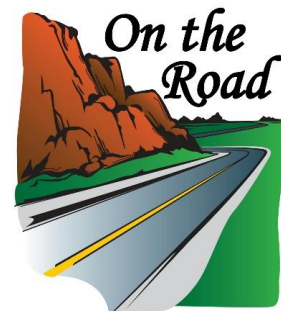


Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
April 19, 2026 **Third Sunday of Easter**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The risen Lord walks with us, talks with us, and tells us we are His own...



RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

GATHERING

Welcome, Announcements, Celebrations

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Easter people, we gather today as people who spent the week inundated with news reports, social media posts, and reels that inundated us with information, worry, and stress.

Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we carry the weight of being overwhelmed and anxious, wondering who we can believe.

We gather as people who long for peace, for God to break through and bring us clarity and hope once again.

Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we don't always recognize when the Risen One comes alongside us, showing us the way where there seems to be no way.

We gather as people hoping to catch a glimmer of Resurrection, ready for our hearts to burn with the truth of the resurrected Christ.

Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we open our hearts to the possibility that God's Resurrection life is closer than we think.

Easter people, God knows the burdens we carry, and God is faithful to meet us where we are with good news.

May the good news of the Resurrection astound us today as we come to worship God! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* (UMH # 133)

1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms; leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.
2. O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms; leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.
3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms; leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

OPENING PRAYER

O risen Christ, On the road to Emmaus, you were the disciples' companion. Be at our side on the journey of faith on life's pathways and at every encounter, engender our compassion, so that we may welcome others and listen to their stories. Kindle anew the desire to proclaim your Word. May it illumine us, and may our hearts burn to bear witness to it. May your Holy Spirit teach us the art of explaining scripture and open our hearts to recognize you. Grant us the courage to become vulnerable so that our siblings may know you through us and that we may know you through them. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS (pastor)

SILENT PRAYER (pastor)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)

SCRIPTURE READING

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise will always be in my mouth. ²I praise the Lord—let the suffering listen and rejoice. ³Magnify the Lord with me! Together let us lift his name up high! ⁴I sought the Lord and he answered me. He delivered me from all my fears. ⁵Those who look to God will shine; their faces are never ashamed. ⁶This suffering person cried out: the Lord listened and saved him from every trouble.

Psalm 34: 1-10



⁷On every side, the Lord's

messenger protects those who honor God; and he delivers them. ⁸ Taste and see how good the Lord is! The one who takes refuge in him is truly happy! ⁹ You who are the Lord's holy ones, honor him, because those who honor him don't lack a thing. ¹⁰ Even strong young lions go without and get hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 24: 13-35

¹³ On that same day, two disciples were traveling to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking to each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were discussing these things, Jesus himself arrived and joined them on their journey. ¹⁶ They were prevented from recognizing him.

¹⁷ He said to them, "What are you talking about as you walk along?" They stopped, their faces downcast.

¹⁸ The one named Cleopas replied, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who is unaware of the things that have taken place there over the last few days?"

¹⁹ He said to them, "What things?"

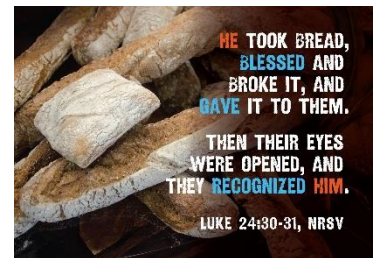
They said to him, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth. Because of his powerful deeds and words, he was recognized

by God and all the people as a prophet. ²⁰ But our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him. ²¹ We had hoped he was the one who would redeem Israel. All these things happened three days ago. ²² But there's more: Some women from our group have left us stunned. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ and didn't find his body. They came to us saying that they had even seen a vision of angels who told them he is alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women said. They didn't see him."

²⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! Your dull minds keep you from believing all that the prophets talked about. ²⁶ Wasn't it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then he interpreted for them the things written about himself in all the scriptures, starting with Moses and going through all the Prophets.

²⁸ When they came to Emmaus, he acted as if he was going on ahead. ²⁹ But they urged him, saying, "Stay with us. It's nearly evening, and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ After he took his seat at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Weren't our hearts on fire when he spoke to us along the road and when he explained the scriptures for us?"

³³ They got up right then and returned to Jerusalem. They found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying to each other, "The Lord really has



risen! He appeared to Simon!”³⁵ Then the two disciples described what had happened along the road and how Jesus was made known to them as he broke the bread.

MESSAGE

“On the Road”

Keith Baker, Lay Speaker

HYMN

“*Open My Eyes*”

(UMH # 454)

1. Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

2. Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

3. Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

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)**

Astounding God of the road and the table, you walk with us even when we don't recognize you. You speak, and our hearts burn within us. You break the bread, and our eyes are opened. Today, we bring these offerings as signs of our gratitude and hope. May our giving reflect the joy of being found, the wonder of Resurrection, and the call to share good news. Use these gifts to kindle faith, feed the hungry, and proclaim your presence in every Emmaus moment. We give because we've seen you—alive, loving, and leading us still. In Jesus' name, Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Noah Hall, Levi Johnson, Keegan Morretti, Henry Moyer

CLOSING PRAYER (pastor)

Lord Jesus, you are always in our midst—in Scripture and the breaking of the bread, and also in the smile of a stranger, in the hands of those who work for justice, in arms outstretched in love. Though we walk with you, Lord, we don't always recognize you. Heighten our awareness of your presence and keep us forever close to you. In Your precious name. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN *“Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name”* (UMH # 663)**

1. Savior, again to thy dear name we raise
with one accord our parting hymn of praise;
guard thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
that in this house have called upon thy name.

2. Grant us thy peace upon our homeward way;
with thee began, with thee shall end the day.
From harm and danger keep thy children free,
for dark and light are both alike to thee.

3. Grant us thy peace throughout our earthly life;
peace to thy church from error and from strife;
peace to our land, the fruit of truth and love;
peace in each heart, thy Spirit from above;

4. Thy peace in life, the balm of every pain;
thy peace in death, the hope to rise again;
then, when thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
call us, O Lord, to thine eternal peace.

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.