

**Macon United Methodist Church**  
**190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133**  
**March 22, 2026** **Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

“The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the spirit is life and peace.” Romans 8: 6

**RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL**

**PRELUDE**

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

**\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Some of us come to worship today, weary and worn, heavy with all the circumstances that are too much to bear alone

**We gather to travel God’s redemption road together**

Some of us come to worship today, dry and thirsty, longing for relief and peace from the troubles that surround us.

**We gather to travel God’s redemption road together**

Some of us come to worship today with stories to tell of little resurrections, moments of new life that sprang up when we least expected them

**We gather to travel God’s redemption road together.**

Beloved, whatever we bring with us to worship today, God welcomes us and calls us to work together as we travel God’s redemption road together

**We gather to be truth tellers and life bringers as we travel God’s redemption road together. Amen**

**\*OPENING HYMN**      *“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”*      **(UMH # 474)**

1. Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn; through the storm, through the night,  
lead me on to the light: Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home.

2. When my way grows drear, precious Lord linger near, when my life is almost  
gone, hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:  
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home.



3. When the darkness appears and the night draws near, and the day is past and gone, at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:  
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home.

### **OPENING PRAYER**

**God of mercy, we come to you dry and lifeless, seeking your breath of life. Lead us to the place where our hopes lie buried and call us out from the tombs of despair. Call forth our faith that, with Martha, we may know you to be the resurrection and the life, in this world and the world to come. Amen.**

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

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

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

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

**Ezekiel 37:1-14**

The Lord's power overcame me, and while I was in the Lord's spirit, he led me out and set me down in the middle of a certain valley. It was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me through them all around, and I saw that there were a great many of them on the valley floor, and they were very dry.

<sup>3</sup> He asked me, "Human one, can these bones live again?"

I said, "Lord God, only you know."

<sup>4</sup> He said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, Dry bones, hear the Lord's word! <sup>5</sup> The Lord God proclaims to these bones: I am about to put breath in you, and you will live again. <sup>6</sup> I

will put sinews on you, place flesh on you, and cover you with skin. When I put breath in you, and you come to life, you will know that I am the Lord."

<sup>7</sup> I prophesied just as I was commanded. There was a great noise as I was prophesying, then a great quaking, and the bones came together, bone by bone. <sup>8</sup> When I looked, suddenly there were sinews on them. The flesh appeared, and then they were covered over with skin. But there was still no breath in them.

<sup>9</sup> He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, human one! Say to the breath, The Lord God proclaims: Come from the four winds, breath! Breathe into these dead bodies and let them live."

<sup>10</sup> I prophesied just as he commanded me. When the breath entered them, they came to life and stood on their feet, an extraordinarily large company.

<sup>11</sup> He said to me, "Human one, these bones are the entire house of Israel. They say, 'Our



bones are dried up, and our hope has perished. We are completely finished.’<sup>12</sup> So now, prophesy and say to them, The Lord God proclaims: I’m opening your graves! I will raise you up from your graves, my people, and I will bring you to Israel’s fertile land.<sup>13</sup> You will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you up from your graves, my people.<sup>14</sup> I will put my breath in you, and you will live. I will plant you on your fertile land, and you will know that I am the Lord. I’ve spoken, and I will do it. This is what the Lord says.”

## SCRIPTURE READING

I cry out to you from the depths, Lord—<sup>2</sup>my Lord, listen to my voice!

Let your ears pay close attention to my request for mercy!

<sup>3</sup> If you kept track of sins, Lord—my Lord, who would stand a chance?

<sup>4</sup> But forgiveness is with you—that’s why you are honored.

<sup>5</sup> I hope, Lord. My whole being hopes, and I wait for God’s promise.

<sup>6</sup> My whole being waits for my Lord—more than the night watch waits for morning; yes, more than the night watch waits for morning!

<sup>7</sup> Israel, wait for the Lord! Because faithful love is with the Lord; because great redemption is with our God! <sup>8</sup> He is the one who will redeem Israel from all its sin.

## Psalm 130

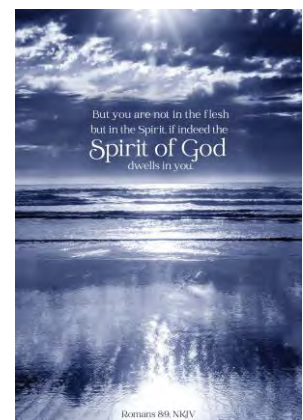


## SCRIPTURE READING

<sup>6</sup> The attitude that comes from selfishness leads to death, but the attitude that comes from the Spirit leads to life and peace. <sup>7</sup> So the attitude that comes from selfishness is hostile to God. It doesn’t submit to God’s Law, because it can’t. <sup>8</sup> People who are self-centered aren’t able to please God.

<sup>9</sup> But you aren’t self-centered. Instead you are in the Spirit, if in fact God’s Spirit lives in you. If anyone doesn’t have the Spirit of Christ, they don’t belong to him. <sup>10</sup> If Christ is in you, the Spirit is your life because of God’s righteousness, but the body is dead because of sin. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your human bodies also, through his Spirit that lives in you.

## Romans 8:6-11



## MESSAGE

“Redemption and Resurrection by the Spirit”

Beverly Matthews PsyD  
Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor

## **HYMN**

### ***“Breathe on Me Breath of God”***

**(UMH # 420)**

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Fill me with life anew,  
That I may love what Thou dost love, And do what Thou wouldst do.
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Until my heart is pure,  
Until with Thee I will one will, To do and to endure.
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Till I am wholly Thine,  
Until this earthly part of me Glows with Thy fire divine.
4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, So shall I never die,  
But live with Thee the perfect life Of Thine eternity.

## **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)**

**Life giving spirit you breathe hope into our valleys of despair and call forth life where we saw only dry bones. We come today not out of habit but out of longing to be part of your work that restores, renews, and redeems. Take these gifts and use them to roll away the stones that keep your people bound. Let them be signs of trust, symbols of resurrection, and tools of transformation in a weary world. May our offering like our living lean into your spirit and testify that life—abundant, eternal and holy is possible in you. In Christ, who calls us out of the grave and into your grace, we pray, Amen.**

## **MUSICAL REFLECTION**

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Out of the depths of despair we cry to you, oh God. We are lost in a world of pain and suffering. When we put our trust in the worldly things we find no peace. When we put our faith in our own resources we feel the ache of our true needs. When we put our hope in the health of our bodies we suffer pain and find no healing. Come to us, oh God. Forgive our doubts and fears, heal our brokenness that we may rejoice in your steadfast love. Amen.

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

There is forgiveness and healing with God. God's steadfast love has the power to redeem our brokenness and make us whole. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.

## **\*CLOSING HYMN**

*“Trust and Obey”*

**(UMH # 467)**

1. When we walk with the Lord, in the light of his word, what a glory he sheds on our way! While we do his good will, he abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey. Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey
2. Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share, but our toil he doth richly repay; not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross, but is blest if we trust and obey. Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.
3. But we never can prove, the delights of his love until all on the altar we lay; for the favor he shows, for the joy he bestows, are for them who will trust and obey. Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.
4. Then in fellowship sweet, we will sit at his feet, or we'll walk by his side in the way; what he says we will do, where he sends we will go; never fear, only trust and obey. Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

## **BENEDICTION**

**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.

## **POSTLUDE**

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

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 38**

**ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70**

