

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

### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

*God will provide for your needs. Place your trust in God. You are not alone. God is with you always. The world cannot offer to you such abiding riches as the presence of God.*

### **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**

#### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

When Jesus was in the wilderness, he was tempted to save himself.

**We often look for the good things for ourselves first, before the well-being of others.**

Jesus was offered salvation if he turned stones to bread; if he accepted wealth and power; if he tested God's commitment to him.

**In all these things, Jesus remained strong in his commitment to God.**

May our commitment be as strong.

**May our lives be placed in God's caring hands throughout our journey. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**      **"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"**      **(UMH # 110)**

#### **OPENING PRAYER (unison)**

**Lord, the temptations of the world loom large before us. We are enticed, cajoled, and "sweet-talked" into moving from lives of service to lives of self-centeredness. We need your healing love. As you resisted the temptations in the wilderness, help us to place our trust in you, that we may be strong in our faith and confident in our service to you through serving others. Amen.**

### **COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

Let us lift our prayers in thoughts of praise.

## SILENT PRAYER

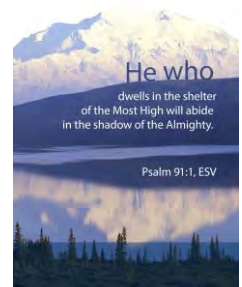
Let us share our doubts with God.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)

### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 91:1-2 (CEB)

Living in the Most High's shelter, camping in the Almighty's shade, I say to the LORD, "You are my refuge, my stronghold! You are my God—the one I trust!"



### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

In a world which values gambling, risking, taking dares, Lord, we come to this time of temptation. We confess that we are often enticed to take the risk for the rewards, often financial, offered if you win. Just "a dollar and a dream" and we hear the glory stories of people receiving great monetary wealth; later, we discover how many lives have been destroyed by this grand prize. Forgive us when we hunger for the wealth and power the world dangles before us. Move us from greed to gratitude for your blessings. Heal our wounded spirits and lives, so that we may fully serve you. Prepare us for this journey of discipleship and healing. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

### SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:1-8 (CEB)

Jesus returned from the Jordan River full of the Holy Spirit, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. There he was tempted for forty days by the devil. He ate nothing during those days and afterward Jesus was starving. The devil said to him, "Since you are God's Son, command this stone to become a loaf of bread."

Jesus replied, "It's written, *People won't live only by bread.*"

Next the devil led him to a high place and showed him in a single instant all the kingdoms of the world. The devil said, "I will give you this whole domain and the glory of all these kingdoms. It's been entrusted to me and I can give it to anyone I want.

Therefore, if you will worship me, it will all be yours."

Jesus answered, "It's written, *You will worship the Lord your God and serve only him.*"





## MESSAGE

**“Kneading More than Bread”**

**Rev. Terry McDorman**

## HYMN

***“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”***

**(FWS #2112)**

## INVITATION TO SHARE

Hear the word of the Lord: “When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you . . . you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground . . . and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling [place].” We bring our best before God in recognition that all that we have is an inheritance from God. In celebration of the bounty that God has provided, let us give generously as we collect today’s offering.

## 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)**

**We bring these gifts to you, O God, in recognition and gratitude for your loving provision. We offer you our very lives and bow before you in tribute to your many blessings. Take us and use us, that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven. This we pray in the name of the One who came in holy love, that we might have abundant life. Amen.**

## MUSICAL REFLECTION

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

**O God, you have spoken to us today through this word of faith. Embolden our spirits by your Spirit, that your words may be made manifest in all that we say and in all that we do to bring your kingdom on earth. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**                      *“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”*                      (UMH # 139)

## **BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**                                      (Please be seated and silent during the Postlude)

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 42**

**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.*

**Kirk Yenerall, CLM will be filling the pulpit next Sunday while Pastor Terry is away.**

## **UMM BREAKFAST**

**UMM Breakfast next Sunday at 7 a.m. We will be joined by our brothers from the UMC churches in the area. Bring yourself, bring a relative, bring a friend. Thanks in advance for our United Women in Faith for providing the meal.**

## **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.**

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE**

Sun. Mar.09 11:00 am Worship Committee Meeting  
Sun. Mar.16 7:00 am Men's Breakfast; Fellowship Hall Joined by area UMM  
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 12 Rebekah Miller

## 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 toothpaste. Cash donations are always welcome.

The Pantry is looking for volunteers to help with the Central Illinois food bank deliveries on the first and third Mondays of each month at 9:00 am.