

# 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 19, 2020 +++ 7<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**

Eternal God, Author of our life and End of our pilgrimage: Guide us by your Word and Spirit amid all perils and temptations, that we may not wander from your way, nor stumble in the darkness; but may finish our course in safety, and come to our eternal rest in you; through the grace and merit of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **Call to Worship**

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

Christ is the image of the invisible God;

*in him the fullness of God came to dwell.*

In Christ we are no longer strangers;

*we are members of the household of God.*

Let us worship God!

*(Romans 1:7; Colossians 1:15, 19; Ephesians 2:19)*

## **Hymn: “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”**

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

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,  
that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.

The moon shines full at God’s command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord, who filled the earth with food.

God formed the creatures through the Word, and then pronounced them good.

Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, wheree’er I turn my eye,

if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

There’s not a plant or flower below but makes thy glories known.

And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne,

while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,

and everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.

*(lyrics by Isaac Watts, 1715, alt.)*

## **Call to Confession**

The proof of God’s amazing love is this:

While we were sinners Christ died for us.

Because we have faith in him,

we dare to approach God with confidence. *(Romans 5:8; Hebrews 4:16)*

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

### **Prayer of Confession**

O Lord our God,  
you call us to work for a world  
where all will be fed and have dignity,  
but we find ourselves distracted by our own desires.  
You call us to seek justice and peace,  
but we are satisfied with injustice and discord.  
You call us to bring liberty to the oppressed,  
but we do not insist on freedom for all.

Forgive us, O Lord.  
Turn us to your will by the power of your Spirit,  
so that all may know your justice and peace;  
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.

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

### **Assurance of Pardon**

The saying is sure  
and worthy of full acceptance,  
that Jesus Christ came into the world  
to save sinners.  
He himself bore our sins  
in his body on the cross,  
that we might be dead to sin,  
and alive to all that is good. *(1 Timothy 1:15; 1 Peter 2:24)*

I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ,  
you are forgiven.  
*Thanks be to God! Amen.*

### **Hymn: "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!"**

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

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.  
This is my story; this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long;  
this is my story; this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending, bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.  
This is my story; this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long;  
this is my story; this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.  
This is my story; this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long;  
this is my story; this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.

*(lyrics by Fanny Jane Crosby, 1873)*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Let us bring the needs of the church,  
the world, and all in need,  
to God's loving care, saying:  
Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

God of heaven and earth,  
through Jesus Christ you promise to hear us  
when we pray to you in his name.  
Confident in your love and mercy  
we offer our prayer.  
Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Empower the church throughout the world in its life and witness.  
Break down the barriers that divide,  
that, united in your truth and love,  
the church may confess your name,  
share one baptism,  
sit together at one table,  
and serve you in one common ministry.  
Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Guide the rulers of the nations.  
Move them to set aside their fear, greed, and vain ambition,  
and bow to your sovereign rule.  
Inspire them to strive for peace and justice,  
that all your children may dwell secure,  
free of war and injustice.  
Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Hear the cries of the world's hungry and suffering.  
Give us, who consume most of the earth's resources,  
the will to reorder our lives,  
that all may have their rightful share of the food,  
medical care, and shelter,  
and so have the necessities of a life of dignity.  
Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Restore among us a love of the earth you created for our home.  
Help us put an end to ravishing its land, air, and waters,  
and give us respect for all your creatures,

that, living in harmony with everything you have made,  
your whole creation may resound in an anthem of praise  
to your glorious name.

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

Renew our nation in the ways of justice and peace.  
Guide those who make and administer our laws  
to build a society based on trust and respect.  
Erase prejudices that oppress;  
free us from crime and violence;  
guard our youth from the perils of drugs and materialism.  
Give all citizens a new vision of a life of harmony.  
Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Strengthen this congregation in its work and worship.  
Fill our hearts with your self-giving love,  
that our voices may speak your praise,  
and our lives may conform to the image of your Son.  
Nourish us with your word and sacraments  
that we may faithfully minister in your name,  
and witness to your love and grace for all the world.  
Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Look with compassion on all who suffer.  
Support with your love  
those with incurable and stigmatized diseases,  
those in prison,  
those denied dignity,  
those who live without hope,  
those who are homeless or abandoned.  
As you have moved toward us in love,  
so lead us to be present with them in their suffering  
in the name of Jesus Christ.  
Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Sustain those among us who need your healing touch.  
Make the sick whole.  
Give hope to the dying.  
Comfort those who mourn.  
Uphold all who suffer in body or mind,  
not only those we know and love  
but also those known only to you,  
that they may know the peace and joy of your supporting care.  
Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

*(Silent prayers)*

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

O God,  
in your loving purpose  
answer our prayers and fulfill our hopes.  
In all things for which we pray,  
give us the will to seek to bring them about,

for the sake of Jesus Christ. *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.*

### **Invitation to Offering**

Let us present ourselves to God  
as those who have been delivered from death to life. (*Romans 6:13*)  
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**

Lord God, pour out your Spirit upon us  
to bring good news to the oppressed,  
and let your word be fulfilled among us;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

### **Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 28:10-19a**

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.\*

(\*Bethel means “House of God”.)

**Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24**

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.  
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.  
You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.  
Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O Lord, you know it completely.  
You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit?  
Or where can I flee from your presence?  
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.  
If I take the wings of the morning  
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me fast.  
If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and the light around me become night,”  
even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.

Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my thoughts.  
See if there is any wicked way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.

**New Testament Lesson: Romans 8:12-25**

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba!\* Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

(\*“Abba” is the Aramaic word for “Father.”)

**Gospel Lesson: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

Jesus put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Then Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

**Anthem: "Raise the Song of Harvest Home"** (A Hymn Concerto on "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come")  
(You can listen to the anthem [here](#).)

Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.  
All is safely gathered in 'ere the winter storms begin.  
God our maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied,  
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

We ourselves are God's own field, fruit unto his praise to yield,  
wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrows grown.  
First the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear.  
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his harvest home,  
from his field shall purge away all the doubt of heaven that day.  
Give His angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,  
but the fruitful ears to store in His garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come bring your final harvest home,  
gather all your people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,  
there, forever purified, in thy presence to abide.  
Come, with all thy angels, come raise the glorious harvest home.  
Raise the song of harvest home.

(arranged by Mary McDonald)

**Sermon: "Racism and Christianity in America (Part 6: 1854-1862)"**

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: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"**

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

Precious Lord, take my hand; led me on, help me stand;  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
Through the storm, through the night, led me on to the light;  
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near;  
when my life is almost gone,  
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall;  
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

*(lyrics by Thomas A. Dorsey, 1938)*

### **Blessing**

Now to the One who is able  
to keep you from falling,  
and to make you stand without shame  
in the presence of God's glory with rejoicing,  
to the only God our Savior,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
be glory, majesty, power, and authority,  
before all time and now and forever. *(Jude 24-25)*  
*Amen!*



*Jacob's Dream, by Jusepe de Ribera (1639)*

(source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:El\\_sue%C3%B1o\\_de\\_Jacob\\_por\\_Jos%C3%A9\\_de\\_Ribera.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:El_sue%C3%B1o_de_Jacob_por_Jos%C3%A9_de_Ribera.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*