

Living Stones

"You yourselves are being built like living stones into a spiritual temple." (1 Peter 2.5)

Mason First Presbyterian Church

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2020 + EASTER SUNDAY



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

Brightness of God's glory and exact image of God's person, whom death could not conquer nor the tomb imprison, as you have shared our frailty in human flesh, help us to share your immortality in the Spirit. Let no shadow of the grave terrify us, and no fear of darkness turn our hearts from you. Reveal yourself to us this day and all our days, as the first and the last, the Living One, our immortal Savior and Lord. *Amen.*

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Introit: "Christ Is Risen, Sing Alleluia!"

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

Christ is risen, sing alleluia! Christ is risen as he said.

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, the dead.

Christ is risen, sing alleluia! Celebrate this glorious day.

Christ is risen, sing of His triumph! All creation, join in praise.

Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high.

Jesus Christ has conquered the grave and lives that we no more shall die, shall die.

Christ is risen, sing alleluia! Celebrate this day of days.

Christ is risen, shout your praises! For the stone's been rolled away.

Alleluia, alleluia! Death where is your victory?
Jesus Christ now lives forever, reigns on high in majesty, majesty!

Christ is risen, sing alleluia! Celebrate this holy day.
Christ is risen, come share the story! Death to life, God made a way!
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to God, His pow'r proclaim!
Jesus Christ, our King forever, conquered death. O praise His name, His name!

Christ is risen, sing alleluia! Christ is risen as He said.
Jesus Christ is risen from the dead!

(words and music by Lloyd Larson)

Call to Worship

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!
The crucified one is risen from the dead.
We are witnesses: Christ is risen indeed!
Do not be afraid: Jesus is risen!
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!
Let us worship God!
(Romans 1:7; Acts 10:39-41; Matthew 28:6-7)

Hymn: "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured. Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

(lyrics: stanzas 1-3, Lyra Davidica, 1708; stanza 4, Charles Wesley, 1740)

Call to Confession

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness.
Trusting in God's grace let us confess our sin.
(1 Peter 2:24)

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the

hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made.

Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust in your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

Assurance of Pardon

All of us, like sheep, have gone astray, but now we have returned to the shepherd and guardian of our souls. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

(Isaiah 55:3)

Hymn: "Christ Is Alive!"

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift, and war
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

(lyrics by Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1995)

A Prayer for Healing

By your power, great God, our Lord Jesus healed the sick and gave new hope to the hopeless. Though we cannot command or possess your power, we pray for those who want to be healed. Mend their wounds, soothe fevered brows, and make broken people whole again. Help us to welcome every healing as a sign that, though death is against us, you are for us, and have promised renewed and risen life in Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

A Prayer Those in Medical Services

Merciful God, your healing power is everywhere about us. Strengthen those who work among the sick; give them courage and confidence in everything they do. Encourage them when their efforts seem futile or when death prevails. Increase their trust in your power even to overcome death and pain and crying. May they be thankful for every sign of health you give, and humble before the mystery of your healing grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

We offer our prayers through Christ,
who is risen from the dead,
who lives and reigns forever,
and prays for us in heaven.

Through Christ, we pray for the church . . .
Let us be people of joy, living witnesses
to the power of the resurrection
and the good news of your grace and peace.
Living God, *hear our prayer.*

Through Christ we pray for the earth . . .
From the dust of the damaged earth,
raise up your new creation,
full of beauty, wonder, and glory.
Living God, *hear our prayer.*

Through Christ, we pray for all nations . . .
Let the message of your saving power
spread throughout the world:
that the dominion of death is no more.
Living God, *hear our prayer.*

Through Christ, we pray for this community . . .
Let the doors of this church be open wide
as we go forth in love and service
and others come in to find a home.
Living God, *hear our prayer.*

Through Christ, we pray for loved ones . . .
Give hope to those who wait for good news.
Turn their mourning into dancing,
and their sorrow into joy.
Living God, *hear our prayer.*

God of all power and glory, receive these prayers,
and continue your mighty work among us,
through Jesus Christ, our living Lord. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

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

In the spirit of the first believers,
we are called to share our goods in common
and contribute to the needs of the poor
with glad and generous hearts.

Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

(Acts 2:44-46)

Anthem: "God So Loved the World"

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

God so loved the world,
God so loved the world, He so loved,
that He gave His only begotten Son,
that all who believeth, that all who believeth,
believeth in Him,
Should not perish, should not perish,
but have everlasting life.
For God sent not His Son to condemn.
God sent not His Son to condemn.
But that through Him, we might be saved.
God so loved the world, God so loved the world,
He so loved, that He gave His only begotten Son,
That all who believeth, believeth in Him,
Shall have eternal life, shall have eternal life.
God so loved the world. God so loved the world.
God so loved the world.

(lyrics from John 3:16-17; arranged by Benjamin Harlan)

Offertory Response: "Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!" (verse 1)

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

(lyrics by Cyril A. Alington, 1931, alt.)

Prayer for Illumination

Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word. Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit so that we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,

"His steadfast love endures forever."

The Lord is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:

“The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;
the right hand of the Lord is exalted;
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.”

I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the Lord.
The Lord has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.
The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
This is the Lord’s doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

New Testament Lesson: Colossians 3:1-4

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Sermon: “He Is Still Risen!”

*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: “Thine Is the Glory”

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded graveclothes where thy body lay.
Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.
Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;

bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.
Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

(lyrics by Edmond Louis Budry, 1884; trans. R. Birch Hoyle, 1923, alt.)

Blessing and Charge

May the steadfast love of the Lord be yours,
this day and forever. *Alleluia!*

(Psalm 118:1, 24)

Christ is risen! Do not be afraid.
Go and tell this good news to all.

Thanks be to God!

(Matthew 28:10)

Postlude: The “Hallelujah” Chorus (from Handel’s Messiah)

You can listen and sing along by clicking the “Listen” button in this middle of [this page](#).

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth!
The kingdom of this world is become
the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and of His Christ.
And He shall reign forever and ever!
King of Kings, and Lord of Lords!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

(lyrics from Rev. 19:6; Rev. 19:16; and Rev. 11:15; music by G. F. Handel)



Resurrection of Christ and Women at the Tomb, by Fra Angelico (c. 1440)

(source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fra_Angelico_-_Resurrection_of_Christ_and_Women_at_the_Tomb_\(Cell_8\)_-_WGA00542.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fra_Angelico_-_Resurrection_of_Christ_and_Women_at_the_Tomb_(Cell_8)_-_WGA00542.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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