

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 21, 2020 +++ 3RD 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.

You are welcome to share this with your friends.

Prayer of the Day

Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labor and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Call to Worship

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

As a deer longs for flowing streams,

so my soul thirsts for the living God.

Let the redeemed of the Lord rejoice;

for the steadfast love of God, give thanks!

Let us worship God!

(Romans 1:7; Psalm 42:1-2; Psalm 107:2, 31)

Hymn: “Jesus Calls Us”

(Printed music and a simple recording of this hymn is available [here](#).)

Jesus calls us: o’er the tumult
of our life’s wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice soundeth
saying, “Christian, follow me.”

Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world’s golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, “Christian, love me more.”

In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
“Christian, love me more than these.”

Jesus calls us: by thy mercies,
Savior, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thine obedience,
serve and love thee best of all.

(lyrics by Cecil Frances Alexander, 1852)

Call to Confession

When we pass through deep waters

or go through times of fiery trial,
the Lord our God is with us. (*Isaiah 43:2*)
With confidence in God,
our creator and redeemer,
let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,
you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.
We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.
We have not loved you with a pure heart,
nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not done justice, loved kindness,
or walked humbly with you, our God.

Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness.
In your great compassion,
cleanse us from our sin.

Do not cast us away from your holy presence,
or take your Holy Spirit from us.
Restore to us the joy of your salvation
and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

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

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news!
Hope does not disappoint us,
for God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit given to us in baptism. (*Romans 5:5*)
Believe this good news and give thanks:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Hymn: "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"

(Printed music and a simple recording of this hymn is available [here](#).)

O Master, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me thy patience, still with thee
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way;
in peace that only thou canst give,
with thee, O Master, let me live.

(lyrics by Washington Gladden, 1879)

A Prayer for Fathers

On this Father's Day, I invite you to take a minute to lift up your dad in prayer.

Give thanks for the relationship you have with him...

If he is not well, ask God to heal his body or his mind...

If he is deceased, give thanks for the years you had together, and all the blessings you received from him...

If your relationship with your father is strained, ask for healing and the restoration of that relationship...

If you never really had a father, ask that God would fill that empty place in your heart...

If you wanted to become a father and your wish was never granted, ask God to give you peace...

If you are a father who has lost a child, give thanks for the time you had with your child, and ask God for comfort and peace...

Take a minute, and lift up your prayers in silence....

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray for the needs of the church,
the whole human family,
and all the world, saying: *Hear our prayer.*

That churches of all traditions
may discover their unity in Christ
and exercise their gifts in service of all,
we pray to you, O God: *Hear our prayer.*

That the earth may be freed
from war, famine, and disease,
and the air, soil, and waters cleansed of poison,
we pray to you, O God: *Hear our prayer.*

That those who govern and maintain peace in every land
may exercise their powers in obedience to your commands,
we pray to you, O God: *Hear our prayer.*

That you will strengthen this nation to pursue just priorities
so that the races may be reconciled;
the young, educated; and the old, cared for;
the hungry, filled; and the homeless, housed;
and the sick, comforted and healed,
we pray to you, O God: *Hear our prayer.*

That you will preserve all who live and work
in this city
in peace and safety,
we pray to you, O God: *Hear our prayer.*

That you will comfort and empower
those who face any difficulty or trial:
the sick,

the disabled, the poor, the oppressed,
those who grieve and those in prison,
we pray to you, O God: *Hear our prayer.*

That
we pray to you, O God: *Hear our prayer.*

That you will accept our thanksgiving
for all faithful servants of Christ now at rest,
who, with us, await a new heaven and a new earth,
your everlasting kingdom,
we pray to you, O God: *Hear our prayer.*

Merciful God,
as a potter fashions a vessel from humble clay,
you form us into a new creation.
Shape us, day by day,
through the cross of Christ your Son,
until we pray as continually as we breathe
and all our acts are prayer;
through Jesus Christ
and in the mystery of the Holy Spirit, we pray. *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

Give as you have made up your mind,
not reluctantly or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver. (*2 Corinthians 9:7*)
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

God of mercy,

you promised never to break your covenant with us.
Amid all the changing words of our generation,
speak your eternal word that does not change.
Then may we respond to your gracious promises
with faithful and obedient lives;
through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 21:8-21

(After Isaac was born to Abraham and Sarah.)

The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.

God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.
Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you;
save your servant who trusts in you.
You are my God; be gracious to me, O Lord,
for to you do I cry all day long.
Gladden the soul of your servant,
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.
Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;
listen to my cry of supplication.
In the day of my trouble I call on you,
for you will answer me.

There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,
nor are there any works like yours.
All the nations you have made shall come
and bow down before you, O Lord,
and shall glorify your name.
For you are great and do wondrous things;
you alone are God.

Turn to me and be gracious to me;
give your strength to your servant;
save the child of your serving girl.
Show me a sign of your favor,
so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame,
because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

New Testament Lesson: Romans 6:1b-11

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 10:24-39

(Jesus is teaching his twelve apostles.)

“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

Anthem: “The Least of These”

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

The waters rise and dreams are shattered. A nation falls; her people flee.
A mother prays to feed her children, as hunger drives them to their knees.
A body fails; a spirit falters. A burdened heart cries for relief,
forsaken in its darkest moment. Have mercy on the least of these.

Lives are broken all around us. A sparrow falls; the Father sees.
But God needs hearts and arms to open, in mercy for the least of these.

He left His Father and the angels to dwell among the poor and weak.
He touched the earth as time forgotten, the ones we call the least of these.
Upon the cross His arms are open, in mercy for the sinner's need.
He came to fill our deepest hunger, for we are all the least of these.

Lives are broken all around us. A sparrow falls; the Father sees.
But God needs hearts and arms to open, in mercy for the least of these.
Oh, may our hearts be redeemed in mercy. Have mercy on the least of these.

(music by Larry Shackley; words by Pamela Stewart)

Sermon: "Racism and Christianity in America (Part 2: 1620-1750)"

*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: "In Christ There Is No East or West"

(Printed music and a simple recording of this hymn is available [here](#).)

In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close-binding humankind.

Join hands, disciples of the faith,
whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God
are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west;
in him meet south and north.
All Christly souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

(lyrics by John Oxenham, 1908, alt.)

Blessing

May the blessing of the triune God—
holy, holy, holy Lord—
be with you now and always. *(Isaiah 6:3)*
Amen!



Hagar in the Wilderness, by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo (c. 1726)

(source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tiepolo,_Giovanni_Battista_-_Hagar_in_the_Wilderness_-_1726-29.jpg)

Credits

Prayers courtesy of the PC(USA)'s 2018 Book of Common Worship

Scripture passages are from the New Revised Standard Version

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