

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com
April 13, 2025 **Palm Sunday**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“Remember finally, that the ashes that were on your forehead are created from the burnt palms of last Palm Sunday. New beginnings invariably come from old false things that are allowed to die.” Richard Rohr

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

reminding all who hear it of the glory of Jesus as he entered Jerusalem on a donkey.

PRELUDE

GATHERING **Words of welcome and announcements**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

share the good news that Jesus has arrived.

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

Today, we join Jesus in the final ascent to Jerusalem, knowing the depths we will descend on our journey through Holy Week.

Open the gates of righteousness, that we may come worship God!

We join the disciples in declaring that Jesus, riding on a donkey, is our Ruler, the One who will bring peace and salvation for all.

Open the gates of peace, that we may come worship God!

We join with the bystanders who questioned and wondered who this Jesus really is, who feared the consequences of angering the powers that be.

Open the gates of truth, that we may come worship God!

The journey through Holy Week brings us face-to-face with the stark reality of sin and God's faithfulness to save.

Open the gates of salvation, that we may come worship God whose steadfast love never fails!

***OPENING HYMN**

“All Glory, Laud & Honor”

(UMH # 280)

(Sing so that everyone outside the building can hear you, and while doing so, wave the palm branches energetically!)



OPENING PRAYER (unison)

God, we gather on this day to begin a week of contrasts.

From hope to despair to hope again.

As we begin the week, as we join with the crowd,

help us cut through the noise to see what is happening, to see what is at stake.

As the story unfolds,

open us to both the hope and the pain.

In this time of worship,

prepare us to celebrate, to weep, and to wait. 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)

SCRIPTURE READING

After Jesus said this, he continued on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. As Jesus came to Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives, he gave two disciples a task. He said, "Go into the village over there. When you enter it, you will find tied up there a colt that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks, 'Why are you untying it?' just say, 'Its master needs it.'" Those who had been sent found it exactly as he had said. As they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

They replied, "Its master needs it." They brought it to Jesus, threw their clothes on the colt, and lifted Jesus onto it. As Jesus rode along, they spread their clothes on the road. As Jesus approached the road leading down from the Mount of Olives, the whole throng of his disciples began rejoicing. They praised God with a loud voice because of all the mighty things they had seen. They said, "Blessings on the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens."

Some of the Pharisees from the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, scold your disciples! Tell them to stop!"

He answered, "I tell you, if they were silent, the stones would shout."

Luke 19:28-40 (CEB)

Go to the village
ahead of you,
and as you enter it,
you will find a
colt tied there,
which no one has
ever ridden.



Luke 19:30

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Merciful God, With the psalmist, we declare, “Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them!” But we forget that only by your grace can we be righteous. With the crowds, we proclaim, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!” But we neglect to follow you when you show us the ways to make peace on earth as it is in heaven. With the Pharisees, we notice our siblings doing their best to follow you and command, “Order them to stop!” But we refuse to listen to your command to love our neighbors as you love us. Forgive us, merciful God, and free us to follow Jesus down the road into Jerusalem, confronting the death--dealing powers of this world with the truth of your peace and steadfast love. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 23:1-49 (CEB)

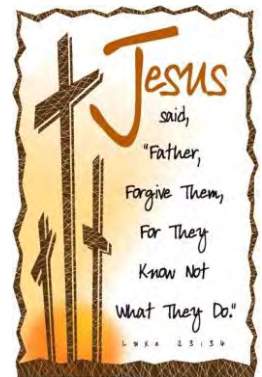
The whole assembly got up and led Jesus to Pilate and began to accuse him. They said, “We have found this man misleading our people, opposing the payment of taxes to Caesar, and claiming that he is the Christ, a king.” Pilate asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

Jesus replied, “That’s what you say.” Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no legal basis for action against this man.” But they objected strenuously, saying, “He agitates the people with his teaching throughout Judea—starting from Galilee all the way here.”

Hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. When he learned that Jesus was from Herod’s district, Pilate sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. Herod was very glad to see Jesus, for he had heard about Jesus and had wanted to see him for quite some time. He was hoping to see Jesus perform some sign. Herod questioned Jesus at length, but Jesus didn’t respond to him. The chief priests and the legal experts were there, fiercely accusing Jesus.

Herod and his soldiers treated Jesus with contempt. Herod mocked him by dressing Jesus in elegant clothes and sent him back to Pilate. Pilate and Herod became friends with each other that day. Before this, they had been enemies.

Then Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people. He said to them, “You brought this man before me as one who was misleading the people. I have questioned him in your presence and found nothing in this man’s conduct that provides a legal basis for the charges you have brought against him. Neither did Herod, because Herod returned him to us. He’s done nothing that deserves death. Therefore, I’ll have him whipped, then let him go.”



But with one voice they shouted, “Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us.” (Barabbas had been thrown into prison because of a riot that had occurred in the city, and for murder.)

