

May 3, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Easter

PRELUDE "Catabile" Haan

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

The Lord is risen! Alleluia! *Luke 24:34*
Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!
Beloved, let us love one another. *1 John 4:7, 19*
We love because God first loved us.
This is our new commandment in Christ: *John 13:34*
As Jesus loves us, let us love one another.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

+ HYMN: GTG #645 MIT FREUDEN ZART
"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

CALL TO CONFESSION *Rom. 8:26*

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 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.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS *Acts 2:17, 21*
... In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God!

+ HYMN: GTG #624 "I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art" TOULON

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

... Living God, hear our prayer.

Younger children are dismissed to Sunday School

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE *Luke 13:29; 24:30-31*

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.

...

Remembering our Lord's self-giving love,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *1 Cor. 11:23-26*

COMMUNION "Ave Verum" Mozart

All are welcome at the table of the Lord.

*Partake of the bread when it comes to you,
mindful of your communion with Christ.
Hold the cup and we will all drink together,
mindful of our communion with one another.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, we give you thanks that by the witness of your word and the sharing of this meal you have opened our hearts and eyes to the presence of Christ among us. Now send us forth from this place by the power of your Spirit to tell this good news to the world: The Lord has risen indeed! Amen.

Older children and youth are dismissed to Sunday School

INVITATION TO OFFERING *Acts 2:44-46*

OFFERTORY "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" FAITHFULNESS

+ RESPONSE: GTG #606 OLD HUNDREDTH
"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

+ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

+ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Adapted from the Belhar Confession (1982)*
We believe that Jesus is Lord.
To the one and only God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be the honor and glory forever and ever.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Acts 7:55-60 N.T. page 96
Martyrdom of Stephen

PSALM Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 O.T. page 391
I commend my spirit

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON 1 Peter 2:2-10 N.T. page 183
God's chosen people

GOSPEL LESSON John 14:1-14 N.T. page 83
Christ the way, truth, life

RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURE *1 Cor. 15:1-2*

This is the good news we have received,
in which we stand, and by which we are saved.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM "In My Father's House" Stopford

SERMON Rev. Dr. Jim Hegedus
"Navigating Your Journey of Grief and Hope"

+ HYMN: GTG #724 "O Jesus, I Have Promised" ANGEL'S STORY

+ CHARGE *1 Cor. 16:13; 2 Tim. 2:1; Eph. 6:10;*
1 Thess. 5:13-22; 1 Pet. 2:17

Go out into the world in peace;
have courage; hold onto what is good;
return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak, and help the suffering;
honor all people; love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

+ BLESSING *Ps. 118:1, 24*
May the steadfast love of the Lord be yours, this day and forever.
Alleluia!

+ CHORAL BENEDICTION "A Clare Benediction" Rutter

POSTLUDE Mendelssohn
"Allegro Maestoso e Vivace" from Sonata no. 2 in C minor

**You are invited to join us
for fellowship and refreshments
after worship in the Memorial Room.**
It is not necessary to remain seated during the postlude.

SERVING US TODAY

Liturgist: Ginnie Gibson
Greeters: Debi and Mike Buchman
Communion Servers: Debi Buchman, Mike Buchman,
Ron Dlouhy, Jane Hamelink, Tonya Seely
Next Week's Greeters: Debbie and Rick Markiewicz
Sound: Marty Subject
Livestream: Tami Chapman
Security: Tim Hammond and Dan Baker

Today's flowers are given by
Loren and Jay Harkness
in memory of Roger Harkness

CHURCH HISTORY IN MINIATURE

Death of Mary

The death of the mother of Jesus is unrecorded.
A 7th-century tradition says she died in AD 41.
Orthodox Christians call it the Dormition (“falling asleep”) of Mary.

THE STUDY CATECHISM

Question 118. What is the best summary of the last six commandments?

These teach me how to live rightly with my neighbor. Jesus summed them up with the commandment which is like the greatest one about loving God: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:39; Lev. 19:18).

CREDITS

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Mason First Presbyterian Church

131 E Maple St, Mason, MI 48854 • (517) 676-9333
office@masonpresbyterian.org
www.masonpresbyterian.org
Office hours: Monday to Thursday, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

MINISTERS

All Members

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Bill Pinches
Parish Associate: Rev. Dr. Jim Hegedus
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Charlie Herrick
Spiritual Growth Director: Lori Filka
Sanctuary Choir Director / Bell Choir Director: Deb Melse
Office Manager: Jessica Tessman
Financial Secretary: Becky Moots
Choral Music Accompanist: Yinzhe Li
Sexton: Eric VanDyke
Adult Spiritual Growth Coordinator: Michelle Mackey
Youth Ministry Coordinator: Sarah Fay-Koutz
Child Care: Jill Castle, Jasmine Leffew,
Violet Mackey, Sam Pinches, Keren Tayong

