

# 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 28, 2020 +++ 4<sup>TH</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**

O God, light of the minds that know you, life of the souls that love you, strength of the thoughts that seek you: Help us so to know you that we may truly love you, so to love you that we may fully serve you, whose service is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **Call to Worship**

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

Welcome one another in Jesus' name,

*for Christ is truly present among us.*

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;

*the mercies of God never come to an end.*

Let us worship God!

*(Romans 1:7; Matthew 10:40; Lamentations 3:22)*

## **Hymn: “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”**

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

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.

I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand.

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow.

Let the fire and cloudy pillar led me all my journey through.

Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,

be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.

Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.

Songs of praises, songs of praises,

I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee.

*(lyrics by William Williams, 1762; stanza 1, trans. Peter Williams, 1771; stanzas 2-3, trans. William Williams, 1772)*

## **Call to Confession**

We come before God not as despised sinners,

but as beloved children. *(1 John 3:2)*

With the confidence of children of God,

let us humbly confess our sin.

### **Prayer of Confession**

Eternal God,  
in whom we live and move and have our being,  
whose face is hidden from us by our sins,  
and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts:  
Cleanse us from all our offenses,  
and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires,  
that with reverent and humble hearts  
we may draw near to you,  
confessing our faults,  
confiding in your grace,  
and finding in you our refuge and strength;  
through Jesus Christ your Son.

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

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the good news!  
As people born of water and the Spirit  
we have died to the old life, and a new life has begun.  
God's grace is poured out upon us day by day.  
Come to the water and remember your baptism.  
Be thankful,  
and live as one who has been raised to new life! *(John 3:5; 2 Corinthians 5:17)*  
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
*Thanks be to God! Amen.*

### **Hymn: "God of Our Life"**

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

God of our life, through all the circling years, we trust in thee.  
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, thy hand we see.  
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,  
we own thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.

God of the past, our times are in thy hand. With us abide.  
Lead us by faith to hope's true promised land. Be thou our guide.  
With thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,  
and faith's fair vision changes into sight.

God of the coming years, through paths unknown we follow thee.  
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone. Our refuge be.  
Be thou for us in life our daily bread,  
our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

*(lyrics by Hugh Thomson Kerr, 1916, alt.)*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Almighty God,  
in Jesus Christ you taught us to pray.  
Guide us by your Holy Spirit,  
that our prayers may serve your will  
and show your steadfast love;

through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray for the world.

*(Silent prayer)*

God our creator,  
we pray for the world you have made.  
Overthrow evil powers, right what is wrong;  
feed and satisfy those who thirst for justice,  
so that all your children may freely enjoy your creation  
and joyfully sing your praises;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray for the church.

*(Silent prayer)*

Gracious God,  
you have called us to be the church of Jesus Christ.  
Keep us one in faith and service,  
breaking bread together,  
and proclaiming the good news to the world,  
that all may believe you are love,  
and turn to your ways,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray for peace.

*(Silent prayer)*

Eternal God,  
you sent Jesus Christ  
to break down the walls of hostility that divide us.  
Send peace on earth,  
and put down greed, pride, and anger,  
which turn nation against nation and race against race.  
Speed the day when wars will end  
and the whole world accepts your rule;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray for our enemies.

*(Silent prayer)*

O God,  
whom we cannot love unless we love our neighbors,  
remove hate and prejudice from us and from all people,  
so that all your children may be reconciled  
with those we fear, resent, or threaten;  
and live together in your peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray for those who govern us.

*(Silent prayer)*

Mighty God, sovereign over the nations,  
direct those who make, administer, and judge our laws;  
the president of the United States,  
the governors of states throughout our country,  
and others in authority among us;  
that, guided by your wisdom,

they may lead us in the way of righteousness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray for world leaders.

*(Silent prayer)*

Eternal Ruler, hope of all the earth,  
give vision to those who serve the United Nations,  
and to those who govern all countries;  
that, with goodwill and justice,  
they may take down barriers, foster understanding,  
and draw the world together in peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray for the sick.

*(Silent prayer)*

Merciful God,  
you bear the pain of the world.  
Look with compassion on those who are sick,  
especially .....;  
cheer them by your word,  
and bring healing as a sign of your grace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray for those who sorrow.

*(Silent prayer)*

God of comfort,  
stand with those who sorrow;  
give them assurance that neither death nor life,  
nor things present nor things to come,  
shall separate them from your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray for friends and families.

*(Silent prayer)*

God of compassion,  
bless us and those we love,  
our friends and families;  
that, drawing close to you,  
we may be drawn closer to each other;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Mighty God,

whose Word we trust,

whose Spirit enables us to pray:

Accept our requests and further those  
which will bring about your purpose for the earth;  
through Jesus Christ, who rules over all things. *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**

Do good and share what you have,  
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. (*Hebrews 13:16*)  
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**

Blessed Lord,  
who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning;  
Grant us so to hear them,  
read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them,  
that we may embrace and ever hold fast  
the blessed hope of everlasting life,  
which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

### **Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 22:1-14**

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

### **Psalm 13**

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I bear pain in my soul,

and have sorrow in my heart all day long?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

Consider and answer me, O Lord my God!

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,  
and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed";

my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

But I trusted in your steadfast love;

my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

I will sing to the Lord,

because he has dealt bountifully with me.

### **New Testament Lesson: Romans 6:12-23**

Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Gospel Lesson: Matthew 10:40-42**

*(Jesus is teaching his twelve apostles.)*

"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

### **Anthem: "Hear the Call of the Kingdom"**

*(Enjoy a live recording of the composers and a very large choir singing this song at a church in San Diego [here](#).)*

Hear the call of the Kingdom, lift your eyes to the King.

Let His song rise within you as a fragrant offering  
of how God, rich in mercy, came in Christ to redeem  
all who trust in His unfailing grace.

Hear the call of the Kingdom, to be children of light,  
with the mercy of heaven, the humility of Christ;  
Walking justly before Him, loving all that is right;  
that the light of Christ may shine through us.

King of heaven, we will answer the call;  
We will follow, bringing hope to the world,  
filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim  
salvation in Jesus' name.

Hear the call of the Kingdom to reach out to the lost  
with the Father's compassion, in the wonder of the cross.  
Bringing peace and forgiveness and a hope yet to come,  
let the nations put their trust in Him.

King of heaven, we will answer the call;  
We will follow, bringing hope to the world,  
filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim  
salvation in Jesus' name.

King of heaven, we will answer the call;  
We will follow, bringing hope to the world,  
filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim  
salvation in Jesus' name, salvation in Jesus' name.

*(words and music by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, and Stuart Townend)*

**Sermon: "Racism and Christianity in America (Part 3: 1730-1783)"**

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: "Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak"**

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

Lord, speak to me that I may speak in living echoes of your tone.  
As you have sought, so let me seek your erring children, lost and lone.

O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the wandering and the wavering feet.  
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed your hungry ones with manna sweet.

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious truths which you impart.  
And wing my words that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.

O fill me with your fullness, Lord, until my very heart o'erflow  
in kindling thought and glowing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

O use me, Lord, use even me, just as you will, and when, and where  
until your blessed face I see, your rest, your joy, your glory share.

*(lyrics by Frances Ridley Havergal, 1872, alt.)*

**Blessing**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ

be with your spirit. (*Philippians 4:23*)  
*Amen!*



*The Sacrifice of Isaac, by Rembrandt (c. 1635)*

(source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rembrandt\\_Abraham\\_en\\_Isaac\\_1634.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rembrandt_Abraham_en_Isaac_1634.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*