

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.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2020 +++ 14TH 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

Direct and help us, O Lord, in all our deeds, that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Call to Worship

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

Happy are those who delight in God’s word.

They are like trees planted by the water.

Be strong; do not fear! God is with us.

The Lord will come to save us.

Let us worship God!

(Romans 1:7; Psalm 1:1-3; Isaiah 35:4)

Hymn: “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

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

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one;
holy Zion’s help forever, and our confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call you, come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
come, with all your loving-kindness; hear your people as we pray,
and your fullest benediction shed within these walls today.

Here bestow on all your servants what they seek from you to gain;
what they gain from you, forever with the blessed to retain;
and hereafter in your glory evermore with you to reign.

Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,
laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one:
one in might and one in glory while unending ages run!

(Latin hymn, 7th cent.; trans. John Mason Neale, 1851, alt.)

Call to Confession

We come before God not as despised sinners,

but as beloved children. (1 John 3:2)

With the confidence of children of God,
let us humbly confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love.
We have not loved our neighbors,
and we have refused to hear the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Silent prayers of confession)

Assurance of Pardon

The mercy of the Lord
is from everlasting to everlasting. (Psalm 103:17)
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Hymn: “Kum Ba Yah”

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

Kum ba yah,* my Lord, kum ba yah!
Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!
Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!
O Lord, kum ba yah!

Someone’s crying, Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone’s crying, Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone’s crying, Lord, kum ba yah!
O Lord, kum ba yah!

Someone’s singing, Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone’s singing, Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone’s singing, Lord, kum ba yah!
O Lord, kum ba yah!

Someone’s praying, Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone’s praying, Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone’s praying, Lord, kum ba yah!
O Lord, kum ba yah!

* “Kum ba yah” means “Come by here”

(African American spiritual)

Prayers of Intercession

Lord God, there is no one like you
in heaven above or on earth below.

Hear our prayer.

Only say the word, Lord, *and all shall be well.*

For your Church in every place,
make us servants of Christ and witnesses to the gospel.

Only say the word, Lord, *and all shall be well.*

For leaders and people in every land,
that they may know your way and do your will.

Only say the word, Lord, *and all shall be well.*

For an end to oppression and exploitation,
that all your children may be free.

Only say the word, Lord, *and all shall be well.*

For the earth that you have made,
that it may flourish in beauty and show your glory.

Only say the word, Lord, *and all shall be well.*

For those who are ill and close to death,
draw near to them with life-giving power.

Only say the word, Lord, *and all shall be well.*

Receive all these prayers
in the tenderness of your mighty hand
and keep us forever
in the safety of your outstretched arm;
through Christ our Lord we pray. *Amen.*

An audio recording of the communion liturgy that follows – everything from the Invitation to the Lord’s Table to the Prayer after Communion (except the anthem) – 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.

Creator of the cosmos,

Breath of heaven,

Lover of us all,

you are our praise, our life, our joy.

You are there

through desert wanderings and willful murmurings,
rebellious running and tears of complaint.

You are there

when sorrow becomes our daily food;
you rescue us from ruin and anoint us with blessing.

Rising Sun,

Soaring Spirit,

Radiant Lord,

you are there

in stable and temple,

river and hillside,

cross and tomb

and even beyond the grave.

You are there in shining glory,

overcoming death and welcoming us to life.

You meet us in the breaking of bread,

you pour out the wine of salvation;

you feed us with grace and overwhelm us with love.

By your Spirit,

make these gifts

your body and your blood.

By your Spirit,

make us one

with you and with each other.

By your Spirit,

make us strong

that we might share your love

with your blessed and broken world.

Fount of mercy,

Fire of justice,

dearest Friend,

bind us to you and send us out
to seek and serve and sing your praise,
until you gather us up in glory
and bright, unending song. *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.*

Breaking of the Bread

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest,
took bread, and after giving thanks to God,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
"Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."
(Lift and break the bread.)

In the same way he took the cup, saying:
"This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,
shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."
(Lift and pour the cup.)

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup,
you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord,
until he comes.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God!
Thanks be to God!

Anthem: "Fairest Lord Jesus"

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

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nations, O thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor, Thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels heav'n can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations! Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be Thine!

Amen, Amen, Amen.

(lyrics by Munster Gesanguch, trans. Joseph August Seiss; music by Derek Hakes, revised by Craig Courtney)

Communion

The bread of heaven. *Amen.*

(You may eat the bread.)

The cup of salvation. *Amen.*

(You may drink from the cup.)

Prayer after Communion

Nourishing God, thank you for inviting us
to your table where all are welcome,
and for feeding us with the bread of life
and quenching our thirst with the cup of blessing.
As you have filled our lives with love and hope,
may we be a source of your love and hope
for others who hunger and thirst
for good news. *Amen.*

Invitation to Offering

Give as you have made up your mind,
not reluctantly or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver. *(2 Corinthians 9:7)*

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

God our helper,
by your Holy Spirit, open our minds,
that as the scriptures are read
and your word is proclaimed,
we may be led into your truth
and taught your will,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Old Testament Lesson: Exodus 12:1-14

(God has sent Moses to deliver the Israelites from Pharaoh's yoke of slavery in Egypt. Pharaoh has resisted, and God has sent plague after plague upon the land of Egypt. Now God is about to send one final plague....)

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Psalm 149

Praise the LORD!

Sing to the LORD a new song,

his praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Let Israel be glad in its Maker;

let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.

Let them praise his name with dancing,

making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.

For the LORD takes pleasure in his people;

he adorns the humble with victory.

Let the faithful exult in glory;

let them sing for joy on their couches.

Let the high praises of God be in their throats

and two-edged swords in their hands,

to execute vengeance on the nations

and punishment on the peoples,

to bind their kings with fetters

and their nobles with chains of iron,

to execute on them the judgment decreed.

This is glory for all his faithful ones.

Praise the LORD!

New Testament Lesson: Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and

drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 18:15-20

(Jesus is speaking to his disciples.)

“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

After the readings:

Go and tell everyone what you have seen and heard. (*Matthew 11:4*)

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: “Racism and Christianity in America (Part 13: 1965-1968)”

(The penultimate installment!)

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: “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

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

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love;
show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them.

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love;
show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.

Neighbors are wealthy and poor,
varied in color and race;
neighbors are near us and far away.

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love;
show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.

These are the ones we should serve;
these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbors to us and you.

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love;
show us how to serve

the neighbors we have from you.

Loving puts us on our knees,
willing to wash others' feet;
this is the way we should live like you.

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love;
show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.

(lyrics by Tom Colvin, 1969; rev. 1997, alt.)

Blessing

May the God of peace
make you holy in every way
and keep your whole being—
spirit, soul, and body—
free from every fault
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. *(1 Thessalonians 5:23)*
Amen!



Lamentations over the Death of the First-Born of Egypt by Charles Sprague Pearce (1877)

(source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lamentations_over_the_Death_of_the_First-Born_of_Egypt_by_Charles_Sprague_Pearce.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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