

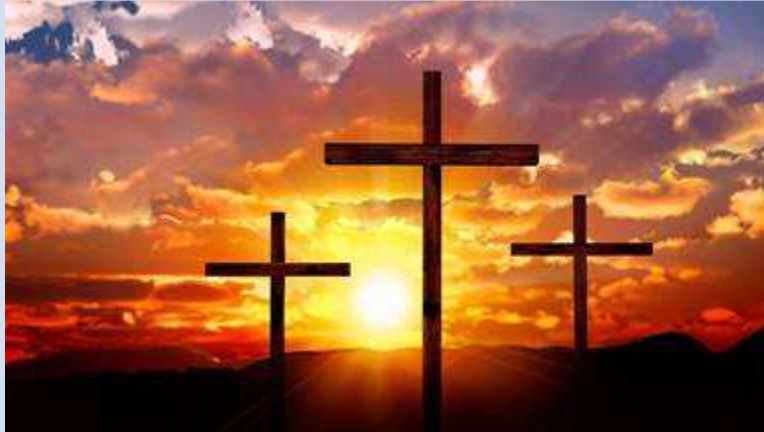
Living Stones

“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 24, 2020 + THE SEVENTH 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, your Son, Jesus, prayed for his disciples, and sent them into the world to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. By your Holy Spirit, hold the church in unity, and keep it faithful to your Word, so that, breaking bread together, we may be one with Christ in faith and love and service, now and forever. *Amen.*

New Testament Lesson: Acts 1:6-14

(This story takes place 40 days after Easter. The risen Christ is with his disciples one last time.)

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Call to Worship

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

Clap your hands, all you peoples!

God has gone up with a shout of joy.

Why do you look up toward heaven?

Christ has risen; Christ will come again.

Let us worship God!

(Romans 1:7; Psalm 47:1, 5; Revelation 22:20)

Hymn: "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"

All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, ye ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!

O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all!
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all!

(lyrics: stanzas 1-3, Edward Perronet, 1779, 1780; stanzas 2-3, alt. John Rippon, 1787; stanza 4, John Rippon, 1787)

Call to Confession

Let us humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, casting all our anxiety on the Lord, who cares for us.
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.
(1 Peter 5:6-7)

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life, and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him, or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the ways of the world, and failed to give him glory.

Forgive us, and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is the head of the church, his body.

Assurance of Pardon

The God of all grace, who calls us to eternal glory in Jesus Christ, will restore, support, and strengthen us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God! Amen.
(1 Peter 5:10)

Hymn: "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet

fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time;
creator of the rolling sphere, ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

(lyrics by Matthew Bridges, 1851)

Prayers of Intercession

With one mind in Christ, and one heart in the Spirit,
let us pray to the Lord of heaven and earth.
Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

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.
Lord, in your mercy, *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.
Lord, in your mercy, *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.
Lord, in your mercy, *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.
Lord, in your mercy, *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.
Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Enable us, O God, by the power of your Spirit,
to live our lives in a way that is worthy of the gospel,
to the glory of the name that is above all names,
Jesus Christ our 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

In the spirit of the first believers,
we are called to share our goods in common
and contribute to the needs of the poor
with glad and generous hearts.
(Acts 2:44-46)

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.*

Gospel Lesson: John 17:1-11

(Jesus is praying at the Last Supper.)

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

New Testament Lesson: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Anthem: "My Savior, My God"

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

I am not skilled to understand
what God has willed, what God has planned.
I only know at His right hand
stands one who is my Savior.

I take Him at His word and deed.
Christ died to save me; this I read.
And in my heart I find a need
of Him to be my Savior.

That He would leave His place on high
and come for sinful man to die.
You count it strange; so once did I,
before I knew my Savior.

My Savior loves. My Savior lives. My Savior's always there for me.
My God, He was. My God, He is. My God is always gonna be.
My Savior loves. My Savior lives. My Savior's always there for me.
My God, He was. My God, He is. My God is always gonna be.

Yes, living, dying, let me bring,
Yes, living, dying, let me bring,
my strength, my solace from this spring,
my strength, my solace from this spring.
That He who lives to be my King,
That He who lives to be my King
once died to be my Savior.

That He would leave His place on high
and come for sinful man to die,
You count it strange; so once did I,
before I knew my Savior.

My Savior loves. My Savior lives. My Savior's always there for me.
My God, He was. My God, He is. My God is always gonna be.
My Savior loves. My Savior lives. My Savior's always there for me.
My God, He was. My God, He is. My God is always gonna be.

My Savior loves. My Savior lives. My Savior's always there for me.
My God, He was. My God, He is. My God is always gonna be.
My Savior loves. My Savior lives. My Savior's always there for me.
My God, He was. My God, He is. My God is always gonna be.

I am not skilled to understand,
I am not skilled to understand
what God has willed, what God has planned,
what God has willed, what God has planned.
I only know at His right hand,
I only know at His right hand
Stands one who is my Savior.

(words and music by Aaron Shust; arranged by Jay Rouse)

Sermon: "Cast All Your Anxiety on Him"

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: "Rejoice, the Lord Is King!"

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Our Savior, Jesus, reigns, the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat above.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come
and gather all the saints to their eternal home.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

(lyrics by Charles Wesley, 1746, alt.)

Blessing

May the steadfast love of the Lord be yours,
this day and forever. *Alleluia!*

(Psalm 118:1, 24)



Christi Himmelfahrt by Gebhard Fugel, c. 1893

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