

**Macon United Methodist Church**  
**190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133**  
**August 31, 2025**                      **Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

To err is human; to forgive, divine.

**RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL**

**PRELUDE**

**GATHERING**              **Words of welcome and announcements**



**\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

Children of God, when we witness the needs of strangers and listen to the struggles of our friends, remember:

**Let mutual love continue.**

When we hear the struggles of those in prison and recognize the suffering of people near and far, remember:

**Let mutual love continue.**

When temptations to hoard more money, more power, and more influence surround us on every side, remember:

**Let mutual love continue.**

As we gather for worship, remember: God is here among us, surrounding us with love and forming us to live in love everywhere we go.

**We choose to cooperate with God's love today and every day so that mutual love will continue wherever we go and whatever we do. Amen.**

**\*OPENING 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.

### **OPENING PRAYER (unison)**

**Dearest Lord, In the face of all our realities: We are the people who heal each other, who grow strong together, who name the truth, who know what it means to live in community, moving toward a common dream for a new heaven and a new earth. In the power of the love of God our Creator, The company of Jesus Christ, and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### **COMMUNITY PRAYERS (pastor)**

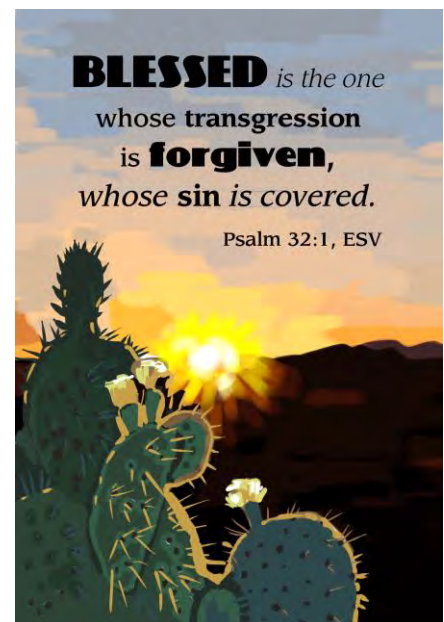
### **SILENT PRAYER (pastor)**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)**

### **FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

The one whose wrongdoing is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered over, is truly happy!  
<sup>2</sup> The one the Lord doesn't consider guilty—  
in whose spirit there is no dishonesty—  
that one is truly happy!  
<sup>3</sup> When I kept quiet, my bones wore out;  
I was groaning all day long—  
every day, every night!—  
<sup>4</sup> because your hand was heavy upon me.  
My energy was sapped as if in a summer drought.  
<sup>5</sup> So I admitted my sin to you;  
I didn't conceal my guilt.  
"I'll confess my sins to the Lord," is what I said.  
Then you removed the guilt of my sin.

### **Psalm 32:1-5 (CEB)**



## SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

**John 7:53-8:11 (CEB)**

They each went to their own homes, And Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he returned to the temple. All the people gathered around him, and he sat down and taught them. The legal experts and Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery. Placing her in the center of the group, they said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of committing adultery. In the Law, Moses commanded us to stone women like this. What do you say?” They said this to test him, because they wanted a reason to bring an accusation against him. Jesus bent down and wrote on the ground with his finger. They continued to question him, so he stood up and replied, “Whoever hasn’t sinned should throw the first stone.” Bending down again, he wrote on the ground. Those who heard him went away, one by one, beginning with the elders. Finally, only Jesus and the woman were left in the middle of the crowd.



Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Is there no one to condemn you?”

She said, “No one, sir.”

Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on, don’t sin anymore.”

## MESAGE

### “The First Stone”

**Keith Baker, Lay Speaker**

## HYMN

### “Jesu, Jesu”

**(UMH # 432)**

#### *Refrain:*

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,  
Master who acts as a slave to them. Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.
2. Neighbors are rich and poor, neighbors are black and white,  
neighbors are near us and far away. Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.
3. These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love;  
all these are neighbors to us and you. Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.
4. Loving puts us on our knees, serving as though we are slaves,  
this is the way we should live with you. Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

## **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)**

**Faithful and Unchanging God, in a world that shifts and sways, You remain our firm foundation. You have called us into a life of mutual love, teaching us to serve, to welcome, and to give with generous hearts. Bless these gifts we offer today, that they may extend Your love to those who hunger, who seek justice, and who long for hope. Shape us into a people whose generosity reflects Your own, that through our giving, we may proclaim Your unshakable kingdom. In the name of Jesus Christ, our constant and faithful guide. Amen.**

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

**Randy Well, Vocalist**

### **CLOSING PRAYER (pastor)**

Dearest Lord, Your nature is to offer mercy and loving kindness; regardless of our faults and mistakes, You continue to love us just as we are; please soften our hearts to be more tenderhearted towards others; we thank you, Lord, for Your never-ending love and forgiveness. May we live and love in a way that honors You and blesses others. Amen.

### **CLOSING HYMN**

***“Here I Am, Lord ”***

**(UMH # 593)**

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
I who make the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?  
Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, where you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

2. I the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a lone.  
I will speak my words to them. Whom shall I send?  
Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, where you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?  
ere I am, Lord. Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, where you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

## **POSTLUDE**

### **BENEDICTION (pastor)**

As we have been forgiven, now go into a world that needs your forgiving, healing touch, bring peace and hope to others, sharing God's love with them. AMEN.

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

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 37**

**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](mailto: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](http://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. Sept 07 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. Sept 07 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service  
Mon. Sept 08 6:30 pm United Women of Faith Meeting  
Sun. Sept 14 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. Sept 14 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service  
Sun. Sept 21 8:00 am Men's Breakfast  
Sun. Sept 21 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. Sept 21 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

### **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

Sept 02 Jack Hinkle

Sept 04 Russ and Marsha Hedges

### **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.

### **SPEAKERS FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.**

Sept. 7 Beverly J Matthews CLM Lay Supply Pastor  
Sept. 14 Kirk Yenerall, CLS  
Sept. 21 Beverly Matthews CLM Lay Supply Pastor  
Sept. 28 Beverly Matthews CLM Lay Supply Pastor  
  
Oct. 5 open as of now, working on it  
Oct. 12 Kirk Yenerall, CLS  
Oct. 19 Keith Baker, Lay Speaker  
Oct. 24 Beverly Matthews CLM Lay Supply Pastor  
  
Nov. 2 Beverly Matthews CLM Lay Supply Pastor  
Nov. 9 Kirk Yenerall, CLS  
Nov 16 Keith Baker, Lay Speaker  
Nov 23 Beverly Matthews CLM Lay Supply Pastor  
Nov. 30 Open

