

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
November 23, 2025 **Christ the King Sunday**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Who is your Christ?

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE



GATHERING **Welcome, Announcements, Celebrations**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The lord is good to all, his compassion is over all his creation.

All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord.

And your faithful ones shall bless you.

They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom

and tell of your power.

To make known to all people your mighty deeds.

And the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom.

And your dominion endures throughout all generations.

OPENING HYMN** ***“Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us” **(UMH # 381)**

1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;
in Thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

2. We are thine, thou dost befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
keep thy flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.

3. Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! We will early turn to thee.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! We will early turn to thee.

4. Early let us seek thy favor, early let us do thy will;
blessed Lord and only Savior, with thy love our bosoms fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.

OPENING PRAYER (pastor)

Come once again and feed your flock like a shepherd
Come once again and gather up the children, the oppressed,
The sick, the lonely, the humble, and the rejected of the earth.
Turn our hearts to the least of your children for if we lose them, we become lost.
Reconcile us to you and to those we have hurt.
On this Christ the King Sunday join us together with neighbors, with strangers
And especially with our own household. Bring us to your light in our time of
darkness through your son Jesus Christ, Amen.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS (pastor)

SILENT PRAYER (pastor)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 46 (CEB)

God is our refuge and strength, a help always near in times of great trouble.

² That's why we won't be afraid when the world falls apart,
when the mountains crumble into the center of the sea,

³ when its waters roar and rage,
when the mountains shake because of its surging waves.

⁴ There is a river whose streams gladden God's city,
the holiest dwelling of the Most High.

⁵ God is in that city. It will never crumble. God will help
it when morning dawns.

⁶ Nations roar; kingdoms crumble. God utters his voice;
the earth melts.

⁷ The Lord of heavenly forces is with us!
The God of Jacob is our place of safety.

⁸ Come, see the Lord's deeds what devastation he has
imposed on the earth—



⁹ bringing wars to an end in every corner of the world,
breaking the bow and shattering the spear, burning chariots with fire.
¹⁰ “That’s enough! Now know that I am God!
I am exalted among all nations; I am exalted throughout the world!”
¹¹ The Lord of heavenly forces is with us!
The God of Jacob is our place of safety.

***GOSPEL READING**

Luke 23: 33-43 (CEB)

³³ When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they’re doing.” They drew lots as a way of dividing up his clothing.
³⁵ The people were standing around watching, but the leaders sneered at him, saying, “He saved others. Let him save himself if he really is the Christ sent from God, the chosen one.”
³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him. They came up to him, offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, “If you really are the king of the Jews, save yourself.” ³⁸ Above his head was a notice of the formal charge against him. It read “This is the king of the Jews.”
³⁹ One of the criminals hanging next to Jesus insulted him: “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!”
⁴⁰ Responding, the other criminal spoke harshly to him, “Don’t you fear God, seeing that you’ve also been sentenced to die? ⁴¹ We are rightly condemned, for we are receiving the appropriate sentence for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”
⁴³ Jesus replied, “I assure you that today you will be with me in paradise.”



MESSAGE

“The Christ We Follow”

Beverly J. Matthews, PsyD

Certified Lay Minister, Assigned Supply Pastor

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!

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)**

Compassionate shepherd you do not abandon your flock, even when we wander or divide. You gather us in Christ, our righteousness, and teach us to live in unity, mercy, and peace. As we bring these gifts, may they be signs of our desire to follow your way-offering compassion where there has been hurt, justice where there has been harm, and hope where there has been despair. Strengthen us to live as people waiting not in fear, but in faith-serving the reign of Christ not just with words, but with lives shaped by generosity and love. In the name of the one who gathers and leads us always, Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Marty Fore

CLOSING PRAYER (pastor)

Lord as we leave this your church, let us spread your love and good news to all we meet in one way or another. Let us be compassionate to those who are hurting, let us feed the hungry. Let us help to heal the sick. Let us minister your love to the people in our communities. Be with us as we serve you. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN “*God Be with You till We Meet Again*” (UMH # 672)**

1. God be with you till we meet again; by his counsels guide, uphold you,
with his sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain: Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;

till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.

2 . God be with you till we meet again; neath his wings securely hide you,
daily manna still provide you; God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain: Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.

3. God be with you till we meet again; when life's perils thick confound you,
put his arms unfailing round you; God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain: Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.

4. God be with you till we meet again; keep love's banner floating o'er you,
smite death's threatening wave before you; God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain: Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.

BENEDICTION (pastor)

Though the days increase in their darkness, the lord of light and love reigns supreme.
May the power of God's love be in your hearts and reflected in your lives now and
always. Go in peace, and may God's peace be with you. Amen.

POSTLUDE

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

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 49

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. 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 9:00 am Sunday School

Sun. Dec. 14 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

Sun. Dec. 14 11:30 am Cookie Walk

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Nov 23 Matthew Schmahl

Nov 25 Connie Baker

Nov 27 Michelle 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. **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. 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