

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
October 4, 2026 **Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**
World Communion Sunday

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

⁷The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;
⁸the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;
⁹the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. ¹¹Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Psalm 19:7-11



RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

GATHERING Welcome, Announcements, Celebrations

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)**

We live in a world that entices us with influence, power, and accolades.

We choose to press on toward the prize of the heavenly call.

Sometimes we find ourselves wishing for heaven without working to bring heaven to earth.

We choose to press on toward the prize of the heavenly call to live righteously here and now.

Other times we find ourselves exhausted by working for the gospel, wondering if anything we do is making a difference.

We remind one another to press on toward the prize of heavenly call, leaning on Christ as the source of our perseverance and hope.

Beloved God calls us not to escape the world but to build the kingdom of God in this place and in this time.

We choose to press on toward the prize of the heavenly call to embody

God's mercy and justice as we build God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

HYMN

"He Is Lord"

(UMH # 177)

He is Lord, He is Lord!

He is risen from the dead and he is Lord! Every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

OPENING PRAYER

COMMUNITY PRAYERS (pastor)

SILENT PRAYER (pastor)

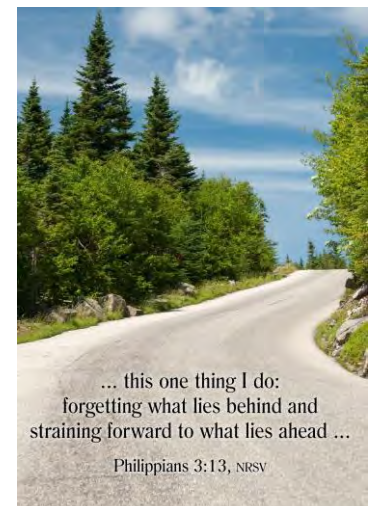
THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 3:1-14

Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.

²Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. ³For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh — ⁴though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith — ¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his



¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.
3. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.
4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

***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, you call us beyond our resumes and our trophies, beyond what we have been toward who we are becoming in Christ. As we lay these gifts before you, free us from clinging to what we think gives us worth. Turn our eyes toward the future you are unfolding. Let our giving press us deeper into mercy, widen the circle of belonging, and shape us into people who embody your justice and grace. Keep us moving, keep us growing, keep us following. We press on toward your kingdom, trusting you to lead. Amen.

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.

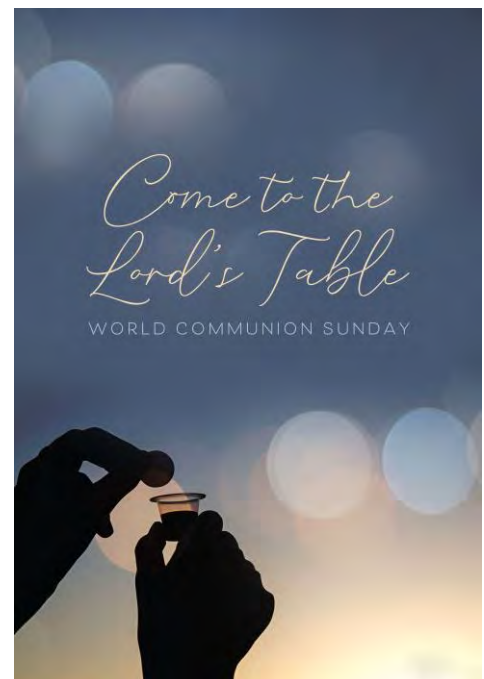
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**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.

The blood 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.

SENDING FORTH

Go forth in peace. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER

Holy God, bless our lives, sanctify us and in your way, grant us our hearts' desire. Anoint us with your grace, that what we desire is also what you desire. Help us to understand that our hearts' true desire is the love of you. May the love of Christ urge us on, may we walk by faith. Thank you, God, for all our blessings. Amen

***CLOSING HYMN *"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"* (UMH # 89)**

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love; hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!
2. All thy works with joy surround thee, Earth and heaven reflect thy rays, stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.
3. Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest, well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest! Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine; teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.
4. Mortals, join the mighty chorus, which the morning stars began; love divine is reigning o'er us, binding all within its span. Ever singing, march we

onward, victors in the midst of strife; joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6: 24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

POSTLUDE

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

Be certain to check the church website, <https://maconilumc.net/> for updated information about the church, events and news. Please use webmaster.maconumc@gmail.com to submit updates or additions to the church website.

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 34

ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Wed. Oct 07 6:00 pm Women of Faith meeting; Fellowship Hall
Thur Oct 08 8:30 am Women of Faith Kitchen Purge Day
Sun. Oct 11 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Oct 11 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Oct 18 8:00 am Men's breakfast; Fellowship Hall
Sun. Oct 18 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Oct 18 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Oct 25 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Oct 25 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service
Sun. Oct 25 11:00 am Pastor Appreciation Potluck; Fellowship Hall
Sun. Nov 01 8:30 am Grief Group; Pastor's Office
Sun. Nov 01 9:00 am Sunday School
Sun. Nov 01 10:00 am Worship and Zoom Service

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Oct 05 Dave and Dani Craft

MISSIONS



Items requested by the food pantry are: Any kind of cereal, or cereal bars; canned soup; canned pasta; mac and cheese; shampoo; and antiperspirant. Cash donations are always welcome.

SPEAKER SCHEDULE

Oct 04 Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor
Oct 11 Kirk Yenerall, Certified Lay Minister
Oct 18 Keith Baker, Lay Speaker
Oct 25 Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor
Nov 01 Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor
Nov 08 Kirk Yenerall, Certified Lay Minister
Nov 15 Keith Baker, Lay Speaker
Nov 22 Beverly Matthews Certified Lay Minister, Supply Pastor
Nov 29

WOMEN OF FAITH

The Macon UMC United Women of Faith are holding a toy drive for ages 1 to 17. A collection box will be in the back of the sanctuary. The toy pickup is October 10. Their next meeting is October 7 at 6:00pm. They will have a kitchen purge on October 8 at 8:30am.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast is October 18, 2026 at 8 am in Fellowship Hall.

PASTOR APPRECIATION POTLUCK

A Pastor Appreciation potluck will be held after church on October 25 right after worship service.

PASTOR ABSENT

Pastor Bev to be gone October 9-19, 2026. Kirk will cover pastoral duties. She will also be gone November 12 through 14. Pastor Bev will ask Kirk to cover this also.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Trunk or Treat is October 31 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. If you are not able to sponsor a trunk, bring a bag of candy starting Sunday, October 4, 2026.

FOCUS GROUP

November 1 at 8:30 am will be the first meeting of the Focus Group which will focus on grief, loss, and mental health. We will meet every first Sunday at 8:30 for one hour prior to worship. Feel free to bring your own coffee. Questions can be directed to Pastor Bev at 217 825 9010 call or text.

