

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
November 9, 2025 Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“I know they're all around me/all day and through the night/
When the enemy is closing in/I know sometimes they fight/
To keep my feet from falling”--from the song “*Angels*” (by Amy Grant,
Brown Bannister, Gary Chapman, and Michael W. Smith)

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

**GATHERING Welcome, Announcements,
Celebrations**



***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

Isaiah 6:1-8 (NRSV)

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne,
high and lofty, and the hem of his robe filled the temple.

Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings:

with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet,

and with two they flew. And one called to another and said,

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called,

and the house filled with smoke. And I said, “Woe is me!

I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips,

yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. He touched my mouth with it and said:

“Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.”

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,

“Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”

And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

***OPENING HYMN**

“Come, Christians, Join To Sing”

(UMH # 158)

1. Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!
loud praise to Christ our King: Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;
praise is his gracious choice. Alleluia! Amen!
2. Come, lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend; to us he'll condescend;
his love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!
3. Praise yet the Lord again: Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore his goodness we'll adore,
singing forevermore: "Alleluia! Amen!"

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS (pastor)

SILENT PRAYER (pastor)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

1Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up



together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

O Lord God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word and deed. We have also omitted to do what Your holy law requires of us. But now with repentance and contrition, we turn again to Your love and mercy. We entreat You to forgive us, your children, all our transgressions and cleanse us from our sins. Lord, fill our hearts with the light of Your truth. Strengthen our will by Your grace. Teach us both to desire and to do only what pleases You. Amen.

***GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 18:1-7, 10-14

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” ² He called a child, whom he put among them, ³ and said, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

⁶ “If any of you cause one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷ Woe to the world because of things that cause sin! Such things are bound to come, but woe to the one through whom they come!

¹⁰ “Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. ¹² What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³ And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴ So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.



MESSAGE

“Becoming Little”

Kirk Yenerall, CLM

HYMN

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

(UMH # 89)

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love; hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

2. All thy works with joy surround thee, Earth and heaven reflect thy rays, stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and

mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

3. Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest, well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest! Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine; teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

4. Mortals, join the mighty chorus, which the morning stars began; love divine is reigning o'er us, binding all within its span. Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife; joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

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)**

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, who blessed the five loaves and satisfied the five thousand: Bless these gifts, tithes, and offerings and multiply them in this city and in all Your world. For it is You who blesses and sanctifies all things, O Christ our God, and to You we send up glory, together with Your unoriginate Father, and Your All-holy and good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER (pastor) UMH #681--From The Book of Common Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, you have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us with Your mighty power, and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, ordered by Your governance, may always be righteous in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN “When I Survey The Wondrous Cross” (UMH # 298)**

1. When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died;
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown.

4. Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

BENEDICTION (pastor)

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. *Amen.*

POSTLUDE

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. Nov. 10 6:00 pm United Methodist Women; Fellowship Hall
Sat. Nov. 15 8:00 am Volunteer at Interchurch Pantry
Sun. Nov. 16 8:00 am Men's Breakfast; Fellowship Hall
Sun. Nov. 16 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Nov. 16 10:00 am Worship and Zoom 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
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

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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.

SPEAKER SCHEDULE

Nov. 16 Keith Baker, Lay Speaker
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