

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Where am I in my relationship with God and those around me. How do I relate to the “others” in my life?

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

GATHERING **Welcome, Announcements, Celebrations**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**



***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

Beloved, we have waited, watched, and witnessed the coming of the Christ child. As we gather today on the other side of Christmas, we might be tempted to ask, "What now?"

We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

In this season of Christmas, we remember that though Christ has come among us, the good news of freedom for captives, flourishing for the poor, and power returned to the disempowered does not reign in so many places.

We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

With Mary and Joseph, we listen for God to show us how to protect and advocate for the vulnerable among us.

We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

As we gather to worship today, may God bind us together in love, empowering us to live as followers of the Christ child who declare good news wherever we go.

We gather today as people who wait, watch, and work for the day that all the earth awaits. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN “*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*” (UMH # 240)**

1. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies; with th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord; late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity, pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

OPENING PRAYER

God of glory, your splendor shines from a manger in Bethlehem, where the Light of the world is humbly born into the darkness of human night. Open our eyes to Christ's presence in the shadows of our world, so that we, like him, may become beacons of your justice, and defenders of all for whom there is no room. Amen.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS (pastor)

SILENT PRAYER (pastor)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 148

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

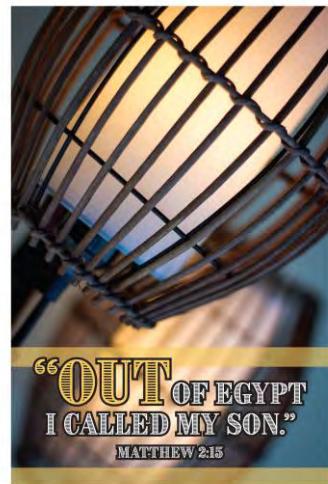


He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

GOSPEL READING

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

Matthew 2:13-23



MESSAGE

"Reflection on God's Word"

Mark Dallner, Lay Speaker

HYMN

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

(UMH # 577)

1. God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your pow'r;
crown your ancient Church's story, bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

2. Lo, the hosts of evil round us scorn the Christ, assail his ways.
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

3. Cure your children's warring madness; bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

4. Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.

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)

As we offer our gifts to you, Holy One, may they join all creation in blessing and serving your people. Called to be your people, may we notice those who are forgotten and offer our lives and hearts to them. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC *“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”* **Connie Baker**

CLOSING PRAYER (responsive)

Praising God is not enough.

And so we will go to offer practical help to our sisters and brothers.

Joyful noises do not feed those around us.

And so we will go with Jesus to the food pantries and shelters, to care for those forgotten by our society.

Songs of thanksgiving do not replace service.

And so we will go to share the peace of the Spirit with a broken, yet hopeful world.

*CLOSING HYMN *“What Child is This”* (UMH # 219)

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ, the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

2. Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ, the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings' salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this is Christ, the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

BENEDICTION (pastor)

Family of Christ, go now into the world in the blessing and power of the Triune God to resist the misuse of power in our world, to point to the signs of good news all around us, and to work for the empowerment and flourishing of all people, especially the vulnerable among us. Amen.

POSTLUDE

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

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 36
ATTENDANCE CHRISTMAS EVE 35**

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. Jan. 04 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Jan 04 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Jan. 11 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Jan 11 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Jan. 18 8:00 am Men's Breakfast
Sun. Jan. 18 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Jan 18 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Dec 28	Diane Osman	Dec 29	Joe Puckett
Dec 29	Brad Hunt	Dec 30	Kathy Miller

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.

SPEAKER SCHEDULE

Jan. 04 Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor
Jan. 11 Kirk Yenerall, Certified Lay Minister
Jan. 18 Keith Baker, Lay Speaker
Jan. 25 Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor