

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.

AUGUST 2, 2020 +++ 9TH 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.

Today’s service includes the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.

Have some bread and grape juice (or the equivalent) on hand.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the Word of his kingdom. Renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Call to Worship

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

The Lord gives food in due season;

God satisfies the desire of every living thing.

Jesus said: “I am the bread of life.”

Give us this bread always.

Let us worship God!

(Romans 1:7; Psalm 145:15-16; John 6:34-35)

Hymn: “The God of Abraham Praise”

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

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,
the Ancient of Eternal Days, the God of love!

The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven confessed,
we bow before your holy name, forever blest.

Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will.
In prophet’s word you spoke of old and you speak still.
Established is your law, and changeless it shall stand,
deep writ upon the human heart by your strong hand.

Your goodly land we seek, with peace and plenty blest,
a land of sacred liberty and Sabbath rest.
There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound,
and trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.

You have eternal life implanted in the soul;
your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name:
the first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!

(lyrics by Moses Maimonides, 12th cent.; vers. Daniel ben Judah Dayan, 1404; stanzas 1, 3 trans. Thomas Olivers, c. 1770, alt.; stanzas 2, 4 trans. Max Landsberg, Newton M. Mann, and William C. Gannett, 1884, 1910, alt.)

Call to Confession

Remember that our Lord Jesus
can sympathize with us in our weakness,
since in every respect he was tempted as we are,
yet without sin.

Let us then with boldness approach the throne of grace,
that we may receive mercy
and find grace to help in time of need.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

In your mercy, forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways
to the glory of your holy name.

Assurance of Pardon

If we have died with Christ,
we believe that we will also live with him.
Therefore, consider yourselves dead to sin
and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

In the name of Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Hymn: "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

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

Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide, till the storm of life is past.
Safe into the haven guide. O receive my soul at last!

Other refuge have I none; hangs my helpless soul on thee.
Leave, ah! leave me not alone; still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed; all my help from thee I bring.

Cover my defenseless head with the shadow of thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want; more than all in thee I find.
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name; I am all unrighteousness.
False and full of sin I am; thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with thee is found, grace to cover all my sin.
Let the healing streams abound; make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art; freely let me take of thee.
Spring thou up within my heart. Rise to all eternity.

(lyrics by Charles Wesley, 1740)

Prayers of Intercession

Loving God,
remember the whole human family,
especially those who hunger for food or justice,
those who lack homes or human dignity;
so many are unknown to us,
yet each known to you
and each a child of your love.

Remember your people
in every part of the world,
redeemed by Christ,
dedicated to service,
called to love.

Remember your Church in this place,
set in this community
to light the way to your grace and truth.

Remember those who are ill or sorrowing,
those who are concerned for dear ones,
those who have difficult choices to make,
especially any known to us
whom we commend to you now...

(Silent prayers)

May they know that nothing is able
to separate them from your love in Christ Jesus.

By your mercy,
bring us at the last, with all your faithful people,
to the peace and joy of your nearer presence;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Anthem: "Come, Share the Lord"

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

We gather here in Jesus' name;

his love is burning in our hearts like living flame;
for through his loving Son the Father makes us one:
Come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.

No one is a stranger here, everyone belongs;
finding our forgiveness here, we in turn forgive all wrongs.

He joins us here; he breaks the bread;
the Lord who pours the cup is risen from the dead;
the one we love the most is now our gracious host:
Come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.

We are now a family of which the Lord is head;
though unseen he meets us here in the breaking of the bread.

We'll gather soon where angels sing;
we'll see the glory of our Lord and risen King;
now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:
Come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.

Come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.
Come, share the Lord.

(words and music by Bryan Jeffery Leech; arranged by Lloyd Larson)

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

This is the joyful feast of the people of God!
People will come from north and south
and from east and west
to sit at table in the kingdom of God.

According to Luke,
when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples,
he took the bread,
blessed and broke it,
and gave it to them.
Then their eyes were opened,
and they recognized him.

This is the Lord's table.
Our Savior invites those who trust him
to share the feast that he has prepared.

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.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds
of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

For all these things we praise you,
joining our voices to the whole company of heaven,
who sing together:
*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!*

Praise to you for the gift of this holy meal.

We remember with thanksgiving our Lord's Passover meal,
shared with his closest of friends,
in which he took the bread and blessed it,
broke it open, and gave it to them, saying:
This is my body.
Take and eat it, remembering me.

(Lift and break the bread.)

We remember how he took a cup, saying:
This is the new covenant in my blood.
Drink it, all of you, and remember me.

(Lift and pour the cup.)

With this bread and this cup
we remember our Lord's Passover
from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

O God of resurrection and new life,
pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth, burning with justice, peace and love.
With all your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun, moon, and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray for God's rule on earth
as Jesus taught us:

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 body of Christ,
given for you. *Amen.*
(*You may eat the bread.*)

The blood of Christ,
given for you. *Amen.*
(*You may drink from the cup.*)

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God,
how can we thank you for such a gift?
For you have met us, fed us,
drawn us to you,
and bound us to one another.
Now send us out to share your love

and proclaim our hope
until Christ comes again. *Amen.*

Invitation to Offering

Jesus said: "Give to the emperor
the things that belong to the emperor
and to God the things that are God's." (*Matthew 22:21*)
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, open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that as the Scriptures are read
and your Word is proclaimed,
we may hear with joy
what you say to us today. *Amen.*

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 32:22-31

(Jacob is on his way back home after spending many years in Mesopotamia, where he married both Leah and Rachel, and fathered eleven children.)

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel,* for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel,* saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

* "Israel" means "The one who strives with God."

* "Peniel" means "The face of God."

Psalm 17:1-7, 15

Hear a just cause, O Lord; attend to my cry;
give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit.
From you let my vindication come;
let your eyes see the right.

If you try my heart, if you visit me by night,
if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me;
my mouth does not transgress.

As for what others do, by the word of your lips
I have avoided the ways of the violent.
My steps have held fast to your paths;
my feet have not slipped.

I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;
incline your ear to me, hear my words.
Wondrously show your steadfast love,
O savior of those who seek refuge
from their adversaries at your right hand.

As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness;
when I awake I shall be satisfied, beholding your likeness.

New Testament Lesson: Romans 9:1-5

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 14:13-21

(Jesus has just learned about the execution of John the Baptist.)

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” And he said, “Bring them here to me.” Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Sermon: “Racism and Christianity in America (Part 8: 1865-1877)”

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: “Be Thou My Vision”

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

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul’s shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

(Irish poem; trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912, alt.)

Blessing

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:13)
Amen!



Israel by Mike Moyers (2011)

(source: <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/diglib-fulldisplay.pl?SID=20200727675132550&code=act&RC=57141&Row=14>)

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