

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
April 12, 2026 **Second Sunday of Easter**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“Yesterday I was crucified with Him; today I am glorified with Him; yesterday I died with Him; today I am quickened with Him; yesterday I was buried with Him; today I rise with Him. But let us offer to Him Who suffered and rose again for us—you will think perhaps that I am going to say gold, or silver, or woven work or transparent and costly stones, the mere passing material of earth, that remains here below, and is for the most part always possessed by bad men, slaves of the world and of the Prince of the world. Let us offer ourselves, the possession most precious to God, and most fitting; let us give back to the Image what is made after the Image. Let us recognize our Dignity; let us honor our Archetype; let us know the power of the Mystery, and for what Christ died. Let us become like Christ, since Christ became like us.”--Gregory The Theologian (Oration #1)



RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

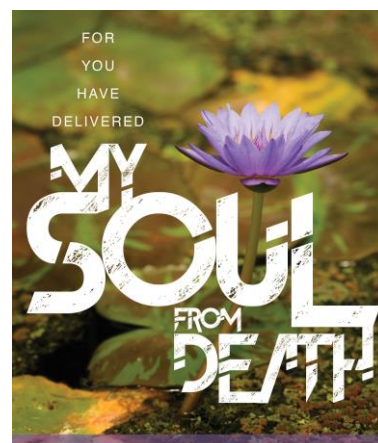
GATHERING

Welcome, Announcements, Celebrations

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The pains of death surrounded me,
And the pangs of Sheol laid hold of me;
I found trouble and sorrow.
Then I called upon the name of the LORD:
“O LORD, I implore You, deliver my soul!”
Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
Yes, our God is merciful.
The LORD preserves the simple;
I was brought low, and He saved me.
Return to your rest, O my soul,
For the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.
For You have delivered my soul from death,
My eyes from tears, and my feet from falling.



PSALM 118:8

***OPENING HYMN** *“Easter People, Raise Your Voices”* (UMH # 304)

1. Easter people raise your voices sounds of heaven in earth should ring.
Christ has brought us heaven's choices; heavenly music, let it ring.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people let us sing.

2. Fear of death can no more stop us from our pressing here below.
For our Lord empowered us to triumph over every foe.
Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go.

3. Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song.
When in trouble move the faster to Our God who rights the wrong.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Everlasting Sunday song.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, who has given your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life: Give us grace, we pray, that we may always most thankfully receive that His inestimable benefit. And grant that we also will endeavor daily to follow the blessed steps of His most holy life; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS (pastor)

SILENT PRAYER (pastor)

THE LORD’S PRAYER (all)

SCRIPTURE READING

Then all the Midianites and Amalekites, the people of the East, gathered together; and they crossed over and encamped in the Valley of Jezreel. But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon; then he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites gathered behind him. And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh, who also gathered behind him. He also sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali; and they came up to meet them.

So Gideon said to God, “If You will save Israel by my hand as You have said—look, I shall put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said.” And it was so. When he rose early the next morning and squeezed the fleece together, he wrung the dew out of the fleece, a bowlful of water.

Judges 6:33-40



Gideon

Then Gideon said to God, “Do not be angry with me, but let me speak just once more: Let me test, I pray, just once more with the fleece; let it now be dry only on the fleece, but on all the ground let there be dew.” And God did so that night. It was dry on the fleece only, but there was dew on all the ground.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison) (after Nehemiah 1:5-11)
LORD God of heaven, O great and awesome God, You who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments, please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now: ... We have sinned against You. Both my father’s house and I have sinned. We have acted very corruptly against You, and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses ... Yet we are Your servants and Your people, whom You have redeemed by Your great power, and by Your strong hand. O Lord. I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant ... and grant him mercy. Amen.

***GOSPEL READING**

Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” So he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, “Peace to you!” Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.”

And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” And truly Jesus did many other signs in the

John 20: 19-31



presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

MESSAGE “Width and Length and Depth and Height” Kirk Yenerall, CLM

HYMN “Be Still, My Soul” (UMH # 534)

1. Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
leave to your God to order and provide;
in every change God faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

2. Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
to guide the future, as in ages past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
the Christ who ruled them while he dwelt below.

3. Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

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.

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 57

ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

- Sun. Apr. 19 8:00 am Men's Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
- Sun. Apr. 19 9:00 am Sunday School
- Sun. Apr. 19 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
- Sun. Apr. 26 8:45 am Confirmation Class
- Sun. Apr. 26 9:00 am Sunday School
- Sun. Apr. 26 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Easter Service
- Sun. May 03 9:00 am Sunday School
- Sun. May 03 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
- Sun. May 10 9:00 am Sunday School
- Sun. May 10 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- Apr 13 Stephanie Allen
- Apr 14 Susannah Moyer

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

- Apr. 12 Kirk Yenerall, Certified Lay Minister
- Apr. 19 Keith Baker, Lay Speaker
- Apr. 26 Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor

- May 03 Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor
- May 10 Kirk Yenerall, Certified Lay Minister
- May 17 Keith Baker, Lay Speaker
- May 24 Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor
- May 31 Kirk Yenerall, Certified Lay Minister

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.