

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 23, 2020 +++ 12TH 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 taught us that all our deeds without love are worth nothing. Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the very bond of peace and of all goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Call to Worship

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

Jesus has the words of eternal life;

he is the Holy One of God.

The Lord is merciful and gracious,

slow to anger and abounding in love.

Let us worship God!

(Romans 1:7; John 6:68-69; Psalm 103:8)

Hymn: “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

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

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God.

God, whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for a blest abode.

On the rock of ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?

With salvation's walls surrounded, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear

for a glory and a covering, showing that the Lord is near.

Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,

safe they feed upon the manna which God gives them when they pray.

See, the streams of living waters, spring from eternal love,

well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove.

Who can faint while such a river ever flows, their thirst to assuage?

Grace, so like the Lord the giver, never fails from age to age.

(lyrics John Newton, 1775, alt.)

Call to Confession

We have been buried with Christ in baptism,

in order that we might be raised to new life with him

through faith in the power of God. *(Colossians 2:12)*

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

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, our judge and redeemer,
we confess that we have tried to hide from you,
for we have done wrong.
We have lived for ourselves,
and apart from you.
We have turned from our neighbors,
and refused to bear the burdens of others.
We have ignored the pain of the world,
and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed.

In your great mercy forgive our sins
and free us from selfishness,
that we may choose your will
and obey your commandments,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.

(Silent prayers of confession)

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news!
Hope does not disappoint us,
for God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit given to us in baptism. (*Romans 5:5*)

Believe this good news and give thanks:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Hymn: "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"

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

Alas! And did my Savior bleed, and did my Sovereign die!
Would he devote that sacred head for sinners such as I!

Was it for sins that I have done he suffered on the tree?
Amazing pity! Grace unknown! And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide and shut its glories in,
when Christ, the great Redeemer, died for human creatures' sin.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe;
here, Lord, I give myself away; 'tis all that I can do.

(lyrics by Isaac Watts, 1707)

Prayers of Intercession

God of mercy, throughout history your goodness prevails.
Open the hearts of all people
to find you and your mercy that endures forever.
Show us your mercy! *Hear our prayer!*

God of peace, bend that which is inflexible,

the barriers that divide,
the attachments that thwart reconciliation.
Bring peace in this world.
Restore wholeness among us.
Show us your mercy! *Hear our prayer!*

God of justice, healer and redeemer,
heal those who suffer from illness, poverty, and exclusion.
Hasten justice for those suffering under the power of evil.
Give new life to all.
Show us your mercy! *Hear our prayer!*

God, our rock and fortress,
protect refugees, those without homes or security,
all the abandoned children.
Help us always to defend human dignity.
Show us your mercy! *Hear our prayer!*

God our creator, all creation groans in expectation;
convert us from exploitation.
Teach us to live in harmony with your creation.
Show us your mercy! *Hear our prayer!*

God of mercy, strengthen and protect
those who are persecuted for faith in you
and those of other faiths who suffer persecution.
Give us the courage to profess our faith.
Show us your mercy! *Hear our prayer!*

God of life, heal painful memories,
transform all complacency, indifference and ignorance,
pour out a spirit of reconciliation.
Turn us to you and one another.
Show us your mercy! *Hear our prayer!*

God of love, your Son Jesus reveals the mystery of love among us.
Strengthen that unity that you alone sustain in our diversity.
Show us your mercy! *Hear our prayer!*

God our sustenance,
bring us together at your eucharistic table,
and nurture within and among us
a communion rooted in your love.
Show us your mercy! *Hear our prayer!*

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

Freely you have received, freely give. (*Matthew 10:8*)

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

Guide us, O God,
by your Word and Spirit,
that in your light we may see light,
in your truth find freedom,
and in your will discover your peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Old Testament Lesson: Exodus 1:8 – 2:10

(Generations have passed since Joseph saved his large, extended family from the famine. After settling in Egypt, they were fruitful and multiplied....)

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives

feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.”

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. “This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,” she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Yes.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses,* “because,” she said, “I drew him out* of the water.”

* *The Hebrew word for “Moses” is Mosheh*

* *The Hebrew word for “draw out” is mashah*

Psalm 124

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side
—let Israel now say—
if it had not been the Lord who was on our side,
when our enemies attacked us,
then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us;
then the flood would have swept us away,
the torrent would have gone over us;
then over us would have gone
the raging waters.

Blessed be the Lord,
who has not given us
as prey to their teeth.
We have escaped like a bird
from the snare of the fowlers;
the snare is broken,
and we have escaped.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

New Testament Lesson: Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ

according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 16:13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter,* and on this rock* I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

* The Greek word for "Peter" is Petros

* The Greek word for "rock" is petra

After the readings:

Surely our salvation is at hand. (Psalm 85:9)

Thanks be to God.

Anthem: "Upon This Rock"

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

You are the Son, the Son of the living God.

You are the Son, the Son of God, the living God.

Upon this rock, this rock, I'll build my church, my church.

Upon this rock, this rock, I'll build my kingdom, on this earth,

I'll build, I'll build my church, my church, upon this rock, this rock, this solid rock, this rock.

Upon this rock, this rock, I'll build my church, my church.

Upon this rock, this rock, I'll build my kingdom, upon this earth,

I'll build, I'll build my church, my church, upon this rock, this rock, this solid rock.

And we say, you are the Christ; you are the Son of the living God.

You are the Christ; you are the first-begotten Son,

born from the love, the love of heaven.

And we are the church, and we will serve and glorify.

We are the church to be a living sacrifice, offered to you through all we are.

And so our love, our love, our love for Christ, for Christ,

will be the cause, the cause, the reason why, reason why,

we live our days, our days, to walk in faith, in faith,

faith in the rock, the rock, the solid rock, the rock.... SHOUT IT OUT NOW!

You are the Christ; you are the Son of the living God.

You are the Christ; you are the first-begotten Son,

born from the love, the love of heaven.

And we are the church, and we will serve and glorify.

We are the church to be a living sacrifice, offered to you through all we are.

Upon this rock, this rock, I'll build my church, my church.

Upon this rock, this rock, I'll build my kingdom, on this earth.

I'll build, I'll build my church, my church, upon this rock, this rock, this solid rock.
I'll build my church upon this rock...
You are the Christ, the Son of God...

(words and music by Pepper Choplin)

Sermon: “Racism and Christianity in America (Part 11: 1955-1961)”

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: “I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord”

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

I love thy kingdom, Lord, the house of thine abode,
the church our blest Redeemer saved with his own precious blood.

I love thy church, O God. Her walls before thee stand,
dear as the apple of thine eye, and graven on thy hand.

For her my tears shall fall; for her my prayers ascend;
to her my cares and toils be given, till toils and cares shall end.

Beyond my highest joy I prize her heavenly ways:
her sweet communion, solemn vows, her hymns of love and praise.

Sure as thy truth shall last, to Zion shall be given
the brightest glories earth can yield, and brighter bliss of heaven.

(lyrics by Timothy Dwight, 1800)

Blessing

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. *(Romans 15:13)*

Amen!



The Finding of Moses by Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema (1904)

(source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sir_Lawrence_Alma-Tadema_-_The_finding_of_Moses.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