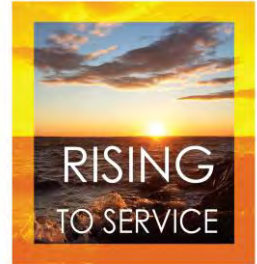


Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
August 24, 2025 **Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

You are never too old to set a new goal or dream a new dream.
C. S. Lewis, British Writer and Lay Theologian.



RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

GATHERING **Words of welcome and announcements**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

Welcome all who long to encounter Jesus, the one who loves, tends, sustains and saves us.

Jesus said, “The son of Man came not to be served but to serve.”

Welcome all who walk the halls of power, who feel pushed and pulled to fight for position, status and authority.

Jesus said, “The son of Man came not to be served but to serve.”

Welcome all who feel burned out, who have given more than they have day in and day out and long for someone to notice that you, too, need help and support.

Jesus said, “The son of Man came not to be served but to serve.”

Welcome followers of Christ, who came to serve and show God’s abundant love and grace among us.

We come to worship Jesus who shows us that serving is the fruit of our love and being served by one another is the source of our power as the body of Christ.

Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Oh Worship the King”

(UMH # 73)

1. O worship the King all-glorious above, O gratefully sing his power and his love: our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days, pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.
2. O tell of his might and sing of his grace, whose robe is the light, whose canopy space. His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form, and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

3. Your bountiful care, what tongue can recite? It breathes in the air, it shines in the light; it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain, and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

4. Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, in you do we trust, nor find you to fail. Your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end, our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

5. O measureless Might, unchangeable Love, whom angels delight to worship above! Your ransomed creation, with glory ablaze, in true adoration shall sing to your praise! adore.

OPENING PRAYER (pastor)

Though you are God with all the influence and status that the name implies you refuse to pull rank and parade your power among us. Instead, you chose to step down into our experience living among us, as one of us, with all the struggle and suffering that goes with being human. More than that, you adopted the role of servant, washing feet, serving people of no reputation or social standing, and giving of yourself completely. As incredible as it sounds, you are the God who serves, and we can respond in no other way than to give ourselves to you in praise. Amen

COMMUNITY PRAYERS (pastor)

SILENT PRAYER (pastor)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Let my whole being bless the Lord! Lord my God, how fantastic you are! You are clothed in glory and grandeur!
² You wear light like a robe; you open the skies like a curtain.

³ You build your lofty house on the waters;

you make the clouds your chariot, going around on the wings of the wind.

⁴ You make the winds your messengers; you make fire and flame your ministers.

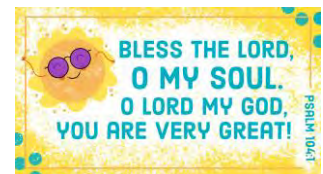
⁵ You established the earth on its foundations so that it will never ever fall.

⁶ You covered it with the watery deep like a piece of clothing; the waters were higher than the mountains! ⁷ But at your rebuke they ran away; they fled in fear at the sound of your thunder.

⁸ They flowed over the mountains, streaming down the valleys to the place you established for them.

⁹ You set a boundary they cannot cross so they'll never again cover the earth.

Psalm 104: 1-9



CONFSSIONAL PRAYER (unison)

Gracious God, we confess that too often we clamor for attention. Me! Me! Look at how important I am. That is what our actions say. Like James and John, we pray selfish prayers, for power and for position, for prestige for what? So that people will say how great we are? Teach us that true greatness comes from humble service. Show us how to roll up our sleeves, dig in and lend a hand; even when no one else will. Preoccupy us with humility, then greatness can come when we least expect it. Give us the grace to live as humble servants. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 10:35-45

³⁵ James and John, Zebedee's sons, came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask."

³⁶ "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.

³⁷ They said, "Allow one of us to sit on your right and the other on your left when you enter your glory."

³⁸ Jesus replied, "You don't know what you're asking! Can you drink the cup I drink or receive the baptism I receive?"

³⁹ "We can," they answered.

Jesus said, "You will drink the cup I drink and receive the baptism I receive, ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right or left hand isn't mine to give. It belongs to those for whom it has been prepared."

⁴¹ Now when the other ten disciples heard about this, they became angry with James and John. ⁴² Jesus called them over and said, "You know that the ones who are considered the rulers by the Gentiles show off their authority over them and their high-ranking officials order them around. ⁴³ But that's not the way it will be with you. Whoever wants to be great among you will be your servant. ⁴⁴ Whoever wants to be first among you will be the slave of all, ⁴⁵ for the Human One didn't come to be served but rather to serve and to give his life to liberate many people."



MESSAGE

"Rising to Service"

Beverly J. Matthews, PsyD

Certified Lay Minister, Assigned Supply Pastor

HYMN

"Lord of the Dance"

(UMH # 261)

1. I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he.

And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

2. I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the dance went on.
Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.
3. I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame,
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high;
and they left me there on a cross to die.
Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.
4. I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone'
but I am the dance and I still go on.
Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.
5. They cut Me down and I leapt up high, I am the life that'll never, never die,
I'll live in you if you'll live in Me; I am the Lord of the Dance, said He.
Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

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)**

Loving God, you teach us humility and service. We bring our offering today with grateful hearts. As we reflect on your holy scripture today, may we give as a testament to our commitment to serve others, not seeking the highest places, but embracing the path of sacrificial love. Bless these gifts and use them to advance your kingdom. Remind us that greatness always comes through serving. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Stephen Riggs, Vocalist

CLOSING PRAYER (pastor)

***CLOSING HYMN “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” (UMH # 89)**

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love; hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!
2. All thy works with joy surround thee, Earth and heaven reflect thy rays, stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.
3. Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest, well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest! Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine; teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.
4. Mortals, join the mighty chorus, which the morning stars began; love divine is reigning o’er us, binding all within its span. Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife; joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

POSTLUDE

BENEDICTION (pastor)

Beloved, go today in the blessing of Jesus Christ, who challenges us to share our love through service and receive love through the service of others binding us together as a community through holy interdependence. Amen

**Beverly J, Matthews, PsyD
Certified Lay Minister, Assigned Supply Pastor
217 825 9010**

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 31

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 MISSIONS

The following information is provided in the event that you would want to donate to any or all of the nonprofit organizations who serve our greater communities.

Love Packages

220 Union St.

Butler, IL 62015

2175326701

www.lovepackages.org

Global Ministries

UMCOR

PO Box 9068

New York, NY 10087-9068

designate Texas Floods or another focus

Africa University Development Office

Africa University (TN) Inc.

PO Box 340007

Nashville, TN 37203-0007

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Sun. Aug 31 9:00 am Sunday School

Sun. Aug 31 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

Sun. Sept 07 9:00 am Sunday School

Sun. Sept 07 9:00 am Sunday School

Mon. Sept 08 6:30 pm United Women of Faith Meeting

Sun. Sept 14 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

Sun. Sept 14 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 25 Steve and Kerry Craft Aug 29 Dave Craft

Aug 29 Matthew Nixon

MISSIONS



Items requested by the food pantry are: Any kind of cereal, cereal bars or oatmeal; canned fruits and vegetables; canned soup; canned pasta; Kleenex; shampoo; and antiperspirant. Cash donations are always welcome.

