

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
January 25, 2026 **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

At the center of worship today...is worship.

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE



GATHERING **Welcome, Announcements, Celebrations**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

Beloved, what worship does God desire of us?

To do justice, love kindness, and live humbly with God.

In our life together as the body of Christ, what worship does God desire of us?

To do justice, love kindness, and live humbly with God.

When we share the good news with all creation, what worship does God desire for us?

To do justice, love kindness, and live humbly with God.

Come, let us worship God with justice, kindness, and humility!

We come to worship God with our voices and our lives. Thanks be to God!

Amen!

OPENING Hymn** ***“Be Thou My Vision” **(UMH # 451)**

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art. Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou and thou only, first in my heart, great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

3. Great God of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

OPENING PRAYER/COMMUNITY PRAYERS (pastor)

SILENT PRAYER (pastor)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)

SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 6: 1-8

Hear what the Lord is saying: Arise, lay out the lawsuit before the mountains; let the hills hear your voice! ²Hear, mountains, the lawsuit of the Lord! Hear, eternal foundations of the earth! The Lord has a lawsuit against his people; with Israel he will argue. ³“My people, what did I ever do to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴I brought you up out of the land of Egypt; I redeemed you from the house of slavery. I sent Moses, Aaron, and Miriam before you. ⁵My people, remember what Moab's King Balak had planned, and how Balaam, Beor's son, answered him! Remember everything from Shittim to Gilgal, that you might learn to recognize the righteous acts of the Lord!” ⁶With what should I approach the Lord and bow down before God on high? Should I come before him with entirely burned offerings, with year-old calves? ⁷Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with many torrents of oil? Should I give my oldest child for my crime; the fruit of my body for the sin of my spirit? ⁸He has told you, human one, what is good and what the Lord requires from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God.



GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5: 1-12

¹Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up a mountain. He sat down and his disciples came to him. ²He taught them, saying:
³“Happy are people who are hopeless, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.
⁴“Happy are people who grieve, because they will be made glad.
⁵“Happy are people who are humble, because they will inherit the earth.
⁶“Happy are people who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, because they will be fed until they are full.
⁷“Happy are people who show mercy, because they will receive mercy.
⁸“Happy are people who have pure hearts, because they will see God.
⁹“Happy are people who make peace, because they will be called God's children.
¹⁰“Happy are people whose lives are harassed because they are righteous, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.
¹¹“Happy are you when people insult you and harass you and speak all kinds of bad and false things about you, all because of me. ¹²Be full



And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce that the time had come
when you would save your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death,

and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with you always
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,

gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,

poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.
Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and forever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.
The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER

Oh God, our teacher, example, companion, you have shown us what is good and call us to remember that what you require is not repayment of debt or settling the score, but obedience. Show us, God when to do justice how to love kindness and where to walk, humbly with you. Amen

CLOSING 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.

BENEDICTION (pastor)

May the holy wisdom of God guard your ways and guide your paths. May the living truth of God enlighten your hearts and open your minds. And may the living spirit of God give you life, and life to the full! Amen!

POSTLUDE

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

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 0

ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Sun. Feb. 01 11:15 am Confirmation Class
Sun. Feb. 08 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Feb. 08 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Feb. 15 8:00 am Men’s Breakfast; Fellowship Hall
Sun. Feb. 15 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Feb. 15 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

Sun. Feb. 22 8:30 am Confirmation Class
Sun. Feb. 22 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Feb. 22 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Mar. 01 8:30 am Confirmation Class
Sun. Mar. 01 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Mar. 01 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. **CEREAL Competition** A competition has begun collecting cereal for the Interchurch food pantry between the ladies and gentlemen of Macon UMC ending February 28, 2026.

SPEAKER SCHEDULE

Feb. 08 Kirk Yenerall, Certified Lay Minister
Feb. 15 Keith Baker, Lay Speaker
Feb. 22 Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor

Mar. 01 Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor
Mar. 08 Kirk Yenerall, Certified Lay Minister
Mar. 15 Keith Baker, Lay Speaker
Mar. 22 Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor
Mar. 29 Mark Dallner, Lay Speaker

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation class will be first and fourth Sundays at 8:30 am for one hour in the pastor's office using the book Confirm which can be purchased online through Cokesbury.

BOOK FOR GRIEF

I have books for Grief Share in the trunk of my car if anyone is interested. They are free and are spiritually based.