Pilate addressed them again because he wanted to release Jesus. They kept shouting out, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” For the third time, Pilate said to them, “Why? What wrong has he done? I’ve found no legal basis for the death penalty in his case. Therefore, I will have him whipped, then let him go.”

But they were adamant, shouting their demand that Jesus be crucified. Their voices won out. Pilate issued his decision to grant their request. He released the one they asked for, who had been thrown into prison because of a riot and murder. But he handed Jesus over to their will.

As they led Jesus away, they grabbed Simon, a man from Cyrene, who was coming in from the countryside. They put the cross on his back and made him carry it behind Jesus. A huge crowd of people followed Jesus, including women, who were mourning and wailing for him. Jesus turned to the women and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, don’t cry for me. Rather, cry for yourselves and your children. The time will come when they will say, ‘Happy are those who are unable to become pregnant, the wombs that never gave birth, and the breasts that never nursed a child.’ Then *they will say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’* If they do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

They also led two other criminals to be executed with Jesus. When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they’re doing.” They drew lots as a way of dividing up his clothing.

The people were standing around watching, but the leaders sneered at him, saying, “He saved others. Let him save himself if he really is the Christ sent from God, the chosen one.” The soldiers also mocked him. They came up to him, offering him sour wine and saying, “If you really are the king of the Jews, save yourself.” Above his head was a notice of the formal charge against him. It read “This is the king of the Jews.” One of the criminals hanging next to Jesus insulted him: “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!”

Responding, the other criminal spoke harshly to him, “Don’t you fear God, seeing that you’ve also been sentenced to die? We are rightly condemned, for we are receiving the appropriate sentence for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

Jesus replied, “I assure you that today you will be with me in paradise.”

It was now about noon, and darkness covered the whole earth until about three o’clock, while the sun stopped shining. Then the curtain in the sanctuary tore down the middle. Crying out in a loud voice, Jesus said, “Father, *into your hands I entrust my life.*” After he said this, he breathed for the last time.

When the centurion saw what happened, he praised God, saying, “It’s really true: this man was righteous.” All the crowds who had come together to see this event returned to their homes beating their chests after seeing what had happened. And everyone who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance observing these things.

MESSAGE

“Being Passionate”

Rev. Terry McDorman

HYMN

“What Wondrous Love is This”

(UMH # 292)

INVITATION TO SHARE

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)**

God of Peace, who reigns in unexpected ways, we gather before you in this season of Lent, bringing our gifts as an offering of our hearts. Just as the crowd welcomed Jesus with shouts of praise, we offer our lives in service to your kingdom. Use these gifts to bring hope, healing, and love to a world longing for your peace. Guide us to give generously with joyful hearts, knowing that in our giving, we proclaim your reign of grace. Bless these offerings and all who give in the name of Christ, our Savior. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER Litany of the Passion by Lucien Deiss (responsively)

Christ Jesus, in agony in the garden of Olives, troubled by sadness and fear, comforted by angel:

O Lord, have mercy on me.

Christ Jesus betrayed by Judas’ kiss, abandoned by your apostles, delivered into the hands of sinners:

O Lord, have mercy on me.

Christ Jesus, accused by false witnesses, condemned to die on the cross, struck by

servants, covered with spittle:

O Lord, have mercy on me.

Christ Jesus, disowned by Peter, your apostle, delivered to Pilate and Herod, counted among the likes of Barabbas:

O Lord, have mercy on me.

Christ Jesus, carrying your cross to Calvary, consoled by the daughters of Jerusalem, helped by Simon of Cyrene:

O Lord, have mercy on me.

Christ Jesus, stripped of your clothes, given vinegar to drink, crucified with thieves:

O Lord, have mercy on me.

Christ Jesus, insulted on the cross, praying for your executioners, pardoning the good thief:

O Lord, have mercy on me.

Christ Jesus, entrusting your mother to your beloved disciple, giving up your spirit into the hands of your Father, dying for all of us sinners:

O Lord, have mercy on me.

By your sufferings, Lord, heal the wounds in our hearts. Let your tears be the source of joy for us, and let your death give us life.

O Lord, have mercy on me.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

(UMH# 140)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

(Please be seated and silent during the Postlude)

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 40

ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70

Thank you to the Board of Trustees for hanging the new banners in the sanctuary.

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.

CHOIR PRACTICE

Choir Practice after church today in preparation for Easter Service.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Sun. April 13 11:00 am Choir Practice
Sun. April 13 11:00 am Outreach Committee Meeting
Thur. April 17 6:00 pm Holy Thursday Soup Supper/Worship
Fri. April 18 Good Friday—Church Office Closed
Sun. April 20 No Sunday School
Sun. April 20 10:00 am Easter Sunday Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. April 27 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. April 27 10:00 am Sunday Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. April 27 11:00 am SPRC Committee Meeting
Sat May 10 9:00 am All Church Workday

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Apr 13 Stephanie Allen Apr 14 Susannah Moyer
Apr 19 Devin Forden

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.
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.