

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
September 14, 2025 **Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"We are able to see Christ's inexpressible love for man not only from the cross itself but also from the words which He spoke while upon the cross. At the very time when He was nailed and they were mocking Him, deriding Him and spitting upon Him, He said: "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:34)... At the same time that they were saying, "If You are the Son of God save Yourself," He was accomplishing everything necessary to save these same ones who were reproaching Him"

— St. John Chrysostom (Homily)



RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

GATHERING **Words of welcome and announcements**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively) (Philippians 2:5-11)**

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form, he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth
and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

OPENING HYMN*“Holy! Holy! Holy!”****(UMH # 64)**

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.
3. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.
4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Almighty God, whose beloved Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption: Give us courage, we beseech You, to take up our cross and follow Him; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

COMMUNITY PRAYERS (pastor)**SILENT PRAYER (pastor)****THE LORD’S PRAYER (all)****FIRST SCRIPTURE READING****(1 Corinthians 1:18-24)**

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the



proclamation, to save those who believe.

For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(Psalm 51:1-4, 7-10)

**Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.**

Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

**Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.**

**Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.**

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

GOSPEL READING

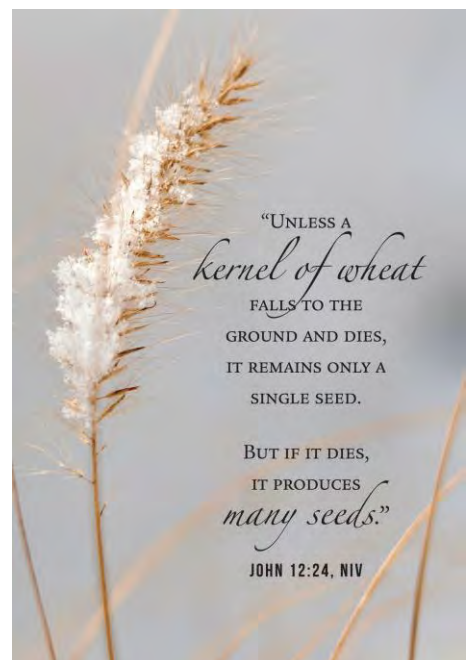
(John 12:23-33, NRSV)

Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—“Father, save me from this hour”? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.’

Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to him.’

Jesus answered, ‘This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.’ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.



MESSAGE

“Show Me The Way”

Kirk Yenerall, CLM

HYMN

“Beneath The Cross of Jesus”

(UMH # 297)

1. Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand;
The shadow of a mighty rock Within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness, A rest upon the way,
From burns beneath the noontide heat And burdens of the day.
2. Upon that cross of Jesus Mine eyes at times can see
The very dying form of One Who suffer'd there for me;
And from my stricken heart, with tears, Two wonders I confess:
The wonders of redeeming love, And my unworthiness.
3. O safe and happy shelter! O refuge tried and sweet!
O sacred place where Heaven's love And Heaven's justice meet!
As to the exil'd patriarch That wondrous dream was given,
So seems my Savior's cross to me: A ladder up to Heav'n.
4. I take, O cross, your shadow For my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than The sunshine of his face;
Content to let the world go by, To know no gain or loss;
My sinful self my only shame, My glory all the cross.

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)**

Steadfast and sheltering God, you are our refuge in every age, our hope when foolishness abounds and justice seems far off. Even when the world disappoints, you call us to faithfulness, to community, and to a generosity that reflects your own heart. Receive these offerings as signs of our trust in you and our desire to live differently, to live redemptively, and to live hopefully. Use them—and us—for the good that ripples outward, for the healing of hearts and the strengthening of your people. We give not because all is well but because you are good. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

O Lord, who blesses those who bless You and sanctifies those who put their trust in You, save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Protect the whole body of Your Church. Sanctify those who love the beauty of Your house. Glorify them in return by Your divine power, and forsake us not who have set our hope in You. Grant peace to Your world, to Your churches, to the clergy, to our civic leaders, to the armed forces, and to all Your people. For every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from You, the Father of lights. To You we offer up glory, thanksgiving, and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

***CLOSING HYMN “*Open My Eyes That I May See*” (UMH # 454)**

1. Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

2. Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

3. Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

POSTLUDE

BENEDICTION (after 2 Corinthians 13:11-14)

Brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

Greet one another with a holy kiss. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God of the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

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

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 40

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. 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
Sun. Sept 28 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Sept 28 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Oct. 05 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Oct. 05 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sept 20 Lori Huggins

MISSIONS



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

SPEAKERS FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

Sept. 21 Beverly Matthews CLM Lay Supply Pastor
Sept. 28 Beverly Matthews CLM Lay Supply Pastor

Oct. 5 Mark Dallner, CLS
Oct. 12 Kirk Yenerall, CLM
Oct. 19 Beverly Matthews CLM Lay Supply Pastor
Oct. 26 Keith Baker, Lay Speaker

Nov. 2 Beverly Matthews CLM Lay Supply Pastor
Nov. 9 Kirk Yenerall, CLM
Nov 16 Keith Baker, Lay Speaker
Nov 23 Beverly Matthews CLM Lay Supply Pastor
Nov. 30 Mark Dallner, CLS