

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
September 7, 2025 **Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Life with God is not immunity from difficulties, but peace in difficulties. C. S. Lewis



RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

GATHERING Words of welcome and announcements

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

Wherever you go, from the top of the highest mountain or into the deep abysses of the earth, God knows you

Wherever we go, God knows our name.

Whatever you do, from the time you wake up until you lay your head down again, God knows you

Whatever we do, God knows our name.

However you live, from your inner thoughts to your public acts and everything in between, God knows you

However we live, God knows our name.

We gather to worship God, who loves us, knows us, and calls us by name.

We gather to worship God, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made by God who knows our name!

***OPENING HYMN**

"Its Me, Its Me Oh Lord!"

(UMH # 352)

1 Refrain:

It's me, it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer;

It's me, it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.

1. Not my brother, nor my sister, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer; not my brother, nor my sister, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.

It's me, it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer;

It's me, it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.

2. Not the preacher, nor the deacon, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer;
not the preacher, nor the deacon, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.
It's me, it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer;
It's me, it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.

3. Not my father, nor my mother, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer;
not my father, nor my mother, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.
It's me, it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer;
It's me, it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

All knowing God, We gather together with praise and thanksgiving for who you are and for all that you have done for us. You know us better than we know ourselves all our thoughts and actions. And yet you love us no matter where we go or what we do. Your love encircles us, ahead and behind, gently leading and guiding and blessing. We praise you for your love and your faithful presence in our lives. May your spirit move in our hearts and minds as we worship together. Examine our attitudes and actions. Lay bare the things we need to confess. Challenge us with your word and guide us on to paths that lead to life for we are your people called by your name. Amen

COMMUNITY PRAYERS (pastor)

SILENT PRAYER (pastor)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18 (CEB)

Lord, you have examined me.

You know me.

² You know when I sit down and when I stand up.

Even from far away, you comprehend my plans.

³ You study my traveling and resting.

You are thoroughly familiar with all my ways.

⁴ There isn't a word on my tongue, Lord,
that you don't already know completely.

⁵ You surround me—front and back.

You put your hand on me.

⁶ That kind of knowledge is too much for me;
it's so high above me that I can't reach it.

¹³ You are the one who created my innermost parts;
you knit me together while I was still in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I give thanks to you that I was marvelously set apart.

Your works are wonderful—I know that very well.

¹⁵ My bones weren't hidden from you
when I was being put together in a secret place,
when I was being woven together in the deep parts
of the earth.

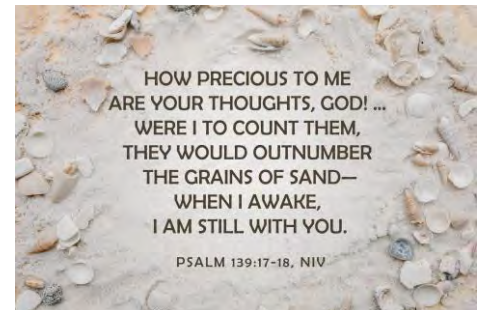
¹⁶ Your eyes saw my embryo,
and on your scroll every day was written that was
being formed for me,

before any one of them had yet happened.

¹⁷ God, your plans are incomprehensible to me!

Their total number is countless!

¹⁸ If I tried to count them—they outnumber grains of sand

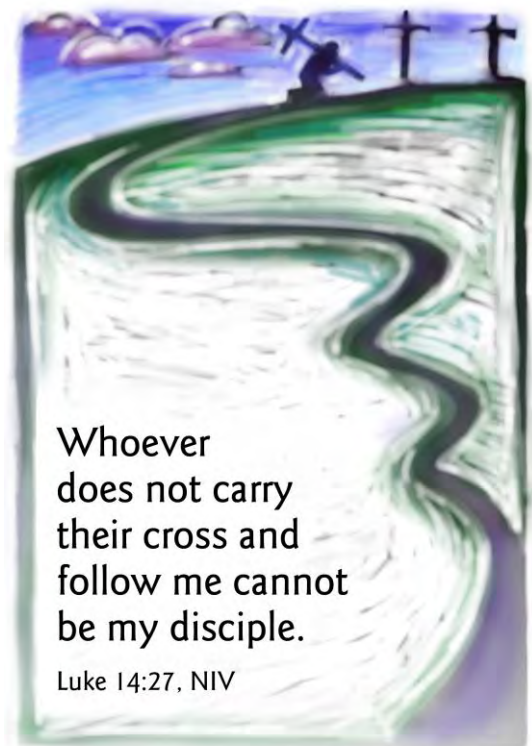


SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 14:25-33 (CEB)

²⁵ Large crowds were traveling with Jesus. Turning to them, he said, ²⁶ “Whoever comes to me and doesn't hate father and mother, spouse and children, and brothers and sisters—yes, even one's own life—cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever doesn't carry their own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

²⁸ “If one of you wanted to build a tower, wouldn't you first sit down and calculate the cost, to determine whether you have enough money to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when you have laid the foundation but couldn't finish the tower, all who see it will begin to belittle you. ³⁰ They will say, ‘Here's the person who began construction and couldn't complete it!’ ³¹ Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down to consider whether his ten thousand soldiers could go up against the twenty thousand coming against him? ³² And if he didn't think he could win, he would send a representative to discuss terms of peace while his enemy was still a long way off. ³³ In the same way, none of you who are unwilling to give up all of your possessions can be my disciple.



MESAGE

“God Knows My Name”

**Beverly J. Matthews, PsyD
Certified Lay Minister, Assigned Supply Pastor**

HYMN

“To God Be the Glory”

(UMH # 98)

1. To God be the glory, great things he hath done!

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,

who yielded his life an atonement for sin, and opened the lifegate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,

and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,

to every believer the promise of God;

the vilest offender who truly believes,

that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,

and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,

and great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son;

but purer, and higher, and greater will be

our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,

and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

HOLY COMMUNION

Table I, (UMH # 9)

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.

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)**

Dear Lord, we bring these gifts before you with humble gratefulness. We ask that these gifts be a reflection of our faith and love to you oh Lord. Let the giving of our hearts, minds and souls be a sacrifice to you. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER (pastor)

CLOSING HYMN

"His Name Is Wonderful"

(UMH # 174)

His name is wonderful; His name is wonderful His name is wonderful; Jesus my Lord
He is the mighty King; Master of everything His name is wonderful; Jesus my Lord
He's the great Shepherd; The Rock of all ages Almighty God is He
Bow down before Him; Love and adore Him His name is wonderful; Jesus my Lord
His name is wonderful; His name is wonderful His name is wonderful; Jesus my Lord

POSTLUDE

“His Eye Is on the Sparrow”

BENEDICTION (unison)

For nothing is impossible with God. There is no place you can go, no end of the Earth you can run where God cannot find you. There is nothing on Earth or beyond death that can separate you from the love of God. In Christ Jesus our Lord, you are forgiven, you are loved, you are reconciled to God. Go and live with the love of God, Amen.

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

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 38

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

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

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sept 06	Greg and Angie Smith	Sept 09	Russ and Marsha Hedges
Sept 09	Joyce Craft	Sept 09	Elias Boggs

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. 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