

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com
May 11, 2025 **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“The Earth is what we all have in common.”—Wendell Berry

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

for all to remember the glory of the Resurrection!

PRELUDE

GATHERING **Words of welcome and announcements**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

The God of day and darkness moves among us...

We are the people of Living Water.

The God of hope and promise lives among us...

We are the people of Living Water.

The God of the lost and lonely calls us by name...

We are the people bathed in the Living Water of Creation, God’s kin, traveling toward home and a love that will not let us go.

***OPENING HYMN** *“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”* **(UMH # 127)**

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Holy One of the morning, we come together to remember who we are and whose we are. Open our hearts to the nudging of your Spirit that moves among us, empowering us to listen, to nurture, and to care for all creation. Give us eyes to see when you break into our lives through all you have made and wash us once again in your life-giving waters. 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

Revelations 7:9-17 (CEB)

After this I looked, and there was a great crowd that no one could number. They were from every nation, tribe, people, and language. They were standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They wore white robes and held palm branches in their hands, They cried out with a loud voice:

“Victory belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

All the angels stood in a circle around the throne, and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell facedown before the throne and worshipped God, saying,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and always. Amen.”

Then one of the elders said to me, “Who are these people wearing white robes, and where did they come from?” I said to him, “Sir, you know.” Then he said to me, “These people have come out of great hardship. They have washed their robes and made them white in the Lamb’s blood. This is the reason they are before God’s throne. They worship him day and night in his temple, and the one seated on the throne will shelter them. They won’t hunger or thirst anymore. No sun or scorching heat will beat down on them, because the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them. He will lead them to the springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”



PRAYER (unison)

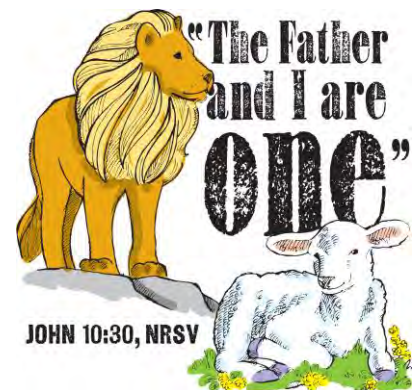
Every creature, every plant, every rock and grain of sand proclaims the glory of its Creator, worships through color, shape, scent and form. A multi-sensory song of praise. Creator God, may we join with the whole of your creation, in praising you, our Creator, through the fragrance and melody of our lives.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 10:22-30 (CEB)

The time came for the Festival of Dedication in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the temple, walking in the covered porch named for Solomon. The Jewish opposition circled around him and asked, “How long will you test our patience? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.”

Jesus answered, “I have told you, but you don’t believe. The works I do in my Father’s name testify about me, but you don’t believe because you don’t belong to my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice. I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life. They will never die, and no



one will snatch them from my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them from my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

MESSAGE

"Mother's Day"

Rev. Terry McDorman

HYMN

"Together We Serve"

(FWS #2175)

INVITATION TO SHARE

The holy One has given us fish and bread for a lifetime. Let us now share from our bounty, that through our gifts, God's will may be done.

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)**

God, you have delivered us from hunger and from thirst by the fruits of your creation. The gifts you have given overflow before us. In return, we offer these gifts back to you, and back to those who suffer from ecological degradation and climate change. May the gifts we give enable the building of the healed world envisioned in Revelations. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

Heavenly Father, we gather in awe before you, inspired by the vision from Revelation 7:9-17, where a multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language stands before your throne, delivered from hunger, thirst, and scorching heat. We thank you for this promise of restoration and hope amid our current trials.

Lord, we recognize the deep and profound ecological injustices that mar our world today. We see the suffering of communities, particularly in vulnerable regions,

who endure the harshest impacts of climate change despite contributing the least to its causes. We pray for your mercy and intervention in these times of hardship. Help us to embody the vision of inclusivity and justice seen in Revelation. Guide us to advocate for policies that uplift and protect those most affected by ecological degradation. Inspire us to work toward a world where every voice is heard and every need is addressed, aligning our actions with your promise of relief and renewal.

Teach us to live sustainably, reducing our impact on the environment and embracing practices that honor your creation. Let our lives reflect the purity and victory symbolized by the white robes of the multitude in your heavenly vision. May we be diligent in our efforts to support and uplift those who are suffering from environmental injustices, through both direct relief and systemic change.

Empower us to foster a culture of compassion and justice. Instill in our hearts a deep commitment to care for the Earth and one another, knowing that our actions echo your love and justice. Strengthen our resolve to advocate for meaningful change and to build networks of support that enhance resilience and hope in every community.

As we strive toward ecological justice, let us remain mindful of your promises, trusting that you are with us in our efforts and that a future free from suffering and hardship is within our reach. In your holy name, we pray, Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

(UMH# 92)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

(Please be seated and silent during the Postlude)

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

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 36

ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70

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.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Wed. May 14 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting; Pastor's Office
Wed. May 14 7:00 pm Administrative Council Meeting; Pastor's Office
Sun. May 18 8:00 am Men's Breakfast; Fellowship Hall
Sun. May 18 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. May 18 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. May 18 11:00 am Worship Committee Meeting
Thur. May 22 6:30 pm Trustees Meeting
Sun. May 25 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. May 25 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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.

