

**Macon United Methodist Church**  
**190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133**  
**Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com**  
**February 9, 2025** **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

*“Just because a man lacks the use of his eyes doesn’t mean he lacks vision.”*  
Stevie Wonder

## 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)**

We are all God's children, beloved and created by God to reflect the Lord's image.

**We celebrate the beloved glory of God found in every person.**

We are all part of God's family and God's family reflects the image of God.

**We are part of a family of God that embraces our abilities, strengths, and weaknesses.**

God's family includes every person. We are a collection of people who love God.

We are neurologically typical and neurologically divergent. Some are fully abled and some are disabled, yet we are part of God's family. Some can move in the world without thinking about access. Some need additional access and help to live in the community, yet we are all part of God's family.

**God's family is diverse and divergent. We are all part of God's family. Thanks be to God!**

**\*OPENING HYMN**      *“Holy God, We Praise Thy Name”*      (UMH # 79)

## OPENING PRAYER (unison)

**Some have come under compulsion. Some have come out of curiosity. Some have come out of a great need. Some have come out of tradition. Some have come to dedicate their new outfit. All will meet Jesus. All will have the opportunity to be**

**blessed. All will decide what to do, having met Jesus. May we decide to follow him. 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**

**Exodus 4:10-17 (CEB) (CEB)**

But Moses said to the LORD, "My Lord, I've never been able to speak well, not yesterday, not the day before, and certainly not now since you've been talking to your servant. I have a slow mouth and a thick tongue."

Then the LORD said to him, "Who gives people the ability to speak? Who's responsible for making them unable to speak or hard of hearing, sighted or blind? Isn't it I, the LORD? Now go! I'll help you speak, and I'll teach you what you should say."

But Moses said, "Please, my Lord, just send someone else."

Then the LORD got angry at Moses and said, "What about your brother Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak very well. He's on his way out to meet you now, and he's looking forward to seeing you.

Speak to him and tell him what he's supposed to say. I'll help both of you speak, and I'll teach both of you what to do. Aaron will speak for you to the people. He'll be a spokesperson for you, and you will be like God for him. Take this shepherd's rod with you too so that you can do the signs."



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

**Almighty and creating God, we confess and come before you today as people who are separated from one another by fear, prejudice, and ignorance. By our language, actions and facilities we declare insiders and outsiders in our lives and in our church. Forgive us and create in us the vision of opening our hearts, minds, and doors as wide as the love of God, so that no one is left outside. Help us to reach beyond ourselves to discover the joy of community. Give us the patience to discover that all people have gifts and abilities to share with our community of faith. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

### **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

**Mark 2: 1-12 (CEB)**

After a few days, Jesus went back to Capernaum, and people heard that he was at home. So many gathered that there was no longer space, not even near the door. Jesus was

speaking the word to them. Some people arrived, and four of them were bringing to him a man who was paralyzed. They couldn't carry him through the crowd, so they tore off part of the roof above where Jesus was. When they had made an opening, they lowered the mat on which the paralyzed man was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven!"

Some legal experts were sitting there, muttering among themselves, "Why does he speak this way? He's insulting God. Only the one God can forgive sins."

Jesus immediately recognized what they were discussing, and he said to them, "Why do you fill your minds with these questions? Which is easier—to say to a paralyzed person, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take up your bed, and walk'? But so you will know that the Human One has authority on the earth to forgive sins"—he said to the man who was paralyzed, "Get up, take your mat, and go home."

Jesus raised him up, and right away he picked up his mat and walked out in front of everybody. They were all amazed and praised God, saying, "We've never seen anything like this!"



## MESSAGE

**"To Be Included"**

**Rev. Terry McDorman**

## HYMN

*"Amazing Grace"*

**(UMH # 378)**

## 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)**

**Loving God, we come to you as your children with our many different needs and abilities. Open our eyes to see, our ears to hear and our hearts that we might act so that we may be moved to open new doors that all your children may come in and live fully into the life of your church. Amen.**

## **MUSICAL REFLECTION:**

**Denise Hunt and Susannah Moyer**

### **CLOSING PRAYER (unison)**

**As we seek to have open hearts, open minds and open doors, help us to move beyond opening the door to welcome only those who can climb the steps to enter. Help us to move beyond opening our hearts to love only those who look like us. And help us to move beyond opening our minds to accept only those who think like us. Help us to create an environment, in our church and in our community, where all are welcome. In your name we pray. Amen**

**\*CLOSING HYMN    “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”    (UMH # 64)**

### **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](mailto: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 11:00 am Outreach Committee; Pastor's office  
Mon. Feb.10 6:30 pm Women of Faith meeting; Fellowship Hall  
Sun. Feb.16 8:00 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  
Sun. Mar.02 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. Mar.02 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service  
Wed. Mar.05 Ash Wednesday (Beginning of Lent)

## **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

Feb 11 Doug Huggins

## **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.**