

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com
May 18, 2025 **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“People of God are not merely to mark time, waiting for God to step in and set right all that is wrong. Rather, they are to model the new heaven and new earth, and by so doing awaken longings for what God will someday bring to pass.” Philip Yancey

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

announcing the coming of a new heaven and new earth.

PRELUDE

GATHERING **Words of welcome and announcements**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

In the beginning was the Dream.

And the Dream was with God and spoke for peace.

In the beginning was the Dream.

And the Dream was with God and spoke for justice.

In the beginning was the Dream.

And the Dream was with God and longed for love.

We come to worship the God of the Dream in a spirit of peace, justice, and love, longing to glimpse the promise of a holy dwelling place for all creation.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Marching to Zion”

(UMH # 733)

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

God, you are in the song of the trees and the hungers of our hearts. You dwell in the pulse of creation; there is no place where you are not. We give you thanks for the expansive power of your still-creating love.

We pray gratitude for the wild goodness of being creatures called to wonder and freedom. You have created all that is, and you call it good. Give us the courage and wisdom to know ourselves as co-creators of your vision for abundant life for all.



Pulse of life, hear our prayer. Stir into the places of ecological despair the awareness that you are yet calling us to a new-created earth. Your Resurrection power extends to trees and hearts, imaginations and shared witness.

We lift the complexity and harmony of life to your heart and trust that you hear and hold us as we pray in shared silence:

We claim kinship with the one who coaxed beauty out of trees, your son Jesus who is Christ.

Coax beauty out of us, living Spirit! Embolden us to be those who shape life, peace, and beauty. We pray, we live, we long, and we love, seeking to live your vision. May we know your kin-dom come, even now; especially now. 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 11:1-18 (CEB)

The apostles and the brothers and sisters throughout Judea heard that even the Gentiles had welcomed God’s word. When Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him. They accused him, “You went into the home of the uncircumcised and ate with them!”

Step-by-step, Peter explained what had happened. “I was in the city of Joppa praying when I had a visionary experience. In my vision, I saw something like a large linen sheet being lowered from heaven by its four corners. It came all the way down to me.

As I stared at it, wondering what it was, I saw four-legged animals—including wild beasts—as well as reptiles and wild birds. I heard a voice say, ‘Get up, Peter! Kill and eat!’ I responded, ‘Absolutely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ The voice from heaven spoke a second time, ‘Never consider unclean what God has made pure.’ This happened three times, then everything was pulled back into heaven. At that moment three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea arrived at the house where we were staying. The Spirit told me to go with them even though they were Gentiles. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered that man’s house. He reported to us how he had seen an angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and summon Simon, who is known as Peter. He will tell you how you and your



entire household can be saved.’ When I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them, just as the Spirit fell on us in the beginning. I remembered the Lord’s words: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ If God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, then who am I? Could I stand in God’s way?”

Once the apostles and other believers heard this, they calmed down. They praised God and concluded, “So then God has enabled Gentiles to change their hearts and lives so that they might have new life.”

PRAYER (unison)

How blessed is this day, when earth and heaven are joined and humankind is reconciled to God! May the light of Jesus shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find his light ever burning in our hearts—he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Revelations 21:1-6 (CEB)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne say, “Look! God’s dwelling is here with humankind. He will dwell with them, and they will be his peoples. God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. There will be no mourning, crying, or pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” Then the one seated on the throne said, “Look! I’m making all things new.” He also said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “All is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will freely give water from the life-giving spring.



MESSAGE

“A New Heaven and a New Earth”

Rev. Terry McDorman

HYMN

“Grace Alone”

(FWS #2162)

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)**

Giver of life, You are the source of all good things. We entrust to you our gifts, that you would use them to make all know that with you, they are beloved, whole, and restored. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation, to you be praise and glory forever. As once you ransomed your people from Egypt and led them to freedom in the promised land, so now you have delivered us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your risen Son. May we, the first fruits of your new creation, rejoice in this new day you have made, and praise you for your mighty acts. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Blessed be God forever.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"I Love to Tell the Story"

(UMH # 156)

BENEDICTION This morning, the Benediction and Postlude will be combined.

POSTLUDE

(Please be seated and silent during the Postlude)

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

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 51

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

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
Mon. May 26 Memorial Day
Sun. June 1 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. June 1 10:00 am Worship and Zoom 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

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

May 22 Max Moyer

MISSIONS



LOCAL 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.

