

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

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“Christ leads us down the mountain and into the desert, because the true transfiguration, the true shining forth of God in all God’s glory happens when we follow him there together.” Rev. Michael Kinman

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

calling all that hear to experience knowing Christ

PRELUDE



GATHERING **Words of welcome and announcements**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

In the face of a stranger, in the greeting of a friend, we see our Lord, Jesus Christ. In the love of Christ, welcome those around you today.

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

It is easy to stand here in the valley of our comfort.

We know what to expect and what is expected of us.

But Christ calls us to the mountain top to receive a new vision.

We are not sure we are ready for that.

Place your hope and trust in Christ, for He is your guide.

Let us open our hearts to Christ, ready for the vision he places before us. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“When Morning Guilds the Skies”

(UMH # 185)

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Lord, it seems so long ago that we heard your words at Jesus’ baptism. You reminded us that he is your beloved Son with whom you are well pleased. Again today we hear your words that we are to listen to him, to pay attention. Open our hearts this day, Lord, to hear the words of Jesus, to follow in his footsteps, and to serve You. For we ask this in Christ’s Name. 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

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 (CEB)

So, since we have such a hope, we act with great confidence. We aren't like Moses, who used to put a veil over his face so that the Israelites couldn't watch the end of what was fading away. But their minds were closed. Right up to the present day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. The veil is not removed because it is taken away by Christ. Even today, whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their hearts. But whenever someone turns back to the Lord, the veil is removed. The Lord is the Spirit, and where the Lord's Spirit is, there is freedom. All of us are looking with unveiled faces at the glory of the Lord as if we were looking in a mirror. We are being transformed into that same image from one degree of glory to the next degree of glory. This comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.



This is why we don't get discouraged, given that we received this ministry in the same way that we received God's mercy. Instead, we reject secrecy and shameful actions. We don't use deception, and we don't tamper with God's word. Instead, we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God by the public announcement of the truth.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

We want to celebrate. We don't want to listen. We want to stay on the mountaintop with Jesus and set up a festival where everyone can come and play and have a good time. We want our faith to be one of entertainment. But you have called us to "Listen to Him!" You have asked us to be ready for the journey. We cannot stay where we are, comfortable and snuggled down in the familiar. There is much to be done. Forgive us, Lord, when we are stubborn and willful. Remind us that you are with us, wherever we are. You call us from the mountaintop to go to the valley where this is struggle and strife; where healing is needed. Prepare us, Lord, for the journey. Help us to listen to you. Heal us, Lord. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

About eight days after Jesus said these things, he took Peter, John, and James, and went up on a mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed and his clothes flashed white like lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, were talking with him. They were clothed with heavenly splendor and spoke about Jesus' departure, which he would achieve in Jerusalem. Peter and those with him were almost overcome by sleep, but they managed to stay awake and saw his glory as well as the two men with him.

As the two men were about to leave Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it's good that we're here. We should construct three shrines: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—but he didn't know what he was saying. Peter was still speaking when a cloud overshadowed them. As they entered the cloud, they were overcome with awe. Then a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, my chosen one. Listen to him!" Even as the voice spoke, Jesus was found alone. They were speechless and at the time told no one what they had seen.

Luke 9:28-36 (CEB)



MESSAGE

"What the World Needs Now"

Rev. Terry McDorman

HYMN

"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

(UMH # 404)

INVITATION TO SHARE

In days of old, God was seen as far from the people. But we know Christ, and in him we know God. When we share what we have out of love, our hearts grow closer to God, and we shine with Christ's glory. Let us offer our gifts to God today.

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

(UMH # 94)

(during the singing, please raise your hands to God in thanksgiving and praise)

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)**

Generous God, it is through your mercy that we have this ministry—the ministry of our talents and treasure, the ministry of our passion and purpose. Strengthen our hearts for your service, and accept the grateful offerings we lay before you. 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.

HOLY COMMUNION

(All are invited to come forward to partake in the sacrament by taking a piece of bread and dipping it into the juice. All the bread is gluten free.)

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

We want to know you, Jesus. We want to cherish and hold, adore and revere, esteem and glorify you. Keep you in our hearts, glimpse you in our lives, trace you on our paths, comforting the homeless, grieving with the mourners, forgiving our sins, healing our wounds, raising our dying. We are afraid, awed, overwhelmed at your glory. We are touched, moved, transformed by your love. We are cleansed, renewed, refreshed by your forgiveness. We thank you. We praise you. We love you. You... the transfigured One. You... the resurrected One. You... the One...“This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him.” Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Shine, Jesus Shine”

(FWS #2173)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

(Please be seated and silent during the Postlude)

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 40

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.

DVD BIBLE STUDY

The Adult Sunday School will be starting a DVD Bible study on March 9. The study explores how the Old Testament Psalms predict Christ’s ministry.

DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary ash will be distributed.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Wed. Mar.05 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday (Beginning of Lent)
Sun. Mar.09 Daylight Saving Time Begins
Sun. Mar.09 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Mar.09 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Mar.09 11:00 am Worship Committee Meeting
Sun. Mar.16 8:00 am Men's Breakfast; Fellowship Hall
Sun. Mar.16 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Mar.16 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Mar.23 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Mar.23 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Wed. Mar.26 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting; Pastor's Office
Wed. Mar.26 7:00 pm Administrative Council Meeting; Pastor's Office
Sun. Mar.30 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Mar.30 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Mar.30 11:00 am Trustee's Meeting; Pastor's Office

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Mar 02 Russ Hedges

Mar 03 Neal Stombaugh

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.



March 9, 2025