ELDERS

Class of 2026: Bruce Archer (*Clerk*), Ginnie Gibson,
Jane Hamelink, Tim Hammond
Class of 2027: Travis Archer, Dan Baker, Evelyn Tayong, Steve Sowles
Class of 2028: Mary Garland Jackson, Greg Lang, Suzanne Lang, Monte Shuck

DEACONS

Class of 2026: Ron Dlouhy (*Treasurer*), Bill Leutscher, Sandy Leutscher,
Nancy Sue MacDonald (*Secretary*), Laurie McGonigal
Class of 2027: Donna Archer, Rick Cote (*Co-Moderator*),
Sally Hughes, Debbie Johnson, Issie Nielsen
Class of 2028: Sandy Diehl (*Co-Moderator*), Pattie Yanz, Torrie Yanz

EVENTS THIS WEEK

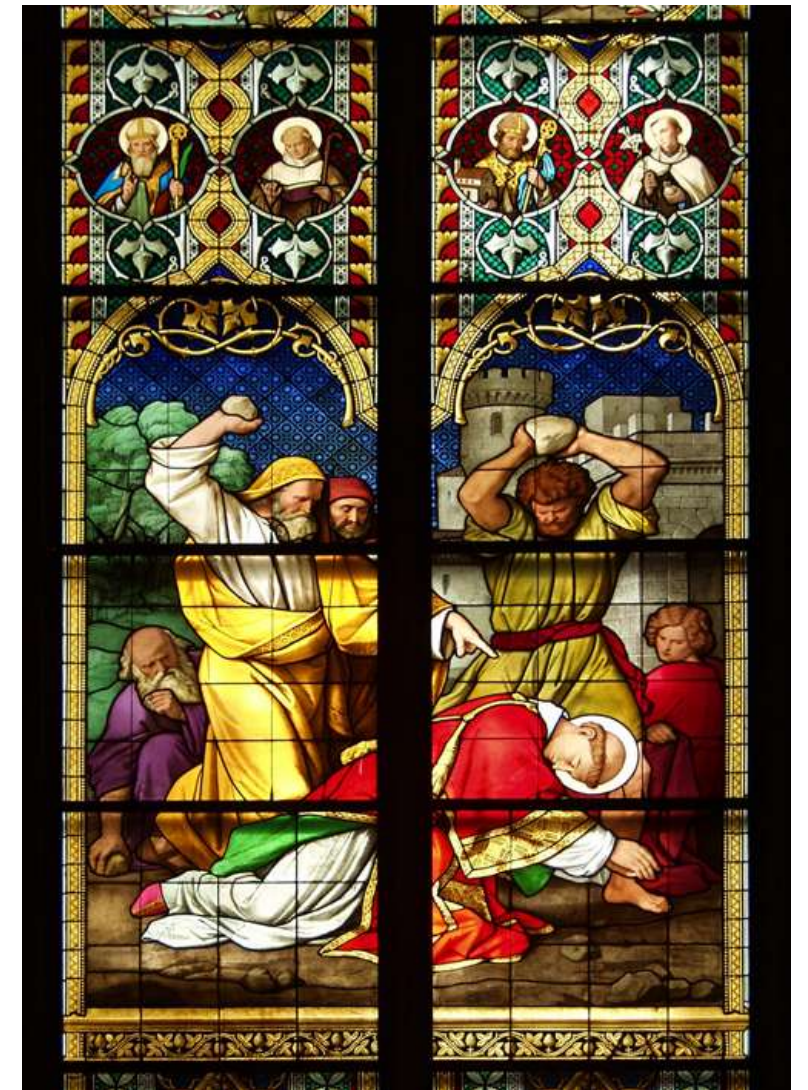
Sun.—Mon.	Pastor Bill on vacation (through Monday, May 4)	
Today	Explorers Class	11:30 am
Monday	Mission Committee	3:00 pm
Tuesday	Administration Committee	10:00 am
Wednesday	Lunch packing for Advent House	10:15 am
	Midweek Prayer Service	12:00 pm
	Wonderful Wednesday (K-12)	4:00 – 6:00 pm
	Wednesday Night Dinner	6:00 pm
	Bell Choir Rehearsal	6:30 pm
	Choir Rehearsal	7:10 pm
Thursday	Board of Deacons	7:00 pm
Friday	Church Office closed / Pastor’s Sabbath	

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

May 3: Barb VanDyke
May 6: Mary Ozee
May 6: Camille Subject
May 9: Lyle Brockman

Mason First Presbyterian Church

May 3, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Easter



The Stoning of Stephen
Cologne Cathedral, Cologne, Germany

*Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him,
and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man
named Saul. (Acts 7:58)*