

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
September 28, 2025 **Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand. (UMH # 143)



RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

GATHERING **Words of welcome and announcements**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

We gather today to worship God, who listens when we call

We gather to rest in the shadow of God's wings

We gather to pray to God, who answers us when we call.

We gather to lift our voices in the shadow of God's wings.

We gather to praise God, who rescues us when we call.

We gather to rejoice in the shadow of God's wings. Beloved, come! Let us worship God, who covers and delivers us in Love. We gather to worship in the shadow of God's wings.

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 (unison)

**Eternal God, the refuge and help of all your children, we praise you for all you
have given us, for all you have done for us, for all that you are to us. In our
weakness, you are strength. In our darkness, you are light. In our sorrow, you
are comfort and peace. We cannot number your blessings. We cannot declare
your love. For all your blessings, we bless you. May we live as in your presence
and love the things that you love and serve you in our daily lives. Through Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.**

COMMUNITY PRAYERS (pastor)

SILENT PRAYER (pastor)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 (CEB)

Living in the Most High's shelter, camping in the Almighty's shade,

² I say to the Lord, "You are my refuge, my stronghold! You are my God—the one I
trust!"

³ God will save you from the hunter's trap and from deadly
sickness.

⁴ God will protect you with his pinions; you'll find refuge
under his wings. His faithfulness is a protective shield.

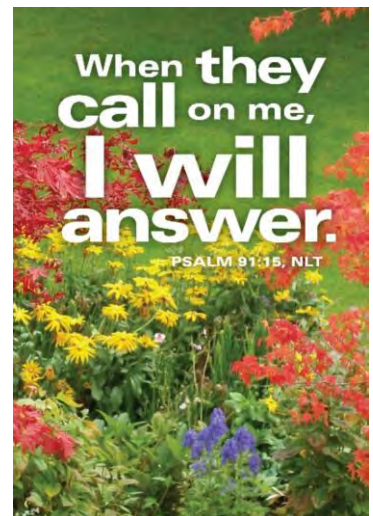
⁵ Don't be afraid of terrors at night, arrows that fly in
daylight,

⁶ or sickness that prowls in the dark, destruction that ravages
at noontime.

God says "Because you are devoted to me, I'll rescue you.
I'll protect you because you know my name.

¹⁵ Whenever you cry out to me, I'll answer. I'll be with you
in troubling times. I'll save you and glorify you.

¹⁶ I'll fill you full with old age. I'll show you my salvation."



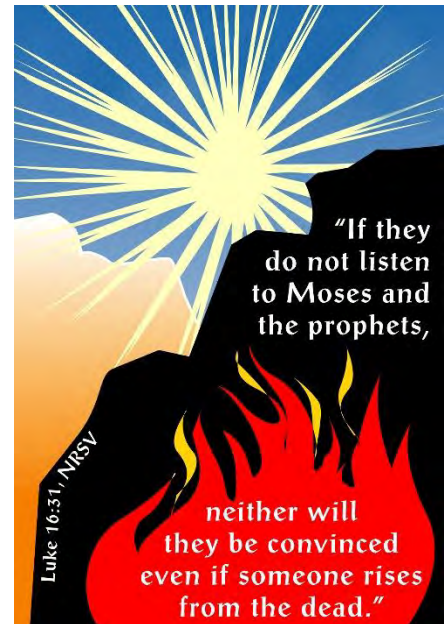
*GOSPEL READING

Luke 16: 19-31(CEB)

¹⁹ “There was a certain rich man who clothed himself in purple and fine linen, and who feasted luxuriously every day. ²⁰ At his gate lay a certain poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. ²¹ Lazarus longed to eat the crumbs that fell from the rich man’s table. Instead, dogs would come and lick his sores.

²² “The poor man died and was carried by angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ While being tormented in the place of the dead, he looked up and saw Abraham at a distance with Lazarus at his side. ²⁴ He shouted, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I’m suffering in this flame.’ ²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received good things, whereas Lazarus received terrible things. Now Lazarus is being comforted and you are in great pain. ²⁶ Moreover, a great crevasse has been fixed between us and you. Those who wish to cross over from here to you cannot. Neither can anyone cross from there to us.’

²⁷ “The rich man said, ‘Then I beg you, Father, send Lazarus to my father’s house. ²⁸ I have five brothers. He needs to warn them so that they don’t come to this place of agony.’ ²⁹ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets. They must listen to them.’ ³⁰ The rich man said, ‘No, Father Abraham! But if someone from the dead goes to them, they will change their hearts and lives.’ ³¹ Abraham said, ‘If they don’t listen to Moses and the Prophets, then neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.’”



MESSAGE

“Under His Wings”

Beverly J. Matthews, PsyD

Certified Lay Minister, Assigned Supply Pastor

HYMN

“God Will Take Care of You”

(UMH # 130)

1. Be not dismayed whate’er betide; God will take care of you.
Beneath His wings of love abide; God will take care of you.
God will take care of you, through ev’ry day, o’er all the way.
He will take care of you; God will take care of you.
2. Through days of toil when heart doth fail, God will take care of you.
When dangers fierce your path assail, God will take care of you.
God will take care of you, through ev’ry day, o’er all the way.
He will take care of you; God will take care of you.

3. All you may need He will provide; God will take care of you.
All strength you need will be supplies; God will take care of you.
God will take care of you, through ev'ry day, o'er all the way.
He will take care of you; God will take care of you.

4. No matter what may be the test, God will take care of you.
Lean, weary one, upon His breast; God will take care of you.
God will take care of you, through ev'ry day, o'er all the way.
He will take care of you; God will take care of you.

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)**

Sheltering God, our refuge and relief, you draw near when the wilderness is too much, when the heat of the day drains our hope. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust in your abiding love, a love that does not always keep us from trouble but never leaves us to face it alone. May what we give today bring shade to the weary, hope to the hurting, and a glimpse of the salvation you are always working out in us and through us. In gratitude and faith, we offer these gifts. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Marty Fore

CLOSING PRAYER

***CLOSING HYMN**

“It is Well with My Soul”

(UMH # 377)

1. When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance
control, that Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and hath shed his own blood for
my soul.

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

3. My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought! My sin, not in part but the whole, is
nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more, praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

4. And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a
scroll; the trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
even so, it is well with my soul.

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

BENEDICTION

Receive again, the promises of God. Because you cling to me, I will deliver you. I will protect you because you acknowledge my name. You shall call upon me, and I will answer you. I will be with you in times of trouble. I will deliver you and glorify you and will show you my salvation. Go from here with peace and confidence knowing that God goes with you.

POSTLUDE

“On Eagle’s Wings”

(UMH #143)

Beverly J, Matthews, PsyD

Certified Lay Minister, Assigned Supply Pastor

217 825 9010

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 29

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. Oct. 05 9:00 am Sunday School

Sun. Oct. 05 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

Sun. Oct. 05 2:00 pm Charge Conference; Decatur First UMC

Sun. Oct. 12 9:00 am Sunday School

Sun. Oct. 12 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

Sun. Oct. 19 8:00 am Men's breakfast; Fellowship Hall

Sun. Oct. 19 9:00 am Sunday School

Sun. Oct. 19 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

Sun. Oct. 26 9:00 am Finance Committee Meeting; Pastor's Office

Sun. Oct. 26 9:30 am Administrative Council Meeting; Pastor's Office

Sun. Oct. 26 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

Sun. Oct. 31 5:00-7:00 pm Trunk or Treat

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sept 30 Jerry Hinkle

Oct 02 Doug and Lori Huggins

Oct 02 Pat Roush

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.

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