

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 9, 2020 +++ 10TH 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

Grant us, O Lord, the grace always to do and think what accords with your purpose; that we, who cannot exist without you, may be enabled to live according to 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!

Let us hear what the Lord will speak.

God will speak peace to the faithful.

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen.

Let us worship God!

(Romans 1:7; Psalm 85:8; Hebrews 11:1)

Hymn: “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

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

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness seems to hide his face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found,
dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

(lyrics by Edward Mote, c. 1834, alt.)

Call to Confession

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God;

yet we are justified by the gift of God's grace
through the redemption that is ours in Christ Jesus. (*Romans 3:23-24*)

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

Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God,
in your presence we confess
our failure to be what you created us to be.
You alone know how often we have sinned
in wandering from your ways,
in wasting your gifts,
in forgetting your love.

By your loving mercy,
help us to live in your light
and abide in your ways,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

(Silent prayers of confession)

Assurance of Pardon

Our righteousness is found in Christ alone,
a gift of God by faith. (*Philippians 3:9*)

Beloved people of God, believe the good news:
through the grace of Jesus Christ
we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Hymn: "Take My Life"

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

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

(lyrics by Frances Ridley Havergal, 1874)

Prayers of Intercession

Almighty God,
who taught us to pray not only for ourselves
but for people everywhere,
hear us as we pray for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ.

Inspire the whole church with your power, unity, and peace.

Grant that all who trust you may obey your word,
and live together in love.

Lead all nations in the way of justice and goodwill.

Direct those who govern,
that they may rule fairly,
maintain order,
uphold those in need,
and defend oppressed people;
that this world may claim your rule and know true peace.

Awaken all people to the danger we have inflicted upon the earth.
Implant in each a reverence for all you have made
that we may preserve the delicate balance
of creation for all coming generations.

Give grace to all who proclaim the gospel
through word and sacrament and deeds of mercy,
that by their teaching and example
they may reveal your love for all people.

Comfort and relieve, O Lord,
all who are in trouble . . .
sorrow . . .
poverty . . .
sickness . . .
grief . . .
especially those known to us,
whom we name before you in silence . . .
Heal them in body, mind, or circumstance,
working in them, by your grace,
wonders beyond all they may dream or hope.

Bring to our remembrance
all those who, having served you on earth,
now sing your praise eternally.
May their endurance give us courage

and their faithfulness give us hope;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

And now, with the confidence of the children of God,
let us 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

Every generous act of giving
is itself a gift from God above. (*James 1:17*)

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

Pour out your Holy Spirit, O God,
and prepare our hearts to accept your word.
Silence in us any voice but your own,
that, hearing, we may also obey your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

(This story takes place late in Jacob's life, after his twelve sons are mostly grown.)

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. This is the story of the family of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves.* But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves* that he wore; and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

* Or: "coat of many colors"

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually.
Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered,
O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

When he summoned famine against the land,
and broke every staff of bread,
he had sent a man ahead of them,
Joseph, who was sold as a slave.
His feet were hurt with fetters,
his neck was put in a collar of iron;
until what he had said came to pass,
the word of the Lord kept testing him.
The king sent and released him;
the ruler of the peoples set him free.
He made him lord of his house,
and ruler of all his possessions,
to instruct his officials at his pleasure,

and to teach his elders wisdom.

Praise the Lord!

New Testament Lesson: Romans 10:5-15

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say?

“The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 14:22-33

(Jesus has just fed five thousand people with five loaves of bread and two fish.)

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Anthem: “Walking ‘Cross the Sea”

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

I saw Jesus walking ‘cross the sea.

O, I saw Jesus walking ‘cross the sea.

I said, “Help me walk on the water; that’s where I want to be.”

He said, “Go where your faith will take you. Now come on out to me.” He said, “Come on out to me.”

So I stepped out on the water, but I wasn’t sinking down.

I stepped out on the water, but I wasn’t sinking down.

But the winds, the waves, the waters were stirring all around.

I said, “Help me, Lord, I’m sinking; surely I will drown, surely drown.”

Then I felt Jesus; He was holding onto my hand.

Then I felt Jesus; He was holding onto my hand.
He said, "O what little faith you have, you poor and doubtful man.
Rise up; put your faith in me, and surely you will stand. Now rise and stand."

And I held onto Jesus; we were walking 'cross the sea.
O, I held onto Jesus; we were walking 'cross the sea.
And when I stepped back in the boat, I fell upon my knees.
I said, "Surely you're the Son of God; surely you're the Son of God, you are the Son of God."

Have mercy, have mercy on me. He is callin',
Jesus still is callin', Jesus still is callin', "Come and walk with me."

Now Jesus still is callin', "Come and walk with me.
Wherever faith will take you, I promise I will be.
Wherever you are walking, even when you're sleeping,
go where faith will take you; rise up and walk with me. Rise up and walk with me."

(words and music by Pepper Choplin)

Sermon: "Racism and Christianity in America (Part 9: 1870-1920)"

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: "At the Name of Jesus"

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

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him King of glory now;
'tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning was the mighty Word.

Humbled for a season to receive a name
from the lips of sinners unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious, when from death he passed;

Bore it up triumphant, with its human light,
through all ranks of creatures, to the central height,
to the throne of Godhead, to the Father's breast,
filled it with the glory of that perfect rest.

Christians, this Lord Jesus shall return again,
with his Father's glory o'er the earth to reign;
for all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him King of glory now.

(lyrics by Caroline Maria Noel, 1870, alt.)

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord be kind and gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor
and give you peace. (*Numbers 6:24-26*)

Amen!



Walking on Water by Ivan Aivazovsky (c. 1890)
(source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Po_vodam.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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