

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.

JULY 5, 2020 +++ 5TH 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

God of the covenant, in our baptism you called us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us courage like you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ our redeemer. *Amen.*

Call to Worship

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

Weeping may linger for the night,

but joy comes in the morning.

God's grace is sufficient for us;

in Christ, the weak are made strong.

Let us worship God!

(Romans 1:7; Psalm 30:5; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

Hymn: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

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

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.

Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

(lyrics by Charles Wesley, 1747, alt.)

Call to Confession

We are a people born of water and the Spirit. *(John 3:5)*

We have made promises to be Christ's faithful disciples,
and to show his love to our life's end.

Although we fail to fulfill those baptismal vows,
God's faithful love endures forever.

Confident of God's grace,
let us confess our sin and the sin of this world.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty and merciful God,
we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much
the devices and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone those things
which we ought to have done;
and we have done those things
which we ought not to have done.

O Lord, have mercy upon us.
Forgive those who confess their faults.

Restore those who are penitent,
according to your promises declared to the world
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
And grant, O merciful God, for his sake,
that we may live a holy, just, and humble life
to the glory of your holy name.

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

Assurance of Pardon

The mercy of the Lord
is from everlasting to everlasting. (*Psalm 103:17*)
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Hymn: "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"

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

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.
"Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me?
"Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"

O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me.
"Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"

(lyrics by Will L. Thompson, 1880)

Prayers of Intercession

Loving God,
you cause rain to fall on the just and the unjust.

Hear our prayers for your church and world:

for the hungry and the overfed,
may we have enough;

for the mourners and the mockers,
may we laugh together;

for the victims and the oppressors,
may we share power wisely;

for the peacemakers and the warmongers,
may clear truth and stern love lead us to harmony;

for the silenced and the propagandists,
may we speak our own words in truth;

for the unemployed and the overworked,
may our mark on this earth be kindly and creative;

for the troubled and the secure,
may we live together as wounded healers;

for the homeless and the pampered,
may our homes be simple, warm, and welcoming;

for the vibrant and the dying,
may we all die to sin and live to love. Amen.

Hymn: "Let Us Break Bread Together"

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

Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

(African American spiritual)

An audio recording of the communion liturgy that follows – everything from the Invitation to the Lord’s Table to the Prayer after Communion – is also available at www.masonpresbyterian.org.

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

Hear the words of the institution
of the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ:

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest,
took bread, and after giving thanks to God,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
“Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

(Lift and break the bread.)

In the same way he took the cup, saying:
“This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,
shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.” *(1 Corinthians 11:23-26)*

(Lift and pour the cup.)

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup,
you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord,
until he comes.

Let us offer God our grateful praise.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, holy, holy Lord—
we praise you for your love:
bringing order out of chaos,
breathing life into dust,
leading captives into freedom,
calling wandering children home,
giving bread to the hungry,
giving drink to the thirsty,
raising the dead to life.

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Thank you, Lord—
we thank you for Jesus:
Word made flesh,
light of the world,
living water,
shepherd and gate,
way and truth,
bread of heaven,
cup of salvation,
resurrection and life.

Take this bread and cup, O God – a feast of grace;
take our hearts and lives – an offering of praise.

*Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!*

Spirit, come—
come and live in us:
in this bread,
in this cup,
in your people,
one in the body,
one in the blood;
one with Christ,
one in ministry,
in this place,
in every place;
in this world,
in the world to come.

Blessing and glory,
wisdom and thanksgiving,
honor and power,
forever and ever! *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us,
we are bold to pray:

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.*

Breaking of the Bread

Jesus said:

“Come to me and never be hungry;
believe in me and never thirst.”

These are the gifts of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

The bread of heaven. *Amen.*

(You may eat the bread.)

The cup of salvation. *Amen.*

(You may drink from the cup.)

Prayer after Communion

God of grace,

you renew us at your table with the bread of life.

May this food strengthen us in love

and help us to serve you in each other.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. *Amen.*

Invitation to Offering

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus:

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (*Acts 20:35*)

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

Loving God, fountain of every blessing,

open us to your life-giving word,

and fill us with your Holy Spirit

so that living water may flow through our hearts—

a spring of hope for a thirsty world;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

(Abraham has sent his servant to his ancestral homeland to find a wife for his son Isaac. The servant has met Rebekah, a member of Abraham's extended family, and has received a sign from God that Rebekah is the woman he is looking for. Now he is explaining to the members of Rebekah's household why he has come.)

So he said, “I am Abraham’s servant. The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master’s wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, ‘You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father’s house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.’”

“I came today to the spring, and said, ‘O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, “Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,” and who will say to me, “Drink, and I will draw for your camels also”—let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master’s son.’

“Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, ‘Please let me drink.’ She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, ‘Drink, and I will also water your camels.’ So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ She said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son, whom Milcah bore to him.’ So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.”

And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes.”

Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

Song of Songs 2:8-13

The voice of my beloved!

Look, he comes,
leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills.

My beloved is like a gazelle
or a young stag.

Look, there he stands
behind our wall,
gazing in at the windows,
looking through the lattice.

My beloved speaks and says to me:

“Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away;

for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,

and the voice of the turtledove
is heard in our land.
The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.
Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away.”

New Testament Lesson: Romans 7:15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

(Jesus is speaking to the crowds about John the Baptist.)

“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Sermon: “Racism and Christianity in America (Part 4: 1776-1820)

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: “Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory”

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

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
he has loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword.
God’s truth is marching on.

Glory, glory hallelujah! Glory, glory hallelujah!
Glory, glory hallelujah! God's truth is marching on.

God has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat
and is sifting out all human hearts before the judgment seat;
O be swift, my soul, to answer; O be jubilant my feet!
Our God is marching on.
Glory, glory hallelujah! Glory, glory hallelujah!
Glory, glory hallelujah! God's truth is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me;
as he died to make us holy, let us live to make all free,
while God is marching on.
Glory, glory hallelujah! Glory, glory hallelujah!
Glory, glory hallelujah! God's truth is marching on.

(lyrics by Julia W. Howe, 1861, alt.)

Blessing

Now may the Lord of peace
give you peace at all times
and in all ways.
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
be with all of you. (*2 Thessalonians 3:16, 18*)
Amen!



Isaac's Servant Tying the Bracelet on Rebekah's Arm, by Benjamin West (1775)

(source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Benjamin_West_-_Isaac%27s_servant_tying_the_bracelet_on_Rebecca%27s_arm_-_Google_Art_Project.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