

**Macon United Methodist Church**  
**190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133**  
**January 4, 2026** **Epiphany Sunday**

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

Epiphany is all about light. The star in the sky leads the magi to Jesus, the light of the world, the revelation of divine love who came to dwell among us.

**RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL**

**PRELUDE**

**GATHERING**      **Welcome, Announcements,  
Celebrations**

**\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

We gather as people looking for the star, a sign that God is at work in the world.

**God, help us find your glory.**

We gather as people listening for the whispers of the spirit, hints of the good news in the least likely places.

**God, help us notice your glory.**

We gather as people yearning for love's presence, the assurance that we are not alone and love will have the last word.

**God, help us encounter your glory.**

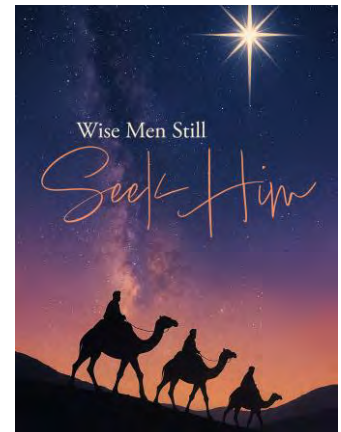
On this epiphany Sunday, may the light of love shine among us, revealing divine glory through neighbors known and unknown, vulnerable children, and unexpected gifts.

**God reveal to us anew the glory of your expansive love that gathers us together and sustains us in loving service to one another and all creation. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**      ***"Oh Come All Ye Faithful"***      **(UMH # 234)**

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to  
Bethlehem! Come and behold him, born the King of angels;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

2. True God of true God, Light of Light eternal,  
lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father, begotten, not created,



O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;

O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest,

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

### **OPENING PRAYER**

Light of God, illumine the path that leads us to healing, hope, and salvation. Glory of God, fill this sanctuary and expose the darkness that stalks our souls. Light of God, shine with such brightness that we marvel in awe. Glory of God, fill each temple of the holy spirit present today. Light of God, glory of God, we welcome you to this place.

### **COMMUNITY PRAYERS (pastor)**

### **SILENT PRAYER (pastor)**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)**

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

**Psalm 147: 12-20**

<sup>12</sup> Worship the Lord, Jerusalem! Praise your God, Zion!

<sup>13</sup> Because God secures the bars on your gates. God blesses the children you have there.

<sup>14</sup> God establishes your borders peacefully. God fills you full with the very best wheat.

<sup>15</sup> God issues his command to the earth—God's word speeds off fast!

<sup>16</sup> God spreads snow like it was wool; God scatters frost like it was ashes;

<sup>17</sup> God throws his hail down like crumbs—who can endure God's freezing cold?

<sup>18</sup> Then God issues his word and melts it all away! God makes his winds blow; the water flows again.

<sup>19</sup> God proclaims his word to Jacob; his statutes and rules to Israel.



Who can  
withstand his  
icy blast?

PSALM 147:17, NIV

<sup>20</sup> God hasn't done that with any other nation; those nations have no knowledge of God's rules. Praise the Lord!

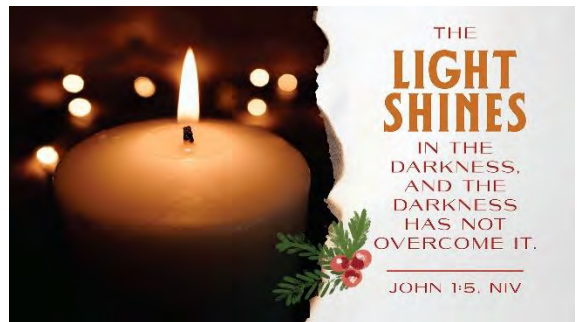
## GOSPEL READING

**John 1: 1-18**

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>The Word was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being. What came into being <sup>4</sup>through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

<sup>6</sup>A man named John was sent from God. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. <sup>8</sup>He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>The light was in the world, and the world came into being through the light, but the world didn't recognize the light. <sup>11</sup>The light came to his own people, and his own people didn't welcome him. <sup>12</sup>But those who did welcome him, those who believed in his name, he authorized to become God's children, <sup>13</sup>born not from blood nor from human desire or passion, but born from God.



<sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

<sup>15</sup>John testified about him, crying out, "This is the one of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is greater than me because he existed before me.'"

<sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace; <sup>17</sup>as the Law was given through Moses, so grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made God known.

## MESSAGE

**"It Dawned On Me!"**

**Beverly J. Matthews, PsyD  
Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor**

## HYMN

***"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"***

**(UMH # 240)**

. 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!"

## **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)**

**Lord, we offer these gifts of our blessings to you for your purpose. We offer ourselves as servants of your truth, lights to the world, hands and feet to the needy. We share our blessings and our faith in hopes of a shared brightness that spreads joy and love to our neighbors and greater community. Amen.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

Table I, (UMH # 9)

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**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.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **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.

## **MUSICAL REFLECTION**

### **CLOSING PRAYER (unison)**

**God's light is present in this world.**

**Present in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness.**

**Present in the star, in all that guides us to love.**

**God's light is in the world, and the darkness did not overcome it.**

**God's grace is in the world, and our missteps will not overcome it.**

**We are loved, we are forgiven, alleluia! Amen!**

### **\*CLOSING HYMN      “*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*”      (UMH # 400)**

1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.

Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

2. Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;

and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;

he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

3. O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!

Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

### **BENEDICTION (pastor)**

Lord of light-shine on us. Lord of peace-dwell in us. Lord of mighty-succor us' Lord  
of love-enfold us. Lord of wisdom-enlighten us.

## **POSTLUDE**

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

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 34**

**ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70**

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND 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**

Jan. 05 Darlene Huggins

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

**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.