

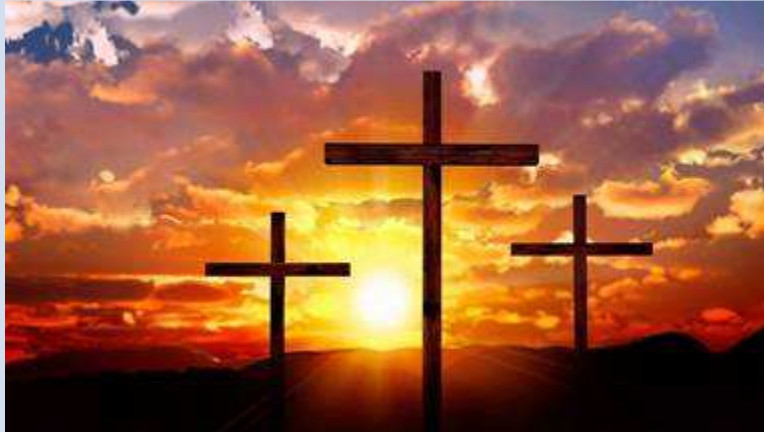
Living Stones

"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 26, 2020 + THE THIRD 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 God, through your only Son you overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. Grant that we who celebrate our Lord's resurrection may, through the renewing power of your Spirit, arise from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Call to Worship

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

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain.

Blessing and honor and glory to God!

Beloved, we are God's children now;

when Christ is revealed, we will be like him.

Let us worship God!

(Romans 1:7; Revelation 5:12-13; 1 John 3:2)

Hymn: "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks"

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord!

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name!

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.

He is the King of creation.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord!

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name!

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:

Jesus has died and has risen.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord!

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name!

We have been crucified with Christ.

Now we shall live forever.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord!
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name!

Come let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Savior.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord!
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name!

(lyrics by Donald Fishel, 1971)

Call to Confession

The Lord says: "Come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift." Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

(Revelation 22:17)

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

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with all the saints. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

(Revelation 22:21)

Hymn: "In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

(lyrics by Natalie Sleeth, 1986)

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 3)

Praise we in songs of victory
that love, that life which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high:
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 116:1-4, 12-19

(A prayer of one who has received the gift of healing.)

I love the Lord, because he has heard
my voice and my supplications.
Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.
Then I called on the name of the Lord:
"O Lord, I pray, save my life!"

What shall I return to the Lord
for all his bounty to me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord,
I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.
Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his faithful ones.

O Lord, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.
You have loosed my bonds.
I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice
and call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.
Praise the Lord!

Gospel Lesson: Luke 24:13-35

(This story takes place on Easter day.)

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Anthem: "Before the Throne of God Above"

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

Before the throne of God above, I have a strong and perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose name is "Love", who ever lives and pleads for me.

My name is graven on His hands, my name is written on His heart.
I know that while in heav'n He stands, no tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair and tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there, who made an end to all my sin.

Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free.
For God the just is satisfied, to look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there, the risen lamb, my perfect, spotless, righteousness;
The great unchangeable I AM, the King of glory and of grace.

One with Himself, I cannot die. My soul is purchased by His blood.
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God.

My name is graven on His hands. My name is written on His heart.
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God.

(by Vikki Cook; arr. Dan Forrest)

New Testament Lesson: 1 Peter 1:17-23

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Sermon: “...During the Time of Your Exile”

*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: “We Are One in the Spirit”

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;
we will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other; we will work side by side;
we will work with each other; we will work side by side,
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;

yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

(lyrics by Peter Scholtes, 1966)

Blessing

The blessing of the eternal, triune God—
Alpha and Omega,
first and last,
beginning and end—
be with you all. *Alleluia!*
(Revelation 22:13)



Supper at Emmaus, by Matthias Stom (17th century)

(source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Le_Repas_d%27Emma%C3%BCs.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