

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 16, 2020 +++ 11TH 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

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts. Give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that all people may know the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Call to Worship

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

The word of the Lord is like fire,

like a hammer that smashes a stone.

Maintain justice, and do what is right.

God our Savior is coming soon.

Let us worship God!

(Romans 1:7; Jeremiah 23:29; Isaiah 56:1)

Hymn: “I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art”

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

I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art,
my only trust and Savior of my heart,
who pain didst undergo for my poor sake;
I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.

Thou art the King of mercy and of grace,
reigning omnipotent in every place;
so come, O King, and our whole being sway;
shine on us with the light of thy pure day.

Thou art the life, by which alone we live,
and all our substance and our strength receive;
sustain us by thy faith and by thy power,
and give us strength in every trying hour.

Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness;
no harshness hast thou and no bitterness.
O grant to us the grace we find in thee,
that we may dwell in perfect unity.

Our hope is in no other save in thee;
our faith is built upon thy promise free;
Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,

that in thy strength we evermore endure.

(lyrics from Psalms, Strasbourg, 1545; trans. Elizabeth Lee Smith, 1868)

Call to Confession

Do you not know that all of us
who have been baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death?
Our old selves were crucified with him,
so that we might be slaves to sin no more. *(Romans 6:3, 6)*

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

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,
our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide,
and too deep to undo.
Forgive what our lips tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer bear,
and what has become for us
a consuming fire of judgment.

Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
open to us a future in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace
to grow more and more in your likeness and image;
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

(Silent prayers of confession)

Assurance of Pardon

"Do not fear," says the Lord,
"for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name; you are mine." *(Isaiah 43:1)*

God is doing a new thing; now it springs forth! *(Isaiah 43:19)*
By the grace of Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Hymn: "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

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

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
there are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived

when we shall leave this place.

There are blessings you cannot receive
till you know him in his fullness and believe;
you're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way."

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.

(lyrics by Doris Akers, 1962)

Prayers of Intercession

Holy One, who came as a child,
we pray for your children everywhere.

For those who are hungry, we pray for nourishment ...
For those who are fleeing, we pray for safety ...
For those who are ill, we pray for your healing ...
For those who are grieving, we pray for your peace ...
For those who are suffering, we pray for your presence ...

Holy Three, who patterns community,
we pray for communities everywhere.

For those who are divided, we pray for unity ...
For those who are isolated, we pray for connection ...
For those who are afraid, we pray for your courage ...
For those who are frustrated, we pray for new hope ...

We pray especially for those in our own community
who suffer this day ...

Holy Three-in-One and One-in-Three,
bless us in the work of faith, that we might be truly faithful.
Nourish us in the labor of love, that we might show your love.
Keep our hope steadfast,
that we might know your grace and your peace
as we wait for your coming reign
of justice and overwhelming love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *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

The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it. (*Psalm 24:1*)

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

O God, by your Holy Spirit
tell us what we need to hear
and show us what we ought to do
to obey Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 45:1-15

(Years have passed since Joseph was sold into slavery in Egypt. His ability to interpret dreams made him extremely valuable to the Egyptian Pharaoh, especially when Joseph correctly predicted a widespread famine. Now Joseph's brothers have come to Egypt in search of grain, and Joseph is in charge of the distribution of the grain.)

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and

all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Psalm 133

How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the Lord ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.

New Testament Lesson: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew ... for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

After the readings:

Keep these words in your heart.
The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. (*Deuteronomy 6:6*)
Thanks be to God.

Anthem: “Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”

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

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

My chains are gone; I’ve been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me
and like a flood His mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

My chains are gone; I’ve been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me
and like a flood His mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

My chains are gone; I've been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me
and like a flood His mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.

My chains are gone; I've been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me
and like a flood His mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.
Unending love, amazing grace.

(words by John Newton; traditional American melody; additional words and music by Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio; arranged by James Koerts)

Sermon: "Racism and Christianity in America (Part 10: 1920-1955)"

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: "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

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

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes; our mutual burdens bear.
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

(lyrics by John Fawcett, 1782)

Blessing

The God of peace,
who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,
make you complete in everything good
so that you may do God's will,
working among us that which is pleasing in God's sight,
through Jesus Christ,
to whom be the glory forever and ever! *(Hebrews 13:20-21)*
Amen!



Joseph Recognized by His Brothers by Léon Pierre Urbain Bourgeois (1863)
(source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bourgeois_Joseph_recognized_by_his_brothers.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