

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

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The light has come. We have received the light and the call to bear the light to all the nations.

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

GATHERING **Welcome, Announcements, Celebrations**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

Children of God, when fears press in on every side, we can proclaim with confidence:
God is our light and salvation! Whom shall we fear?

When our problems overwhelm us and we feel pressed in on every side, we can declare with confidence:

God is the stronghold of our lives! Of whom shall we be afraid?

No matter the troubles we face, we seek after God and to live in the house of God forever.

God shelters and protects us in the day of trouble.

Come, let us worship God with joy, for God is our light and salvation!

We come to worship as bearers of the light. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

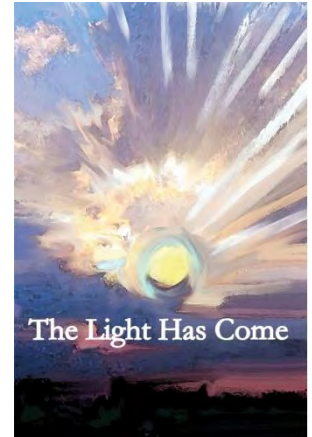
“Rock of Ages”

(UMH # 361)

11. Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood, from thy wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure; save from wrath and make me pure.

2. Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's commands;
could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.

3. Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.



4. While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.
give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all.

OPENING PRAYER

COMMUNITY PRAYERS (pastor)

SILENT PRAYER (pastor)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 27: 1, 4-9

The Lord is my light and my salvation. Should I fear anyone?
The Lord is a fortress protecting my life. Should I be
frightened of anything?

I have asked one thing from the Lord—it's all I seek:
to live in the Lord's house all the days of my life,
seeing the Lord's beauty and constantly adoring his
temple. Because he will shelter me in his own
dwelling during troubling times; he will hide me in a
secret place in his own tent; he will set me up high,
safe on a rock.

Now my head is higher than the enemies surrounding me, and I will offer sacrifices in
God's tent—sacrifices with shouts of joy! I will sing and praise the Lord.

Lord, listen to my voice when I cry out—have mercy on me and answer me! Come,
my heart says, seek God's face. Lord, I do seek your face! Please don't hide it from
me! Don't push your servant aside angrily—you have been my help! God who saves
me, don't neglect me!



***GOSPEL READING**

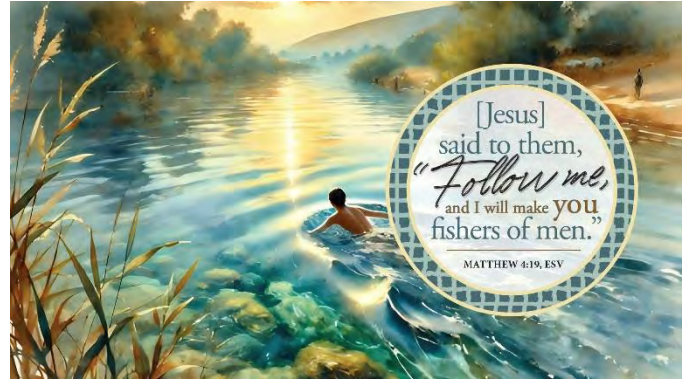
Matthew 4: 12-23

Now when Jesus heard that John was arrested, he went to Galilee. He left Nazareth and
settled in Capernaum, which lies alongside the sea in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali.
This fulfilled what Isaiah the prophet said:

*Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, alongside the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of
the Gentiles, the people who lived in the dark have seen a great light, and a light has
come upon those who lived in the region and in shadow of death.*

From that time Jesus began to announce, "Change your hearts and lives! Here comes
the kingdom of heaven!"

As Jesus walked alongside the Galilee Sea, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew, throwing fishing nets into the sea, because they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” he said, “and I’ll show you how to fish for people.” Right away, they left their nets and followed him. Continuing on, he saw another set of brothers, James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with Zebedee their father repairing their nets. Jesus called them and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues. He announced the good news of the kingdom and healed every disease and sickness among the people.



MESSAGE **“The Light Has Come!”** **Beverly J. Matthews, PsyD**
Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor

HYMN ***“To God Be the Glory”*** **(UMH # 98)**

1. To God be the glory, great things he hath done!
 So loved he the world that he gave us his Son, who yielded his life an atonement for sin, and opened the lifegate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
 O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,
 and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
 to every believer the promise of God;
 the vilest offender who truly believes,
 that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
 O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,
 and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
 and great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son;
 but purer, and higher, and greater will be
 our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

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)**

Steadfast light of our salvation, in a world that trembles with uncertainty and teaches us to fear, you shine with unwavering hope. You call us to seek your face and trust in your presence more than in our own strength. Receive these gifts, given not out of fear but in joyful confidence that your love casts out fear and your grace makes us bold. Use our offerings to build a world where your light leads, your justice reigns, and your people-unafraid-become living testimonies of your goodness. In the name of Christ, our rock and redeemer, we pray. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly father, we know that you continue to lay down your life for us, so that we might have life. Christ, continue to show us the way, so that we might live into the truth and the life you have planned for us. We ask that you continue to love us and teach us how to love others, so that we might love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. We know as your followers we are forgiven, loved, and given new life. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“This Little Light of Mine”

(UMH # 585)

1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine, this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine; this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. (let it shine)

2 Everywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine, Everywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine; Everywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. (let it shine)

3 All through the night, I'm goin'a let it shine, All through the night, I'm goin'a let it shine; All through the night, I'm goin'a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. (let it shine)

BENEDICTION (pastor)

God is our light, our hope, our all in all! Blessed be God, now and forever! Christ is our home, our life, our joy: blessed be God; now and forever! Our worship concludes; our service continues, blessed be God, now and forever!

POSTLUDE

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

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 28

ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Sun. Jan. 25 11:15 am Confirmation Class
Sun. Feb. 01 8:30 am Confirmation Class
Sun. Feb. 01 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Feb. 01 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
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

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Jan 25 Garry and Christine Cutler Jan 28 Dr. Bev Matthews

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.

Inter Church Council Food Pantry CEREAL Competition

A competition will be held collecting cereal for the Interchurch food pantry between the ladies and gentlemen of Macon UMC ending February 28, 2026.

SPEAKER SCHEDULE

Feb. 01 Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor

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. (On January 25, the class will meet at 11:15 am.)

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.