

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
July 20, 2025 **Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

It is always a good day to be in the house of the Lord!

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE



GATHERING **Words of welcome and announcements**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

Children of God, in Jesus, Love became flesh and moved into the neighborhood

We gather to worship Christ, the image of the invisible.

In Jesus, we meet the fullness of God with no barriers to access.

We gather to worship Christ, the image of the invisible

In Jesus, our separation from God, neighbor, self, and creation has been removed. We are free for divine and loving connection once again.

We gather to worship Christ, the image of the invisible.

Children of God, come! Come, let us worship God, whose power makes Love visible to us so that we might reflect Love to the world.

Come, let us worship Christ, Love who came to dwell among us and within us!

OPENING HYMN** ***“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” **(UMH # 110)**

1. A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing. For still our ancient foe does seek to work us woe; his craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

2. Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he; Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same; and he must win the battle.

3. And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us. The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him; his rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure; one little word shall fell him.

4. That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours, through him who with us sideth. Let goods and
kindred go, this mortal life also; the body they may kill: God's truth abideth still; his
kingdom is forever!

OPENING PRAYER

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

SILENT PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 52 (CEB)

Hey, powerful person! Why do you brag about evil?

God's faithful love lasts all day long.

² Your tongue devises destruction: it's like a sharpened razor, causing deception.

³ You love evil more than good; you love lying more than speaking what is right.

⁴ You love all destructive words; you love the deceiving tongue.

⁵ But God will take you down permanently; he will snatch you up,
tear you out of your tent, and uproot you from the land of the living!

⁶ The righteous will see and be in awe; they will laugh at those people:

⁷ "Look at them! They didn't make God their refuge.
Instead, they trusted in their own great wealth. They
sought refuge in it—to their own destruction!"

⁸ But I am like a green olive tree in God's house;

I trust in God's faithful love forever and always.

⁹ I will give thanks to you, God, forever, because you
have acted. In the presence of your faithful people, I
will hope in your name because it's so good.



SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 1:15-28 (CEB)

¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the one who is first over all creation,

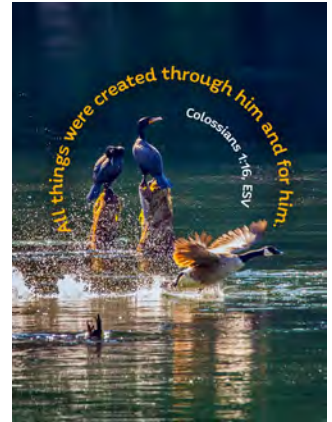
¹⁶ Because all things were created by him: both in the heavens and on the earth,
the things that are visible and the things that are invisible.

Whether they are thrones or powers, or rulers or authorities,
all things were created through him and for him.

¹⁷ He existed before all things, and all things are held together in him.

¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning,
the one who is firstborn from among the dead

so that he might occupy the first place in everything.
¹⁹ Because all the fullness of God was pleased to live in him,
²⁰ and he reconciled all things to himself through him—whether things on earth or in the heavens. He brought peace through the blood of his cross.
²¹ Once you were alienated from God and you were enemies with him in your minds, which was shown by your evil actions. ²² But now he has reconciled you by his physical body through death, to present you before God as a people who are holy, faultless, and without blame. ²³ But you need to remain well established and rooted in faith and not shift away from the hope given in the good news that you heard. This message has been preached throughout all creation under heaven. And I, Paul, became a servant of this good news.
²⁴ Now I'm happy to be suffering for you. I'm completing what is missing from Christ's sufferings with my own body. I'm doing this for the sake of his body, which is the church. ²⁵ I became a servant of the church by God's commission, which was given to me for you, in order to complete God's word. ²⁶ I'm completing it with a secret plan that has been hidden for ages and generations but which has now been revealed to his holy people. ²⁷ God wanted to make the glorious riches of this secret plan known among the Gentiles, which is Christ living in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ This is what we preach as we warn and teach every person with all wisdom so that we might present each one mature in Christ.



MESSAGE **“Lifting Up the Invisible”** **Beverly J. Matthews, PsyD**
Certified Lay Minister, Assigned Supply Pastor

HYMN **“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”** **(UMH # 103)**

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name
we praise.
2. Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in
might; thy justice like mountains high soaring above thy clouds which are fountains of
goodness and love.
3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small; in all life thou livest, the true life of
all; we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree, and wither and perish, but naught
changeth thee.

4. Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light; thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight; all laud we would render: O help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY**

(UMH # 95)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)**

Holy and Reconciling God, in Christ, you have made the invisible, visible, bringing us home with love beyond measure. As we offer these gifts, may they reflect our gratitude for your presence in our lives. Use them to build your kingdom, to restore what is broken, and to remind the world of your grace. May our giving be an act of thanksgiving, a sign of ordinary magic of your love at work among us. In all things, may we live to your glory. Amen

HOLY COMMUNION

Table I

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

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, 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.

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.
When the Lord ascended, he promised to be with you always
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Jamie Clark

CLOSING PRAYER

Most Holy invisible Father, we give thanks to you for our every blessing. We ask for your guidance and forgiveness. Be with us this week as we serve you in our community. We ask these things in your name. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus” (UMH # 277)**

1. Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear; things I would ask him to tell me if he were here: scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea, stories of Jesus, tell them to me.
2. First let me hear how the children stood round his knee, and I shall fancy his blessing resting on me; words full of kindness, deeds full of grace, all in the lovelight of Jesus' face.
3. Into the city I'd follow the children's band, waving a branch of the palm tree high in my hand; one of his heralds, yes, I would sing loudest hosannas, "Jesus is King!"

POSTLUDE

BENEDICTION

The Lord Bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

BEVERLY J, MATTHEWS, PSYD

CERTIFIED LAY MINISTER, ASSIGNED SUPPLY PASTOR

217 825 9010

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 33

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.

RICE MEAL PACKING

Our church will be packing rice meals for distribution on Saturday, August 2, 2025. Twenty-four volunteers are needed for August 2.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Sun. July 27 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. July 27 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Aug 02 9:00 am Rice Packing
Sun. Aug 03 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Aug 03 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Aug 10 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Aug 10 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

July 20 David Huggins July 23 Ross and Susannah 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.

ATTENDING CAMP

Dion Osman leaves for camp on July 19 and would appreciate mail from his church family. The address is:

Dion Osman

In care of CAMP NEW HOPE

1364 Country Road 100 E

Neoga, IL 62447