

Living Stones

“You yourselves are being built like living stones into a spiritual temple.” (1 Peter 2.5)

Mason First Presbyterian Church

To be added to or removed from this list, please notify Bill.

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020 + THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



I encourage you to set aside some time today for personal worship using these or other resources.

An audio recording of this entire service is available at www.masonpresbyterian.org.

You are welcome to share this with your friends.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who is alive and reigns with you. *Amen.*

Introit: "Behold Our God"

You can listen to this introit [here](#).

An excellent live recording with a full orchestra is also available [here](#).

Who has held the oceans in His hands? Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice. All creation rises to rejoice.

Behold our God, seated on His throne. Come, let us adore Him.
Behold our King. Nothing can compare; come, let us adore Him.

Who has given counsel to the Lord? Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things? Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?

Behold our God, seated on His throne; come, let us adore Him!
Behold our King. Nothing can compare; come, let us adore Him!

Who has felt the nails upon His hands, bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave; Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign!

Behold our God, seated on His throne; O come, let us adore Him!
Behold our King. Nothing can compare; come, let us adore Him!

You will reign forever; let Your glory fill the earth!
You will reign forever; let Your glory fill the earth!
You will reign forever; let Your glory fill the earth!

Behold our God, seated on His throne; come, let us adore Him!
Behold our King. Nothing can compare; come let us adore Him!

Behold our God, seated on His throne; come, let us adore Him!
Behold our King. Nothing can compare; come let us adore Him!

(words and music by Jonathan Baird, Meghan Baird, Ryan Baird and Stephan Altrogge; arranged by Joshua Spacht)

Call to Worship

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega,

the Lord who was and is and is to come.

Peace be with you. Jesus stands among us.

Peace be with you. The risen Lord is here.

Let us worship God!

(Romans 1:7; Revelation 1:8; John 20:19, 21)

Hymn: "The Day of Resurrection!"

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,

the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.

From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free,

our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

Let hearts be purged of evil that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light,
and listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful; let earth its song begin;
the round world keep high triumph and all that is therein.
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end.

(lyrics by John of Damascus, 8th cent.; trans. John Mason Neale, 1862, alt.)

Call to Confession

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. Trusting in God's grace let us confess our sin.

(Romans 8:26)

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made.

Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust in your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news of God's promise: "I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

(Acts 2:17, 21)

Hymn: “Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus: “Christ is risen! Get you gone!”
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!

(lyrics by Brian Wren, 1984)

A Prayer for Healing

By your power, great God, our Lord Jesus healed the sick and gave new hope to the hopeless. Though we cannot command or possess your power, we pray for those who want to be healed. Mend their wounds, soothe fevered brows, and make broken people whole again. Help us to welcome every healing as a sign that, though death is against us, you are for us, and have promised renewed and risen life in Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

A Prayer Those in Medical Services

Merciful God, your healing power is everywhere about us. Strengthen those who work among the sick; give them courage and confidence in everything they do. Encourage them when their efforts seem futile or when death prevails. Increase their trust in your power even to overcome death and pain and crying. May they be thankful for every sign of health you give, and humble before the mystery of your healing grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

We offer our prayers through Christ,
who is risen from the dead,
who lives and reigns forever,
and prays for us in heaven.

Through Christ, we pray for the church . . .
(silence)

Let us be people of joy, living witnesses
to the power of the resurrection
and the good news of your grace and peace.
Living God, *hear our prayer.*

Through Christ we pray for the earth . . .
(silence)

From the dust of the damaged earth,
raise up your new creation,
full of beauty, wonder, and glory.

Living God, *hear our prayer.*

Through Christ, we pray for all nations . . .

(silence)

Let the message of your saving power
spread throughout the world:
that the dominion of death is no more.
Living God, *hear our prayer.*

Through Christ, we pray for this community . . .

(silence)

Let the doors of this church be open wide
as we go forth in love and service
and others come in to find a home.
Living God, *hear our prayer.*

Through Christ, we pray for loved ones . . .

(silence)

Give hope to those who wait for good news.
Turn their mourning into dancing,
and their sorrow into joy.
Living God, *hear our prayer.*

God of all power and glory, receive these prayers,
and continue your mighty work among us,
through Jesus Christ, our living Lord. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

Invitation to Offering

The Lord prepares a table for us
in the presence of our enemies;
God anoints us with oil; our cups overflow.
Let us offer our lives to the Lord.
(Psalm 23:5)

Offertory Response: "Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!" (verse 2)

The Lord of life is risen today!
Death's mighty stone is rolled away.
Let all the earth rejoice and say:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

(lyrics by Cyril A. Alington, 1931, alt.)

Prayer for Illumination

Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word. Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit so that we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 16

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you."

As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble,
in whom is all my delight.

Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names upon my lips.

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.
The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.
I keep the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.
For you do not give me up to Sheol,
or let your faithful one see the Pit.

You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Gospel Lesson: John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas

answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Anthem: “The Journey of Faith”

You can listen to the anthem [here](#).

We walk by faith. We live in hope.
With every step we take, we trust in God alone.
We hold to Christ. He leads us on.
He is our shepherd, ever faithful, ever strong.

And when we lose our way or when our footsteps roam
His love will find us, His grace will lead us home.
Across the mountains high and through the valleys deep
He leads us onward. His love is all we need.
Till we reach the promised land we will trust His guiding hand.
We live in hope and walk by faith.

The road is rising up before us. We all are part of God's glorious plan.
His grace has given us a future, for we are bound for the promised land.
And though the road ahead is long and winding
The cross goes on before us as our guide.
We know the journey is not over, for there are mountains yet to climb,
for there are mountains yet to climb.

We walk by faith. We live in hope.
With every step we take, we trust in God alone.
We hold to Christ. He leads us on. He leads us onward. His love is all we need.
Till we reach the promised land we will trust His guiding hand.
We live in hope and walk by faith. We live in hope. We walk by faith.

(words and music by Joseph M. Martin)

New Testament Lesson: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Sermon: “A New Birth into a Living Hope”

*The sermon is available in printed form at www.masonpresbyterian.org, or attached to this email.
An audio recording of the sermon is also available at www.masonpresbyterian.org.*

Hymn: “How Firm a Foundation”

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no, never forsake."

(lyrics by "K" in John Rippon's A Selection of Hymns, 1787, alt.)

Blessing

Beloved children, may the love
of the holy triune God –
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit –
abide with you forever. *Alleluia!*
(1 John 4:13-16)



The Incredulity of Saint Thomas, by Caravaggio (c. 1602)

(source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Caravaggio_-_The_Incredulity_of_Saint_Thomas.jpg)

Credits

Prayers courtesy of the PC(USA)'s 2018 Book of Common Worship
Scripture passages are from the New Revised Standard Version
Special thanks to Deb for anthem suggestions and Darlene for some hymn suggestions