

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
May 17, 2026 **Ascension Sunday**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY (read in silence)

The risen Lord knows everything about us and fully loves each of us!

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

GATHERING
Announcements, Celebrations

Welcome,



***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(John 15:9-17)

Blessed are the poor in spirit, the downtrodden and despairing,

They will rejoice in God's reign forever.

Blessed are those who mourn, who are grieving

They will be comforted in God's reign forever.

Blessed are the ones who seek justice and righteousness

They will find it in God's reign forever.

Blessed are we when we love our neighbors and seek their needs

We will live in God's reign forever.

Blessed are we all when we seek to serve others in God's name.

Let us worship together, serving one another and serving our Mighty God.
Amen

***OPENING HYMN**

"Jesus Call Us"

(UMH # 398)

1. Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice soundeth, saying, "Christian, follow me!"
2. As of old the apostles heard it by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus' sake.
3. Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more!"
4. In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these!"

5. Jesus calls us! By thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, we come this morning seeking to abide in your presence. Open our minds to your spirit of wisdom, that we may know how to live as your people. Open our hearts to your spirit of truth, that we may love all your people with a love that speaks of justice, kindness, and radical grace. May this time of worship be authentic and pleasing to you. Amen.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS (pastor)

SILENT PRAYER (pastor)

THE LORD’S PRAYER (all)

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 145: 8-12

- ⁸ “The Lord is merciful and compassionate, very patient, and full of faithful love.
- ⁹ The Lord is good to everyone and everything; God’s compassion extends to all his handiwork!”
- ¹⁰ All that you have made gives thanks to you, Lord; all your faithful ones bless you!
- ¹¹ They speak of the glory of your kingdom; they talk all about your power,
- ¹² to inform all human beings about God’s power and the majestic glory of God’s kingdom.



NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 5: 1-10

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up a mountain. He sat down and his disciples came to him. ² He taught them, saying:

- ³ “Happy are people who are hopeless, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.
- ⁴ “Happy are people who grieve, because they will be made glad.
- ⁵ “Happy are people who are humble, because they will inherit the earth.
- ⁶ “Happy are people who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, because they will be fed until they are full.



⁷“Happy are people who show mercy, because they will receive mercy.

⁸“Happy are people who have pure hearts, because they will see God.

⁹“Happy are people who make peace, because they will be called God’s children.

¹⁰“Happy are people whose lives are harassed because they are righteous, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

MESSAGE

“Blessed Are You”

Keith Baker, Lay Speaker

HYMN

“In the Garden”

(UMH # 314)

1. I come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses, and the voice I hear falling on my ear, the Son of God discloses.

Refrain: And he walks with me, and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own; and the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.

2. He speaks, and the sound of his voice is so sweet the birds hush their singing, and the melody that he gave to me within my heart is ringing.

And he walks with me, and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own; and the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.

3. I’d stay in the garden with him though the night around me be falling, but he bids me go; thru the voice of woe his voice to me is calling.

And he walks with me, and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own; and the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.

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)

O God, you bless us in so many areas of our lives—in places we often fail to recognize as blessing. Help us have eyes to see and hearts to understand the depth of your love and blessing. Today, we give out of that blessedness, dedicating ourselves to lives of justice and love, giving all that we are and all that we have to bring about your beloved community, here and now. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER (pastor)

Loving God of all holiness, empower us to live like Jesus lived. Align our lives on the blessedness that Jesus taught. Form us according to Christ's teaching that we might aid others so that all will stand in the joy of Your kingdom. In Jesus precious name, Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“This Is My Song”

(UMH # 437)

1. This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine;
this is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine:
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

2. My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;
but other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine:
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

3. May truth and freedom come to every nation;
may peace abound where strife has raged so long;
that each may seek to love and build together,
a world united, righting every wrong;
a world united in its love for freedom,
proclaiming peace together in one song.

BENEDICTION (pastor)

Those who live lives pleasing to God shall not be moved. Go now to embrace the kingdom values—values of love, justice, and truth. Go now with God's blessing, to live those values through the power of our challenging, faithful, loving, empowering God. Go in the Lord's love and grace and peace. Amen.

POSTLUDE

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

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 41

ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Sun. May 24 9:00 am Finance Committee Meeting; Pastor's Office
Sun. May 24 9:20 am Administrative Council Meeting; Pastor's Office
Sun. May 24 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. May 24 11:15 am Confirmation Class
Sun. May 31 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. May 31 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. June 07 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. June 07 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. June 14 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. June 14 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

MISSIONS



Items requested by the food pantry are: Any kind of cereal, cereal bars or oatmeal; canned soup (chicken noodle and vegetable beef); canned pasta; mac and cheese; shampoo; and antiperspirant and toilet paper. Cash donations are always welcome.

SPEAKER SCHEDULE

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 Kris Shelton, Certified Lay Speaker
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. On May 24, 2026 the class will meet at 11:15am.

BOTTLED WATER COLLECTION

Please donate bottled water for Macon's May 30 fun day in the park; drop off in church kitchen.

LOVE PACKAGES MATERIAL

Bring used devotional materials by June 1 to be mailed to Love Packages for worldwide distribution. Bring devotionals to Christine.

