to come forward, please advise the usher and we shall bring the elements to you.

MUSICAL REFLECTION:

CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

You challenge us to follow you; not by staying as we are but by stepping out in faith, casting our net into deeper water as with Simon Peter, fisherman. You

challenge us to trust you and be prepared for all eventualities, even when the load is heavy and we struggle to succeed. But with your challenge comes blessing. Flimsy nets are filled, broken lives made whole. From emptiness to abundance. Thank you for your challenge. Grant us courage to follow. Amen

***CLOSING HYMN** *“This Is My Father’s World”* (UMH # 144)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Please be seated and silent during the Postlude)

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 45

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.

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE RELIEF

If you wish to contribute to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) efforts to assist those affected by the fires, you may simply write out a check to the church and put UMCORUSDR in the memo line. We will consolidate the funds and send them in.

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Our church is in need of a member to serve in assisting in keeping track of our finances. This volunteer role would work with the treasurer and finance committee in those efforts. If you have a few hours each month that you would be willing to dedicate to this effort plus a good financial background, please contact Denise Jones.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Sun. Feb.09 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Feb.09 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Feb.09 11:00 am Outreach Committee; Pastor’s office
Mon. Feb.10 6:30 pm Women of Faith meeting; Fellowship Hall
Sun. Feb.16 7:00 am Men’s Breakfast; Fellowship Hall
Sun. Feb.16 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Feb.16 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Feb.23 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Feb.23 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

MISSIONS



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 toothpaste. Cash donations are always welcome.

Toilet paper is needed ASAP.