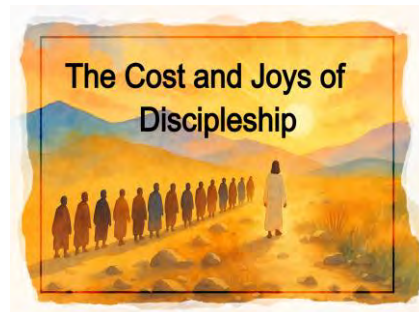


Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
May 3, 2026 **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY (read in silence)
Jesus declares: "I am the way, the truth and the life."



RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

GATHERING

Welcome, Announcements, Celebrations

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Easter people, in the midst of our questions and doubts, Jesus answers

I am the way, the truth and the life.

In the midst of our worry and distress, Jesus assures us;

I am the way, the truth and the life.

In the midst of misinformation, confusion, and distrust, Jesus reminds us;

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

In the midst of dead ends and impossible challenges, Jesus shows us;

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Come let us worship, as we learn to follow Christ, our way, our truth, and our life.

Come let us worship! Thanks be to God! Amen!

***OPENING HYMN** *"Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God"* **(UMH # 405)**

1. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you
Hallelu, Hallelujah

2. Ask and it shall be given unto you
Seek and ye shall find
Knock and it shall be opened unto you
Hallelu, Hallelujah

OPENING PRAYER

Ever present way making God we celebrate the gifts of your spirit. You have not fed us a diet of shame or shrinking but with the milk of your truth. You have made us strong and faithful servants of Christ. You call us to take up the mantle of justice and to follow wherever faith leads us. You fill us with strength and hope and you invite us to share in the cost and joys of discipleship. You promise us splendor and beauty in this life and in the world to come. Meet us here, we pray that your word will be fulfilled in our hearing and that your spirit will fill us with courage. Amen.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS (pastor)

SILENT PRAYER (pastor)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)

SCRIPTURE:

Proverbs 4: 10-18

¹⁰ Listen, my son, and take in my speech, then the years of your life will be many.

¹¹ I teach you the path of wisdom. I lead you in straight courses.

¹² When you walk, you won't be hindered; when you run, you won't stumble.

¹³ Hold on to instruction; don't slack off; protect it, for it is your life.

¹⁴ Don't go on the way of the wicked; don't walk on the path of evil people.

¹⁵ Avoid it! Don't turn onto it; stay off of it and keep going!

¹⁶ They don't sleep unless they do evil; they are robbed of sleep unless they make someone stumble.

¹⁷ They eat the bread of evil, and they drink the wine of violence.

¹⁸ The way of the righteous is like morning light that gets brighter and brighter till it is full day.



**“THE PATH OF
THE RIGHTEOUS
IS LIKE THE
LIGHT OF DAWN.”**

PROVERBS 4:18, NRSV

SCRIPTURE:

1 Peter 2: 2-10

² Instead, like a newborn baby, desire the pure milk of the word. Nourished by it, you will grow into salvation, ³ since you have tasted that the Lord is good.

HOLY COMMUNION

Table I, (UMH # 9)

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce that the time had come
when you would save your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with you always
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and forever. **Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ. The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

The body of Christ is given for you. Amen. Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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)**

Way making God, your offer to us is not just to believe in heaven, but to live the kingdom life here and now. Through Jesus, you show us the way, the truth, the life—calling us to deeper trust, wider welcome, and greater works of grace. As we bring our gifts, we step into that life, choosing generosity over fear and hope over judgment. Use these offerings, and use us, to make your dwelling places visible in our community, in our compassion, in our courage. We give, because we've heard your voice. In Christ's name, Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER (pastor)

Friends, hear the good news. Jesus came not to condemn us, but to love us and save us and show us the way. Know that we are forgiven. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN “*The Church's One Foundation*” (UMH # 545)**

1. The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the Word.
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
2. Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.
3. Though with a scornful wonder we see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.
4. Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
till, with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.
5. Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

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. 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.