

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com
June 1, 2025 Ascension Sunday Seventh Sunday of Easter

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Celebrate, dear friends! God's Spirit will be coming to you to give you hope and courage. (Barbara Hoover)

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

announcing that Jesus has ascended to the Father.

PRELUDE

GATHERING Words of welcome and announcements

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

The roots of the Tree of Life run deep into the sacred soil.

The limbs of the Tree of Life reach out to embrace the goodness of all creation.

The trunk of the Tree of Life stands strong in the face of hatred and malice toward the least, the lonely, the left out.

The branches of the Tree of Life struggle toward the heavens, hoping to bring about God's reign of justice and love for all.

The winds of the Spirit breathe through the Tree of Life, bringing renewal and hope.

May our worship this day be a worthy offering that supports the Tree of Life and brings the goodness of the Sacred to our world.

***OPENING HYMN “Love Devine, All Loves Excelling” (UMH # 384)**

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

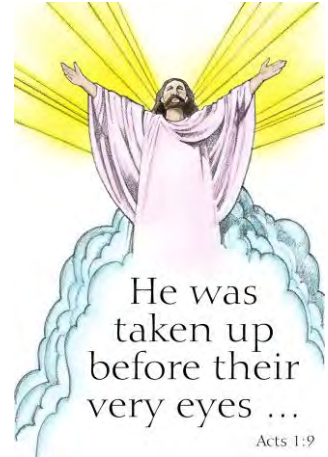
Gracious Creator, you invite us into relationship with every breath. Settle us, center us, and calm us to the ever-moving flowing of your Spirit calling us to become one with you. We pray in humility and hope of grace. Amen.

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

Acts 1:1-11 (CEB)

Theophilus, the first scroll I wrote concerned everything Jesus did and taught from the beginning, right up to the day when he was taken up into heaven. Before he was taken up, working in the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus instructed the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed them that he was alive with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days, speaking to them about God's kingdom. While they were eating together, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what the Father had promised. He said, "This is what you heard from me: John baptized with water, but in only a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

As a result, those who had gathered together asked Jesus, "Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now?"

Jesus replied, "It isn't for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority. Rather, you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."



After Jesus said these things, as they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going away and as they were staring toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood next to them. They said, "Galileans, why are you standing here, looking toward heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you saw him go into heaven."

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

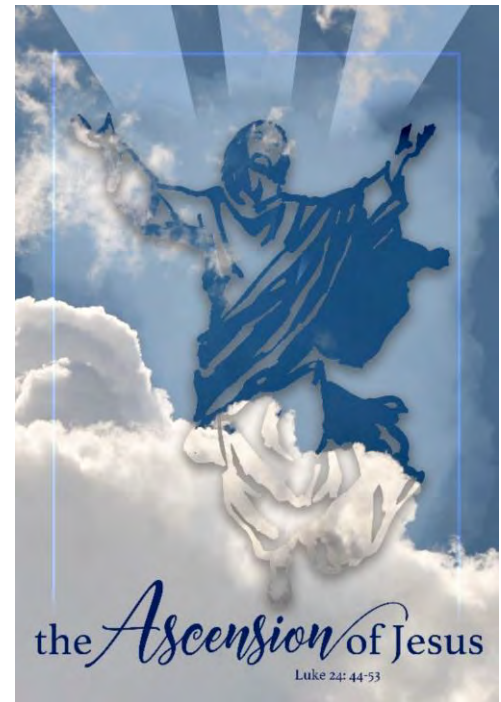
Patient God, it hasn't been easy for us to be disciples or witnesses to your love. We get caught in traps of anger, impatience and fear. Our words and spirits become cynical and jaded. Yet, at all times, you are with us, guiding and guarding us. On this day in which we celebrate the ascension of Jesus into heaven, we are reminded that we are not being left without guidance. The promise of the Spirit is given and in that promise we have hope and courage to become true disciples. Forgive us when we forget that! Forgive us when we act as though you didn't care about us or about this world. We are called to be those who live the faith of hope and reconciliation, of courage and understanding. Lift us up when we have fallen, guide our hearts when we speak, for it is in the name of our risen Savior Jesus that we ask these things. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 24:44-53 (CEB)

Jesus said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law from Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. He said to them, “This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and a change of heart and life for the forgiveness of sins must be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. Look, I’m sending to you what my Father promised, but you are to stay in the city until you have been furnished with heavenly power.”

