

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
March 8, 2026 **Third Sunday in Lent**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“Gathered up, focussed lives, intent on one aim—Christ--these are the lives on which God can concentrate blessedness. It is “all for all” by a law as unvarying as any law that governs the material universe.”--Lilias Trotter (from her tract *Focussed: A Story and A Song*)

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

GATHERING **Welcome, Announcements, Celebrations**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

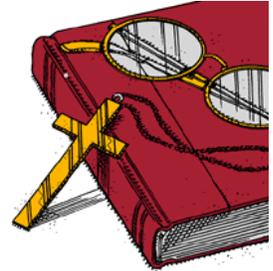
***CALL TO WORSHIP**

O come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the LORD is a great God and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.
O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

***OPENING HYMN** **“Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us”** **(UMH # 381)**

1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;
in Thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

2. We are thine, thou dost befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
keep thy flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.



Let us keep our eyes
on Jesus, the author and
perfector of our faith.
Hebrews 12:2

Psalm 95:1-7

3. Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! We will early turn to thee.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! We will early turn to thee.

4. Early let us seek thy favor, early let us do thy will;
blessed Lord and only Savior, with thy love our bosoms fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.

OPENING PRAYER

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross your Son confronted death and broke its hold over your people. In this time of repentance, draw all people to yourself, that we who confess Jesus as Lord may put aside the deeds of death and accept the life of your kingdom. Amen.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS (pastor)

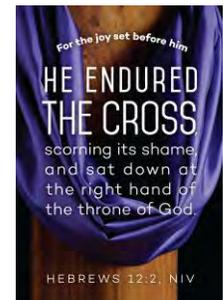
SILENT PRAYER (pastor)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.



PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison) (After 1 John 1:5-9 and Luke 18:13)
God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. May God have mercy on me, a sinner. Amen.

GOSPEL READING

John 1:35-51 (NIV)

The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!” When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?” They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?” “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.”

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas (which, when translated, is Peter).

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.” Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked.

“Come and see,” said Philip. When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.” “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.” Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”

Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man.”



MESSAGE

“Fixing Our Eyes”

Kirk Yenerall, CLM

HYMN

“When I Survey The Wondrous Cross”

(UMH # 298)

1. When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died;
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.
3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown.
4. Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

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)**

(from “*All Good Gifts*”, John Tebelak & Stephen Schwartz (*Godspell*))

**We thank thee now, O Father, for all things bright and good,
The seedtime and the harvest; our life, our health our food,
No gifts have we to offer for all thy love imparts
But that which thou desirest, our humble thankful hearts. Amen**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Chris Raymond

CLOSING PRAYER (pastor)

In the morning, and at midday, and in the evening, we praise You, we bless You, and we give thanks to You, Master of all, benevolent Lord. Let our prayer be set forth before You as incense. Incline not our hearts to evil words or thoughts, but deliver us all from those who pursue our souls. For our eyes, O Lord, O Lord, are toward You, and in You we hope. Leave us not embarrassed, O our God. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“*Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*”

(UMH # 349)

1. O soul, are you weary and troubled? No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Savior, And life more abundant and free!
Refrain: Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace.
2. Thro' death into life everlasting, He passed, and we follow Him there;
O'er us sin no more hath dominion-- For more than conqu'rors we are!
Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace.
3. His Word shall not fail you--He promised; Believe Him, and all will be well:
Then go to a world that is dying, His perfect salvation to tell!
Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace.

BENEDICTION (pastor)

after 2 Corinthians 13:14

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

POSTLUDE

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

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 35

ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Sun. Mar. 15 8:00 am Men's Breakfast; Fellowship Hall
Sun. Mar. 15 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Mar. 15 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Mar. 22 8:45 am Confirmation Class
Sun. Mar. 22 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Mar. 22 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Mar. 22 8:45 am Confirmation Class
Sun. Mar. 29 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Mar. 29 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

MISSIONS



always welcome.

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

SPEAKER SCHEDULE

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 8:45 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.

