

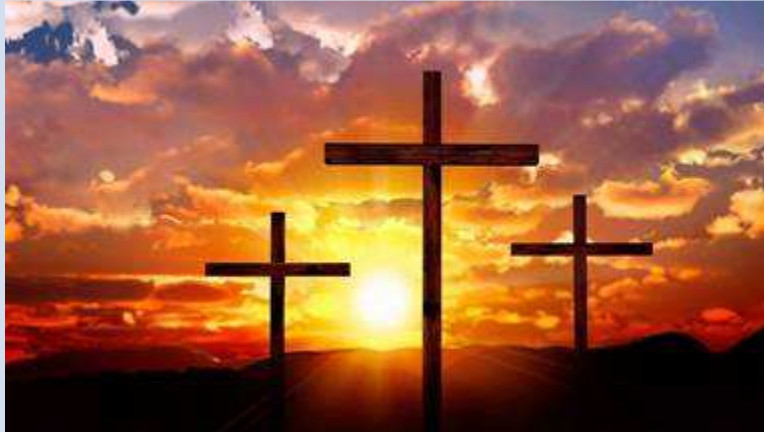
Living Stones

"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, MAY 17, 2020 + THE SIXTH 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

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you, that, loving you above all else, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Call to Worship

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

There is no greater love than this:

to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Blessed is God, who hears our prayers,

whose steadfast love endures forever.

Let us worship God!

(Romans 1:7; John 15:13; Psalm 66:20)

Hymn: "The Strife Is O'er"

The strife is o'er, the battle done;

the victory of life is won;

the song of triumph has begun.

Alleluia!

The powers of death have done their worst,

but Christ their legions hath dispersed:

let shouts of holy joy outburst.

Alleluia!

The three sad days are quickly sped;

Christ rises glorious from the dead:

all glory to our risen Head!

Alleluia!

Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee,
from death's dread sting thy servants free,
that we may live, and sing to thee:
Alleluia!

(lyrics: Latin hymn, c. 1695; trans. Francis Pott, 1861)

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: "There Is a Place of Quiet Rest"

There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God,
a place where sin cannot molest, near to the heart of God.

O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,
hold us, who wait before thee, near to the heart of God.

There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God,
a place where we our Savior meet, near to the heart of God.

O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,
hold us, who wait before thee, near to the heart of God.

There is a place of full release, near to the heart of God,
a place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God.

O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,
hold us, who wait before thee, near to the heart of God.

(lyrics by Cleland Boyd McAfee, 1901)

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 66:8-20

Bless our God, O peoples,

let the sound of his praise be heard,

who has kept us among the living,

and has not let our feet slip.

For you, O God, have tested us;

you have tried us as silver is tried.

You brought us into the net;

you laid burdens on our backs;

you let people ride over our heads;

we went through fire and through water;

yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

I will come into your house with burnt offerings;

I will pay you my vows,

those that my lips uttered

and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings,

with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;

I will make an offering of bulls and goats.

Come and hear, all you who fear God,

and I will tell what he has done for me.

I cried aloud to him,

and he was extolled with my tongue.

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,

the Lord would not have listened.

But truly God has listened;

he has given heed to the words of my prayer.

Blessed be God,

because he has not rejected my prayer

or removed his steadfast love from me.

New Testament Lesson: 1 Peter 3:13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope

that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Gospel Lesson: John 14:15-21

(Jesus is speaking)

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

Anthem: “I Shall Not Be Afraid”

(You can listen to the anthem [here](#). You will need to click the round “play” button.)

The Lord is my light and my Savior, my strength, my protector and guide.

I run to His arms when in danger and safe in His shadow I hide.

Whom shall I fear when God is with me?

Whom shall I fear? He shields me with love!

His presence surrounds me completely, I shall not be afraid.

When all of earth's comforts are lacking, my Lord in His mercy sustains.

When all those I've trusted forsake me, my God in compassion remains.

Whom shall I fear when God stands with me?

Whom shall I fear? He shields me with love!

His presence surrounds me completely, I shall not be afraid.

Only one thing I am seeking, to look on His beautiful face.

To live evermore in His presence and bask in His wonderful grace.

Whom shall I fear when God is with me?

Whom shall I fear? He shields me with love!

His presence surrounds me completely, I shall not be afraid.

I shall not be afraid.

(music by Patricia Mock; words by Janice Kaye; arranged by Faye López)

Sermon: “I Will Not Leave You Orphaned”

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: “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!”

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne;

Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone!
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by his blood!"

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! he is near us; faith believes nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him, when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise: "I am with you evermore"?

Alleluia! Bread of angels, here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! here the sinful flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's redeemer, hear our plea
where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! born of Mary, earth your footstool, heaven your throne.
As within the veil you entered, robed in flesh, our great high priest;
here on earth both priest and victim in the eucharistic feast.

(lyrics by William Chatterton Dix, 1866, alt.)

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)



Christ in Limbo, by Fra Angelico, 1441

(source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fra_Angelico_024.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