

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com
May 25, 2025 **Sixth Sunday of Easter**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Americans may not only pay tribute to our honored dead but also unite in prayer for success in our search for a just and lasting peace."

—John F. Kennedy, "Prayer for Peace," Memorial Day 1962



Building Blocks

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

in honor of all who have fallen in defense of freedom.

PRELUDE

GATHERING **Words of welcome and announcements**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

May God be gracious to us and bless us.

May God's face shine upon us and bring us peace!

Let all people praise you, O Lord.

Let all people shout their joy to your holy name.

God blesses us continually throughout all our lives.

Thanks be to God, for God's eternal love and blessing. AMEN.

***OPENING HYMN** *"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"* **(UMH # 103)**

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

God of the stars and galaxies, God of the seed and Earth, we thank you that you continue to come to us, to amaze us, to laugh with us, to cry with us, to comfort us, and to show us that your love shines through us and your creation, bringing light to a darkened world. May this beauty and peace be reflected in this sacred circle. In the name of the Christ-presence, we pray. 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)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Creator God, Your Eden flowed with mountain-fed rivers into lush valleys with orchards of pomegranates, grapes, and honeybees. The rain fell at the right time in the right amount. Even just a few decades ago, summertime was the season of shared community celebrations, weddings, parades, picnics, and growing crops. That has changed. This is not the Earth that Eden would recognize. Creator God, forgive us for our carelessness. Comfort those who suffer. We repent of this destructive path. Turn the hearts of those who would continue to do harm to this planet. Let us believe as you have taught us, that all things can be made new. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:1-12 (CEB)

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up a mountain. He sat down and his disciples came to him. He taught them, saying:

“Happy are people who are hopeless, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs. “Happy are people who grieve, because they will be made glad. “Happy are people who are humble, because they will inherit the earth.

“Happy are people who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, because they will be fed until they are full.

“Happy are people who show mercy, because they will receive mercy. “Happy are people who have pure hearts, because they will see God.

“Happy are people who make peace, because they will be called God’s children.

“Happy are people whose lives are harassed because they are righteous, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs. “Happy are you when people insult you and harass you and speak all kinds of bad and false things about you, all because of me. Be full of joy and be glad, because you have a great reward in heaven. In the same way, people harassed the prophets who came before you.



MESSAGE

“Building Blocks”

Rev. Sally Hamon

HYMN

“*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*”

(FWS #2171)

INVITATION TO SHARE

Jesus invited us to live in a world filled with peace and love and joy. Let us give so that we can make it so.

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)**

Source of all good blessings in our lives: we bring you our gifts with joy, but knowing that often our generosity has been regulated by our fears. We live in uncertain times, and we sometimes fear uncertainty, whether our money will last or whether we will find ourselves in need. We admit that we have heard but not heeded the words from your son, “Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” Grant us courage to experience the joy of deep generosity without fear. We pray this in the name of our Risen Savior, who thought the cross was not too great a price to pay for us. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, and ask that God may give us peace: for the service men and women who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered by and known to God; may God give peace. God give peace. For those who love them in death as in life, offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss; may God give peace. God give peace. For all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return; may God give peace. God give peace. For civilian women, children and men whose lives are disfigured by war or terror, calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatreds of humanity; may God give peace. God give peace. For peacemakers and peacekeepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free; may God give peace. God give peace. For all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership, political, military and religious; asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace; may God give peace. God give peace. O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and those whose names we will never know. Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world, and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm. As we honor the past, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and forever. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“To God Be the Glory”

(UMH # 98)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

(Please be seated and silent during the Postlude)

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

Thank you to Rev. Sally Hamon for filling in for Pastor Terry who will return next week.

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 35

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

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
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 29 11:00 am Pastor's Retirement Celebration

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

May 27 McKynlee Kapchinski

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.