

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
November 16, 2025 Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

To walk with the Lord is to partake in His feast.

A Feast to Celebrate



RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

GATHERING Welcome, Announcements, Celebrations

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

Life with God is like a banquet to where we're invited.

Even though we don't deserve to be invited, God wants us to come.

The only requirement is that we accept the invitation. What will you do with yours?

Our answer is yes! We want to live life in the joyful celebration of God's presence

***OPENING HYMN “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” (UMH # 139)**

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation.

O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!

2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigning bears
thee on eagles wings, e'er in his keeping maintaining.

God's care enfolds all, whose true good he upholds.

Hast thou not known his sustaining?

3. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.

Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, who with his love doth befriend thee.

4. Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish thy life and restore thee,
fitting thee well for the tasks that are ever before thee. Then to thy need God as a
mother doth speed, spreading the wings of grace o'er thee.

5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly forever adore him.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Ruler of the universe, your kingdom is beyond our greatest expectations, and yet you ask us to be your guests! Keep us mindful that we are guests and teach us how to live, so that we may not discredit the glory of your kingdom or the depth of your love. In our Savior's name we pray. Amen

COMMUNITY PRAYERS (pastor)

SILENT PRAYER (pastor)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 36:5-10 (CEB)

But your loyal love, Lord, extends to the skies;
your faithfulness reaches the clouds.
⁶ Your righteousness is like the strongest mountains;
your justice is like the deepest sea.
Lord, you save both humans and animals.
⁷ Your faithful love is priceless, God!
Humanity finds refuge in the shadow of your wings.
⁸ They feast on the bounty of your house;
you let them drink from your river of pure joy.
⁹ Within you is the spring of life.
In your light, we see light.
¹⁰ Extend your faithful love to those who know you;
extend your righteousness to those whose heart is right.



***GOSPEL READING**

Luke 14:15-24 (CEB)

¹⁵ When one of the dinner guests heard Jesus' remarks, he said to Jesus, "Happy are those who will feast in God's kingdom."
¹⁶ Jesus replied, "A certain man hosted a large dinner and invited many people. ¹⁷ When it was time for the dinner to begin, he sent his servant to tell the invited guests, 'Come! The dinner is now ready.' ¹⁸ One by one, they all began to make excuses. The first one told him, 'I bought a farm and must go and see it. Please excuse me.' ¹⁹ Another said, I bought five teams of oxen, and I'm going to



Go to the highway and back alleys and urge people to come in so that my house will be filled.

Luke 14:23, CEB

check on them. Please excuse me.’ ²⁰ Another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come’ ²¹ When he returned, the servant reported these excuses to his master. The master of the house became angry and said to his servant, ‘Go quickly to the city’s streets, the busy ones and the side streets, and bring the poor, crippled, blind, and lame.’ ²² The servant said, ‘Master, your instructions have been followed and there is still room.’ ²³ The master said to the servant, ‘Go to the highways and back alleys and urge people to come in so that my house will be filled.’ ²⁴ I tell you, not one of those who were invited will taste my dinner.’”

MESSAGE

“A Feast to Celebrate”

Keith Baker, Lay Speaker

HYMN

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

(UMH # 694)

1. Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.
2. All the world is God's own field, fruit as praise to God we yield;
wheat and tares together sown are to joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.
3. For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the harvest home;
from the field shall in that day all offenses purge away,
giving angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast;
but the fruitful ears to store in the garner evermore.
4. Even so, Lord, quickly come, bring thy final harvest home;
gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified, in thy presence to abide;
come, with all thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home.

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)**

God of glory, we bring our gifts to you today with hearts full of thanksgiving, aware of all the spiritual blessings that we have in Christ. Fill us with wisdom and understanding of your love, and may these offerings be used to further your kingdom on earth. Strengthen us to walk in the power of your calling for your glory. All praise to you, Almighty God. Amen

SPECIAL MUSIC

Shelly Hirshfeld

CLOSING PRAYER (pastor)

Lord Jesus, thank you for the invitation you extend to us each day to walk closely with you. Forgive us for the times when we've allowed other things to take priority over our relationship with you. Help us to daily surrender our lives to you and to find our ultimate satisfaction in your presence. Give us the courage and compassion to invite others into a relationship with you, especially those who are in need of your love and grace. In your precious name, Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"God of the Ages"

(UMH # 698)

1. God of the ages, whose almighty hand
leads forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
our grateful songs before thy throne arise.
2. Thy love divine hath led us in the past;
in this free land with thee our lot is cast;
be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay,
thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.
3. From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
be thy strong arm our ever sure defense;
thy true religion in our hearts increase;
thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.
4. Refresh thy people on their toilsome way;
lead us from night to never-ending day;
fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

BENEDICTION (pastor)

As we go forth, let us lay aside our own desires and hesitations, and answer the Lord's call to join in His feast. May we be eager to serve and to bring others to the table. Let us be a welcome presence, so that our lives are a sign that the Lord's house is always

full and all others are welcome. Go in His grace and peace. Amen.

POSTLUDE

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

Sat. Nov. 22 8:00 am Volunteer at Interchurch Pantry

Sun. Nov. 23 9:00 am Sunday School

Sun. Nov. 23 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

Sun. Nov. 23 11:00 am Hanging of the Greens; Pizza served (for donations) after

Sat. Nov. 29 8:00 am Volunteer at Interchurch Pantry

Sun. Nov. 30 9:00 am Sunday School

Sun. Nov. 30 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

Sun. Dec. 7 9:00 am Sunday School

Sun. Dec. 7 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

Sun. Dec. 14 11:30 am Cookie Walk

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Nov	16	Hannah Craft	Nov	17	Ruth Hilvety
Nov	19	Ida Boggs	Nov	20	Eric Nixon
Nov	21	Neal and Irma Stombaugh			

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. **For holidays:** instant mashed potatoes, evaporated milk, cake mixes, pie filling, French style green beans, canned cream corn, canned sweet potatoes, canned pineapple, jello and pudding mixes. **The Wee Care Fund** serves children in the Meridian School District and the Stonington areas. The two programs are “Back to School” and “Operation Christmas Gifts.” The funds are getting depleted, and the Christmas season is rapidly approaching. Our wonderful shopping volunteers will begin shopping in late November. Please consider a donation to the Wee Care Fund for them to purchase Christmas gifts to children in need. Make checks payable to the Interchurch Food Pantry with Wee Care in the memo line

SPEAKER SCHEDULE

Nov. 23	Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Lay Supply Pastor
Nov. 30	Mark Dallner, Certified Lay Speaker
Dec. 7	Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor
Dec. 14	Kirk Yenerall, Certified Lay Minister
Dec. 21	Keith Baker, Lay Speaker
Dec. 24	Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Lay Supply Pastor
Dec. 28	Mark Dallner, Certified Lay Speaker