

# 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 30, 2020 +++ 13<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**

O God, author and giver of all good things, plant in our hearts the love of your name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **Call to Worship**

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

Every generous act is a gift from God,  
*who gives birth to us through the Word.*

Do good and share what you have,  
*for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.*

Let us worship God!

*(Romans 1:7; James 1:17-18; Hebrews 13:16)*

## **Hymn: “Lift High the Cross”**

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

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name!

Come, Christians follow where our Savior trod,  
the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name!

All newborn servants of the Crucified  
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name!

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
your death has brought us life eternally.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name!

So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
praise to the Crucified for victory.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name!

*(lyrics by George William Kitchin, 1887; rev. Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916, alt.)*

### **Call to Confession**

When we pass through deep waters  
or go through times of fiery trial,  
the Lord our God is with us. *(Isaiah 43:2)*

With confidence in God,  
our creator and redeemer,  
let us confess our sin.

### **Prayer of Confession**

Almighty God,  
you love us, but we have not loved you.  
You call, but we have not listened.  
We walk away from neighbors in need,  
wrapped in our own concerns.  
We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.

God of grace,  
help us to admit our sin,  
so that as you come to us in mercy,  
we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ our redeemer.

*(Silent prayers of confession)*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the good news!  
As people born of water and the Spirit  
we have died to the old life, and a new life has begun.  
God's grace is poured out upon us day by day.  
Come to the water and remember your baptism.  
Be thankful,  
and live as one who has been raised to new life! *(John 3:5; 2 Corinthians 5:17)*

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
*Thanks be to God! Amen.*

### **Hymn: "To God Be the Glory"**

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

To God be the glory; great things he has done!  
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the lifegate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory: great things he has done!

Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,

and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
but purer and higher and greater will be  
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory: great things he has done!

*(lyrics by Fanny Jane Crosby, 1875)*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

With the boldness and confidence of God's children,  
let us pray, saying,  
Gracious God, Lord of light, *hear our prayer.*

Loving God, in Christ you embrace people of every nation  
and make them members of the same body,  
sharers in the promise of the gospel.  
For the holy church of God,  
that through its faithful witness  
the wisdom of God in its rich variety  
be known in heaven and earth,  
Gracious God, Lord of light, *hear our prayer.*

Loving God,  
you judge the people with righteousness  
and the poor with justice.  
For nations, rulers, and authorities  
to forsake violence and be guided by the light of truth,  
that righteousness may flourish and justice abound in every land,  
Gracious God, Lord of light, *hear our prayer.*

Loving God,  
we never know when we might be  
entertaining angels unaware.  
For our Mason community and for all who live here,  
that we may be a community of hospitality,  
welcoming the stranger and sheltering the refugee,  
Gracious God, Lord of light, *hear our prayer.*

Loving God,  
in your providence, creation yields its good fruits  
that all may enjoy its riches.  
For our planet Earth,  
that we may dwell peacefully with nature,  
be good stewards of its resources,  
and share its abundance for the sake of human flourishing,  
Gracious God, Lord of light, *hear our prayer.*

Loving God,  
you defend the cause of the poor,  
give deliverance to the needy,

and save those who are oppressed.  
For those who suffer the cruelty of poverty,  
and all who endeavor to transform systems of economic injustice,  
Gracious God, Lord of light, *hear our prayer.*

Loving God,  
you take pity on the weak.  
For those whose bodies are enfeebled by disease  
or whose spirits are debilitated by illness,  
that they may be restored to wholeness of life,  
Gracious God, Lord of light, *hear our prayer.*

Loving God,  
your servant Paul was imprisoned  
for preaching the good news of Jesus.  
For any who are wrongly incarcerated  
that they may be liberated,  
and for those whose guilt is valid  
and imprisonment warranted  
that they may know genuine repentance of their sin  
and reconciliation with their community,  
Gracious God, Lord of light, *hear our prayer.*

Gracious God,  
because you have called us your children,  
we are bold to ask for what we need,  
confident in your goodness  
through faith in our Lord and brother, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

As Jesus teaches us, let us pray  
to the God who gives us birth.

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 one who sows sparingly  
will also reap sparingly;  
the one who sows bountifully  
will also reap bountifully. (*2 Corinthians 9:6*)

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**

Gracious God,  
we do not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from your mouth.  
Make us hungry for this heavenly food,  
that it may nourish us today  
in the ways of eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.

**Old Testament Lesson: Exodus 3:1-15**

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." \* He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever,  
and this my title for all generations."

\* or "I AM WHAT I AM" or "I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE"

**Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 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.

Then Israel came to Egypt;  
Jacob lived as an alien in the land of Ham.  
And the LORD made his people very fruitful,  
and made them stronger than their foes,  
whose hearts he then turned to hate his people,  
to deal craftily with his servants.

He sent his servant Moses,  
and Aaron whom he had chosen.

Praise the LORD!

**New Testament Lesson: Romans 12:9-21**

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**Gospel Lesson: Matthew 16:21-28**

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

***After the readings:***

Happy are those who delight in God's word. (*Psalm 112:1*)  
*Thanks be to God.*

**Anthem: “Take Up Your Cross”**

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

Take up your cross, our Savior said, if you would my disciple be;  
take up your cross with willing heart, and humbly follow after me.

Take up your cross, let not its weight fill your weak spirit with alarm;  
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up and brace your heart and nerve your arm.

Take up your cross, heed not the shame and let your foolish pride be still;  
the Lord for you accepted death upon a cross, on Calv'ry's hill.

Take up your cross, then in Christ's strength, and calmly every danger brave.  
It guides you to abundant life and leads to vict'ry o'er the grave.

*(words by Charles W. Everest; music by R. Christopher Teichler)*

**Sermon: “Racism and Christianity in America (Part 12: 1961-1965)”**

*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: “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”**

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

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.  
Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe.  
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,  
on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,  
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he.  
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same,  
and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.  
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him.  
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure.  
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth.  
The Spirit and the gifts are our through him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also.  
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still.  
His kingdom is forever.

*(lyrics by Martin Luther)*

**Blessing**

The peace of God,



which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds  
in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
remain with you always. (*Philippians 4:7*)  
*Amen!*



*Burning Bush* by Sébastien Bourdon (17<sup>th</sup> century)

(source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bourdon,\\_S%C3%A9bastien\\_-\\_Burning\\_bush.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bourdon,_S%C3%A9bastien_-_Burning_bush.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 hymn suggestions*