

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com
January 26, 2025 **Third Sunday after Epiphany**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.”

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 gather to worship, to sing and proclaim with joy the good works God is doing in our midst.

We gather to worship, as is our custom.

We also gather today to pray for our families, our community, and our world. To name the challenges that press in around us, to lament the suffering in our world, to declare our trust in God in the midst of hardship.

We gather to worship, as is our custom.

We, like those in Nazareth, gather to hear and receive the Word of God proclaimed among us. To encounter the life-giving message of God's love redeems us to be bearers of love and freedom in this world.

We gather to worship, as is our custom.

Children of God, listen. Pay attention. Ready your hearts. God is here. Jesus has come among us. The Spirit brings the Word to life in our midst. Are you ready?

We gather to worship, as is our custom. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing”

(UMH # 57)

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

We thank you, O God, for calling us into your church to be your people. We have gathered, God of grace and wisdom, because we have heard your call. You have reached out to us in Jesus Christ; you have touched us with your Spirit, and we



have turned toward you, seeking to love as we have been loved. We call upon your holy name: empower us to worship and serve you, walking gently on this earth, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Let us lift our prayers in thoughts of praise.

SILENT PRAYER

Let us share our doubts with God.

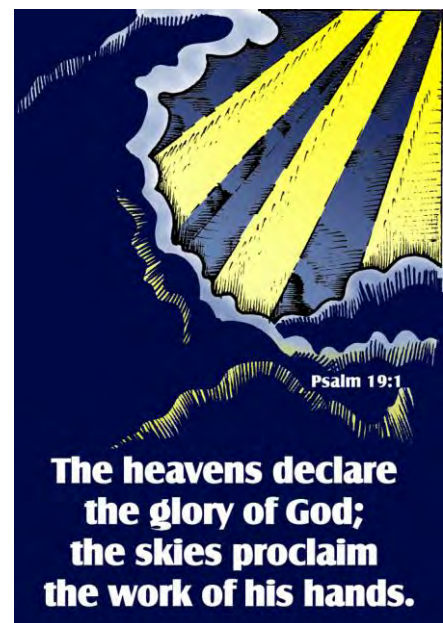
THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 19: 1-11(CEB)

Heaven is declaring God's glory; the sky is proclaiming his handiwork. One day gushes the news to the next, and one night informs another what needs to be known. Of course, there's no speech, no words—their voices can't be heard—but their sound extends throughout the world; their words reach the ends of the earth.

God has made a tent in heaven for the sun. The sun is like a groom coming out of his honeymoon suite; like a warrior, it thrills at running its course. It rises in one end of the sky; its circuit is complete at the other. Nothing escapes its heat. The LORD's Instruction is perfect, reviving one's very being. The LORD's laws are faithful, making naive people wise. The LORD's regulations are right, gladdening the heart. The LORD's commands are pure, giving light to the eyes. Honoring the LORD is correct, lasting forever. The LORD's judgments are true. All of these are righteous! They are more desirable than gold—than tons of pure gold! They are sweeter than honey—even dripping off the honeycomb! No doubt about it: your servant is enlightened by them; there is great reward in keeping them.



PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God, we do not understand Jesus, the prophet. We do not want to get our hands dirty with the poor, the oppressed, the prisoners. Forgive us for being insulated and isolated. Open our hearts to the poor and help us to love them as you love them, working to bring in the good news of the reign of God. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

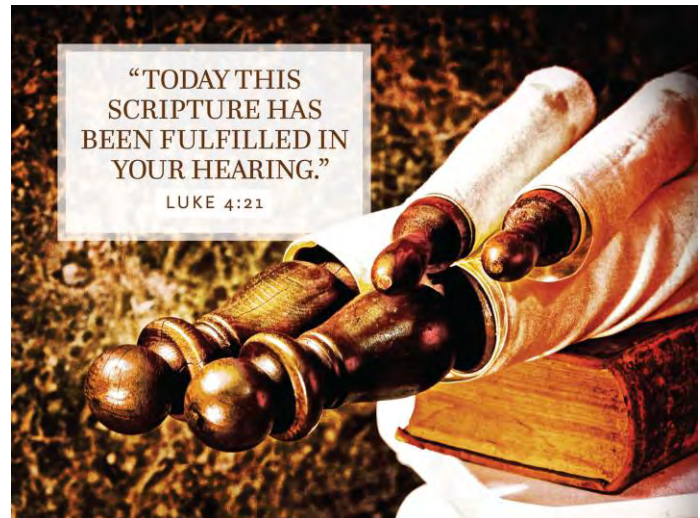
Luke 4:14-21(CEB)

Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news about him spread throughout the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been raised. On the Sabbath he went to the synagogue as he normally did and stood up to read, the synagogue assistant gave him the scroll from the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to liberate the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the synagogue assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the synagogue was fixed on him. He began to explain to them, "Today, this scripture has been fulfilled just as you heard it."



MESSAGE

"Epiphany and the Spirit"

Rev. Terry McDorman

HYMN

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

(UMH # 557)

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)**

Faithful God, who calls us to follow and empowers us by your Spirit, we bring these gifts to you in gratitude and hope. May they be used to proclaim good news,

set the oppressed free, and bring sight to the blind. Transform our offerings into acts of love and justice that reflect the mission of Jesus in this world. In his holy name, we pray. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION:

CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

God whose love reaches to the highest heavens how can we keep silent?
God whose righteousness stands like the tallest mountain how can we keep silent? God whose justice is deeper than any ocean how can we keep silent?
God whose grace flows like a never-ending river how can we keep silent?
How can we not proclaim your majesty from generation to generation?
How can we not raise the lamp of your Salvation for all the world to see?
God whose love reaches to the highest heavens we praise your mighty name!

***CLOSING HYMN** *“How Great Thou Art”* (UMH # 77)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Please be seated and silent during the Postlude)

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 28

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.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Sun. Jan.26 11:00 am Trustee's Meeting; Pastor's Office
Sun. Feb.02 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Feb.02 10:00 am Worship and Zoom 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
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

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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.

Macaroni and cheese; and toilet paper are needed ASAP.