

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
November 30, 2025 **First Sunday of Advent**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Awaken from sleep and be vigilant, focusing on the hope that Christ's return brings and preparing for it through casting off darkness and embracing the light of love, peace, and justice

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

GATHERING **Welcome, Announcements, Celebrations**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

Beloved, once again, we embark on the Advent path that points us to the coming of Jesus.

We journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.

We remember the signs and the times that heralded the arrival of the baby Jesus, God Incarnate.

We journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.

We tell the stories once again as we learn how to discern the signs and the times, watching for glimpses of God's here-and-not-yet kingdom among us.

We journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.

Come, let us worship God who shines a light to guide us on the path to peace and flourishing for all creation.

Come, let us worship as we journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.

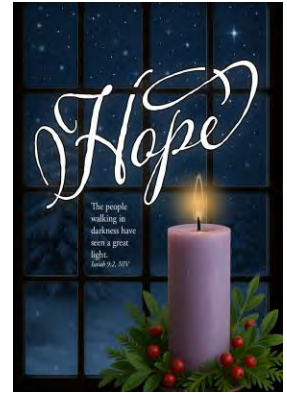
LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

The Hunt Family

OPENING HYMN** ***"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" **(UMH # 211)**

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and ordered all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go.



Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

3. O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

4. O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be; before thee rulers
silent fall; all people on thy mercy call.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, we come to you with hopeful hearts this first Sunday of Advent. Lift our eyes to see that you are our only hope. Help us to shake off the anxieties of the year and to pause in quiet anticipation of your coming. Renew in us a sense of holy expectation as we wait eagerly for Jesus. Be glorified in this season and help us to be ready for your return. Amen.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS (pastor)

SILENT PRAYER (pastor)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING (responsively)

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem built as a city that is bound firmly together.

To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls and security within your towers."

For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you."

For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

Psalm 122



GOSPEL READING

Matthew 24:36-44

"But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore, you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.



MESSAGE “Reflections on Advent” Mark Dallner Certified Lay Speaker

HYMN “For the Healing of the Nations” (UMH # 428)

1. For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.
2. Lead your people into freedom, from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how, through care and goodness, fear will die and hope increase.
3. All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span.
4. You, Creator-God, have written your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness, bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find.

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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)**

Ever-watchful God, you call us to live not in fear, but in faithful anticipation. As we offer these gifts, we do so as people prepare our hearts, our hands, and our world for your coming reign. We confess that we often cling too tightly to our comforts and schedules, forgetting that your kingdom calls us to loosen our grip and lift our eyes. Awaken us, Lord, to the “someday” you are already shaping through our love, our justice, and our generosity. Let these offerings be signs of readiness, trust, and joy as we wait—and work—for your future to break into our present. In the name of the one who comes, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Mark Dallner, Trumpet

Sing along with congregation “O God of Every Nation” UMH # 435)

1. O God of every nation, Of every race and land, Redeem the whole creation With your almighty hand. Where hate and fear divide us And bitter threats are hurled, In love and mercy guide us And heal our strife-torn world.
2. From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right, From trust in bombs that shower Destruction through the night, From pride of race and station And blindness to your way, Deliver every nation, Eternal God, we pray.
3. Lord, strengthen those who labor That all may find release
From fear of rattling saber,
From dread of war’s increase; When hope and courage falter,
Your still small voice be heard;
With faith that none can alter, Your servants under-gird.
4. Keep bright in us the vision Of days when war shall cease,
When hatred and division
Give way to love and peace, Till dawns the morning glorious
When truth and justice reign
And Christ shall rule victorious O’er all the world’s domain.

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CLOSING PRAYER (pastor)

Heavenly Father, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of your love. Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a family this Advent. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to your son. Give us the grace and strength we need every day. We pray in the name of Christ our Lord. 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)

Advent people, go from this place in the blessing of God who journeys with us, guiding our path as we wait, watch, and work for the day when we beat swords into plowshares and follow the path of peace until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

POSTLUDE

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

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 41

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. 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

Sun. Dec. 21 9:00 am Sunday School

Sun. Dec. 21 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

Wed. Dec. 24 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Service

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Nov 30 Jack Smith

Nov 30 Mike Stewart

Dec 02 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

- 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