

# 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.*

JUNE 14, 2020 + 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*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](http://www.masonpresbyterian.org).*

*You are welcome to share this with your friends.*

## **Prayer of the Day**

All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life, and defeat into victory. Increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over all evil, in the strength of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **Call to Worship**

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

The kingdom of God is like a tiny mustard seed;

*it grows into a great plant with many branches.*

The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few.

*Lord, send us out into your harvest.*

Let us worship God!

*(Romans 1:7; Mark 4:31-32; Matthew 9:37-38)*

## **Hymn: “All Things Bright and Beautiful”**

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,  
God made their glowing colors; God made their tiny wings.

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,  
the sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky:

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,  
the ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one.

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell  
how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

*(lyrics by Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848, alt.)*

### **Call to Confession**

We have been buried with Christ in baptism,  
in order that we might be raised to new life with him  
through faith in the power of God. *(Colossians 2:12)*  
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

### **Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God,  
in your gracious presence  
we confess our sin and the sin of this world.  
Although Christ is among us as our peace,  
we are a people divided against ourselves  
as we cling to the values of a broken world.  
The profit and pleasures we pursue  
lay waste the land and pollute the seas.  
The fears and jealousies that we harbor  
set neighbor against neighbor  
and nation against nation.

We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom,  
of intellect and reason,  
and have turned them into bonds of oppression.

Lord, have mercy upon us;  
heal and forgive us.  
Set us free to serve you in the world  
as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.

*(You are invited to continue the confession with your own silent prayers.)*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

"Do not fear," says the Lord,  
"for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by name; you are mine." *(Isaiah 43:1)*  
God is doing a new thing; now it springs forth! *(Isaiah 43:19)*  
By the grace of Jesus Christ,  
we are forgiven!  
*Thanks be to God! Amen.*

### **Hymn: "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"**

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

*(African American spiritual)*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

For the church, the world, and all in need,  
let us pray to the Lord, saying:  
God of grace, *hear our prayer.*

For your Church in every place,  
that we may worship and serve you faithfully . . .  
God of grace, *hear our prayer.*

For leaders and people in every land,  
that they may know your way and do your will . . .  
God of grace, *hear our prayer.*

For justice throughout the world,  
that there may be peace and plenty for all . . .  
God of grace, *hear our prayer.*

For the earth you have made,  
that it may flourish in beauty and show your glory . . .  
God of grace, *hear our prayer.*

For all those who hunger and thirst,  
that they may be filled with good things . . .  
God of grace, *hear our prayer.*

For those who are ill or close to death,  
that they may know your loving care . . .  
God of grace, *hear our prayer.*

*(You are invited to lift up your specific prayers to God.)*

Receive all these prayers, O God,  
in the tenderness of your mighty hand,  
and strengthen our hands to serve you;  
through 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**

The one who sows sparingly  
will also reap sparingly;  
the one who sows bountifully  
will also reap bountifully. (*2 Corinthians 9:6*)  
Let us return to God the offerings of our life  
and the gifts of the earth.

### **Offertory Response: “Praise, God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” (Trinity version)**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
praise Triune God, whom we adore. *Amen.*

*(lyrics by Neil Weatherhogg, 1988)*

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Testify to us, O God,  
by the voice of your Spirit.  
Put your law in our hearts,  
write your word in our minds,  
and show your will in our lives;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

*(Beginning today and continuing through the rest of the summer and into the fall, we will be enjoying a series of sequential readings from the books of Genesis and Exodus, Paul’s letter to the Romans, and the Gospel of Matthew.)*

### **Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7**

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?” The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season,

and Sarah shall have a son.” But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh”; for she was afraid. He said, “Oh yes, you did laugh.”

The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Now Sarah said, “God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.” And she said, “Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

**Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19**

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.

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!

**New Testament Lesson: Romans 5:1-8**

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

**Gospel Lesson: Matthew 9:35 – 10:8**

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

**Anthem: “We Are Called”**

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

Come! Live in the light!  
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!  
We are called to be light for the kingdom,  
to live in the freedom of the city of God.  
We are called to act with justice;  
we are called to love tenderly.  
We are called to serve one another,  
to walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your heart,  
show your mercy to all those in need.  
We are called to be hope for the hopeless,  
so hatred and violence will be no more.  
We are called to act with justice,  
we are called to love tenderly.  
We are called to serve one another,  
to walk humbly with God.

Sing! Sing a new song!  
Sing of that great day when all will be one!  
God will reign and we'll walk with each other  
as sisters and brothers united in love.  
We are called to act with justice,  
we are called to love tenderly.  
We are called to serve one another,  
to walk humbly with God.

We'll walk humbly with God,  
we'll walk humbly with God,  
humbly with God.

*(words and music by David Haas; choral setting by Mark Hayes)*

**Sermon: “Racism and Christianity in America (Part 1)”**

*The sermon is available in printed form at [www.masonpresbyterian.org](http://www.masonpresbyterian.org), or attached to this email.  
An audio recording of the sermon is also available at [www.masonpresbyterian.org](http://www.masonpresbyterian.org).*

**Hymn: “Help Us Accept Each Other”**

*(This hymn may be unfamiliar to you. You can view the music, or listen to a recording, [here](#).)*



Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;  
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe  
we are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life  
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,  
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved  
in living situations to do the truth in love;  
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart  
the table of forgiveness, and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,  
who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread,  
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:  
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us; make us one!

*(lyrics by Fred Kaan, 1974)*

### **Blessing**

The blessing of the one God—  
Spirit, Son, and Father—  
be with you now and always.  
*Amen!*

*(Ephesians 4:4-6)*



Sarah and Abraham Offer Hospitality to the Visitors (Basilica of San Vitale, Ravenna, Italy)

(source: <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56993>)

### **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*

