

**Macon United Methodist Church**  
**190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133**  
**April 26, 2026** **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

Like sheep, we learn to recognize the shepherd's voice together.

**RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL**

**PRELUDE**

**GATHERING**

**Welcome, Announcements, Celebrations**

**\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Easter people, we gather to worship and to listen, to learn the sound, the feel, the cadence of the shepherd's voice.

**We come seeking our shepherd's voice.**

We gather to worship and to discern, to learn how to recognize our shepherd's voice amidst the chaos and noise of our lives.

**We come seeking our shepherd's voice.**

We gather to worship and to find shelter, to learn to trust our shepherd's voice to guide us to safety and provide for us in all things.

**We come seeking our shepherd's voice.**

Come, let us worship as we listen for the voice of Jesus who guides us, protects us, provides for us, and draws us together in community.

**We come to worship as the family of Christ, a flock seeking and following our shepherd's voice. Amen.**

**\*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.

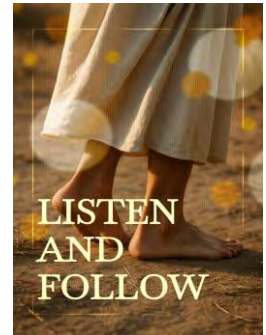
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

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.



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**

**Loving shepherd, You know our names, You care for us when we face darkness and death. Journey beside us when we hunger for your love. Fill us with your presence when we are fearful. Feed us at your table. May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy all the days of our lives. Amen.**

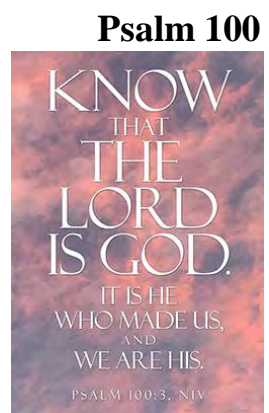
### **COMMUNITY PRAYERS (pastor)**

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

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

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth! <sup>2</sup> Serve the Lord with celebration! Come before him with shouts of joy! <sup>3</sup> Know that the Lord is God—he made us; we belong to him. We are his people, the sheep of his own pasture. <sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanks; enter his courtyards with praise! Thank him! Bless his name! <sup>5</sup> Because the Lord is good, his loyal love lasts forever; his faithfulness lasts generation after generation.



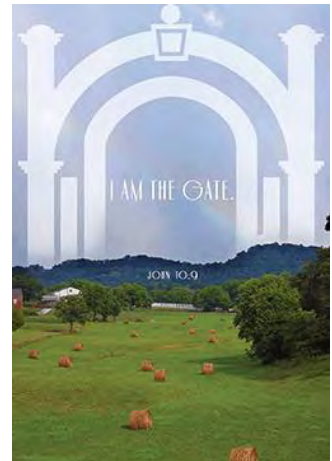
### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of wisdom, we confess the foolishness of our ways and our failure to follow you in your paths of right relationships with you and with others. We have gone astray, we feel lost. We have upheld our own interests first, to the detriment of others. We feel the strains of our sins, God have mercy on us according to your steadfast love. Wash the sinfulness out of us and help us to live more faithfully as your servants. We ask for your guiding hand on our lives. To you be honor and glory forever. Amen**

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

**John 10: 1-10**

<sup>1</sup> I assure you that whoever doesn't enter into the sheep pen through the gate but climbs over the wall is a thief and an outlaw. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The guard at the gate opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> Whenever he has gathered all of his sheep, he goes before them and they follow him, because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> They won't follow a stranger but will run away because they don't know the stranger's voice." <sup>6</sup> Those who heard Jesus use this analogy didn't understand what he was saying.



<sup>7</sup> So Jesus spoke again, "I assure you that I am the gate of the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me were thieves and outlaws, but the sheep didn't listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief enters only to steal, kill, and destroy. I came so that they could have life—indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest.

## MESSAGE

### “Listen and Follow”

**Beverly Matthews,  
Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor**

## HYMN

### “*Lord of the Dance*”

(UMH # 261)

1. I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,  
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.  
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he.  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

2. I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,  
but they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me;  
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;  
they came with me and the dance went on.

Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he.  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

3. I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame,  
the holy people said it was a shame;  
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high;  
and they left me there on a cross to die.

Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he.  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

4. I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;  
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back;  
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone'  
but I am the dance and I still go on.

Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he.  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

5. They cut Me down and I leapt up high, I am the life that'll never, never die,  
I'll live in you if you'll live in Me; I am the Lord of the Dance, said He.

Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he.  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

## **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)**

**Faithful shepherd who calls us by name, you invite us into a life that is rich in meaning, deep in joy, and bold in compassion. You speak, and we long to follow. Although the world is noisy and the path unclear. In this moment of offering we quiet our hearts to listen again. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust in you. May they be used to bring abundance to others, to feed the hungry, to strengthen the lost, and to proclaim your voice of love. In coming and going, in worship and service, make us more like Christ, in whose name we give and pray. Amen.**

## **MUSICAL REFLECTION**

### **CLOSING PRAYER (pastor)**

Lord, we come to you as sheep willing to follow your voice. Lead us to do more for your kingdom. Lead us to serve your people. Teach us to seek your word, your knowledge. Teach us to listen for your word. We are listening lord. We are ready. We are grateful for your leadership as the great shepherd. Amen.

### **\*CLOSING HYMN**

*“Blessed Be the Name”*

(UMH # 63)

Blessed be the name! Blessed be the name!

Blessed be the name of the Lord!  
Blessed be the name! Blessed be the name!  
Blessed be the name of the Lord!

## **BENEDICTION**

Beloved, may God bless you with open hearts and minds so that together we may pay attention, discern, and follow our shepherd's voice. For that is the way that leads to abundant life on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

## **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. 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 Mother's Day  
Sun. May 17 8:00 am Men's Breakfast, Fellowship Hall  
Sun. May 17 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. May 17 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service  
Sun. May 24 9:00 am Sunday School  
Sun. May 24 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

## **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

Apr 19 Devin Forden and Victor  
Serbe

## **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**

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 Kris Shelton, Certified Lay Speaker  
  
June 07 Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor  
June 14 Kirk Yenerall, Certified Lay Minister  
June 21 Keith Baker, Lay Speaker  
June 28 Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor

### **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.