He led them out as far as Bethany, where he lifted his hands and blessed them. As he blessed them, he left them and was taken up to heaven. They worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem overwhelmed with joy. And they were continuously in the temple praising God.



MESSAGE

“Are You Going Too”

Rev. Terry Mc Dorman

HYMN

“I Love to Tell the Story”

(UMH # 156)

INVITATION TO SHARE

Filled with the hope to which Christ has called us, let us lay our gifts and offerings at the foot of the cross.

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

(UMH # 94)

(you are invited to raise your arms in praise to the Lord)

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)

With joy and confidence in your abiding love and presence with us, we present these gifts, tokens of our lives, as an offering for service in and to this world which

you have entrusted to us. Bless these gifts and bless all those who place their trust in you. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. *The pastor may lift hands and keep them raised.*

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.

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, who looked for that day

when justice shall roll down like waters

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream,

when nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

neither shall they learn war anymore.

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.

Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,

to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,

to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

and to announce that the time had come

when you would save your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

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.

At his ascension you exalted him

to sit and reign with you at your right hand.

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.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

As the usher guides you, you are invited to come forward take a piece of bread, dip it into the cup of juice and partake. If you need assistance, please advise the usher and we shall bring the elements to you.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

Dear Lord, we are so fortunate to be gathered here this morning to hear the good news of the promised Spirit of Truth. We celebrate that we are a community of people, each at a different point in his or her faith journey, each seeking your healing love and mercy. We are called to witness to the good news of Jesus who taught us about God's love for each one of us and for God's magnificent creation. But there are those for whom this word seems a distant hope or experience.

They struggle with the difficulties of everyday living, with addictions, with illness, with alienation. Help us to bring the good news to them in gentle kindness and compassionate understanding. Let our actions and attitudes reflect all that Jesus taught us. For just a moment we take a deep breath and remember those we love who are in difficulty.

***CLOSING HYMN** *“Crown Him with Many Crowns”* (UMH # 327)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Please be seated and silent during the Postlude)

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 39

ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70

Special thank yous to all those that assisted with worship today.

Next Sunday is Pentecost. Please wear something red as we shall celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit.

UPDATE ON NEW PASTOR APPOINTMENT

Pastor Terry will be retiring on June 30th. The District Superintendent, in consultancy with the PPRC, is working to find the best possible pastor for Macon UMC. As soon as that process is completed, an announcement will be made.

STATE AGENCIES AND ASSISTANCE

The Illinois Assistive Technology Program (IATP) is a statewide nonprofit agency that has been responsible for implementing the AT Act since 1989.

IATP promotes the availability of assistive technology (AT) devices and services for people with disabilities and other health conditions.

IATP offers person-centered services to all people with disabilities or health related illnesses in the state of Illinois, their families, service providers, state agencies, private industry, educators, and other interested individuals, regardless of age or income.

On Sunday, June 15th, Lynette Strode, Program Manager for IATP, will be joining us during worship and will be available afterwards in the parlor to explain the services and answer any questions.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Sun. June 8 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. June 8 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. June 8 11:00 am Outreach Committee Meeting; Pastor's office
Sun. June 15 Father's Day
Sun. June 15 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. June 15 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service Father's Day
Sun. June 22 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. June 22 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service Father's Day
Sun. June 29 11:00 am Pastor's Retirement Celebration

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

June 2 Brad Roush

June 7 Dan and Erin Moyer

MISSIONS



Items requested by the food pantry are: Any kind of **cereal**, cereal bars or oatmeal; canned fruits and vegetables; canned soup; canned pasta; shampoo; bar soap; toothpaste, and antiperspirant. 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.