The Old Stone Church
MAY 14, 2023
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

MINUTE FOR MISSION

INTROIT  Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord! (Louez le Seigneur!)
Arr. Ralph M. Johnson

* Those who are able are requested to stand
* CALL TO WORSHIP

The God of heaven and earth calls us together.
We come to explore matters of the spirit.

There is so much we do not know or understand.
So much of God is unknown to us.
Let us look carefully at the objects of our worship.
Our attention is easily diverted from God.

We want to worship the One who gives us breath.
We reach for the Reality beyond our understanding.

In God we live and move and have our being.
All that we have and are comes from God.

God is not limited to shrines made by us.
God is everywhere present in the whole universe.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let the sound of praising you be heard among us today,
and in all the places of your dominion.
O God. We believe you are present with us
even when we cannot feel or see or hear you as we would like.
We thank you for the times when you have caught our attention.
We ask for one of those times today.
Shake us out of our complacency and our cherished iniquities.
Hold us in your steadfast love
and call forth within us an awareness of all your blessings.
Stimulate among us an eagerness to live as you intended.

Amen.

* HYMN #282

Come Down, O Love Divine

1 Come down, O Love Divine; seek out this soul of mine,
and visit it with your own ardor glowing.

2 O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
shall far out-pass the power of human telling.

3 And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
We have been baptized and claimed in the name of Jesus Christ for a lifetime of service. Yet we are often intimidated by our fears and seduced by our fantasies. We worship autonomy and deny community. We ignore the commandments God has given us. We need to face our guilt. God demands our repentance. Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession, followed by time for personal silent confession.
O God,
we confess that we have loved our own way more than we love you.
The Spirit of truth does not abide in us,
for our actions belie the words of praise we utter in worship.
We neglect the spiritual disciplines that would draw us close to you
and the caring outreach that would link us with sisters and brothers
who need to know of your love.
We have not witnessed to our faith in ways
powerful enough to evoke opposition or cause us to suffer.
O God, it is hard to follow Jesus!
Forgive us, teach us, help us!

(moment of silent confession)

KYRIE ELEISON

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

You are not left to struggle alone.
You have an Advocate who is always with you.
You are not rejected.
God hears your prayers and offers you steadfast love in all circumstances.
Do not be afraid to hope, and to share that hope with others around you.
Claim God’s gifts of reverence and gentleness as you testify to the resurrection.
Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good?
Alleluia and Amen!

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.
Let us offer a sign of peace to one another.

* GLORIA #581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, Amen.
OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.
Our spiritual ancestors brought sacrifices as offerings to God.
We are invited to join them in bringing our best
to proclaim God’s rule over all things.
God claims our labors and the fruit of our labors.
In response we offer them gladly.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

At The River  
Aaron Copland

Shall we gather by the river, Where bright angels' feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever Flowing by the throne of God.

Yes, we'll gather by the river, The beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints by the river That flows by the throne of God.

Soon we'll reach the shining river, Soon our pilgrimage will cease,
Soon our happy hearts will quiver With the melody of peace.

Yes we'll gather by the river, The beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints by the river, That flows by the throne of God,
That flows by the throne of God.

* DOXOLOGY #607

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Cheryl Cairns

Let us join our voices in prayer:

May all that we give today be used to express your love among us
and beyond us, God of all people.
We are thankful for your gift to us in Christ Jesus,
who was so committed to sharing your love
that he risked rejection and death.
We are grateful that even though his suffering resulted in death in the flesh
you made him alive in the spirit.
May Christ live today in us, in our caring, in our giving,
in our speaking, in our doing.
We rededicate ourselves to your service.
Amen

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE

All Things Come of Thee  
Herbert C. Peabody

All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen.
**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Come, Holy Spirit, giver of life;  
breathe into us that we may hear a word of truth this day.  
Draw us into communion,  
enable us to love,  
conspire to make us one with You  
for the world You so deeply love. Amen.

**THE READINGS**


Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, God who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is God served by human hands, as though God needed anything, since God Godself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor God made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and God allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for God and find God—though indeed God is not far from each one of us. For ‘In God we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,  
‘For we, too, are his offspring.’  
“Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now God commands all people everywhere to repent, because God has fixed a day on which God will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom God has appointed, and of this God has given assurance to all by raising Christ Jesus from the dead.”

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.
Shout joyfully to God, all the earth, sing praise to the glory of his name; proclaim his glorious praise. Say to God, “How tremendous are your deeds! Let all on earth worship and sing praise to you, sing praise to your name!” Come and see the works of God, his tremendous deeds among the children of Adam. He has changed the sea into dry land; through the river they passed on foot; therefore let us rejoice in him. He rules by his might forever. Hear now, all who fear God while I declare what he has done for me. Blessed be God who refused me not my prayer or his kindness!

Gospel

John 14:15-21 (NRSVUE)

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask Abba God, and God will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees the Spirit nor knows the Spirit. You know the Spirit because the Spirit abides with you, and the Spirit will be in you. “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in God, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by Abba God, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“In God we live and move and have our being”
THE APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead,

I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER
We ask all these things in the name of Jesus who taught us 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
1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no
south or north, but one great fellowship
ship of love throughout the whole wide earth.
golden cord close binding human kind.
living God are surely kin to me.
one in him throughout the whole wide earth.

2 In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high com-
munion find; his service is the
race may be. All children of the
south and north. All Christly souls are

3 Join hands, disciples of the faith, what'yer your

4 In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet
BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

God has listened to our prayers and abides with us.
God’s blessing rests on us as we scatter to serve.

The Spirit lives within us and among us.
We seek to live as resurrection people.

Daily, God will add to your understanding if you ask.
Do not fear to seek after the truth God will reveal.

Everyday can be an adventure in faith.
All our encounters can link us more closely with God.

Our Creator draws us into community.
Our spiritual journey is linked to others’ stories.

Together we will seek to know God more fully.
We will remember one another in prayer.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Guide My Feet

Guide my feet while I run this race. Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race. ’cause I don’t want to run this race in vain.
Lord, guide my feet, direct my path, and keep my way. Can’t make a step without you.
I don’t want to run this race in vain.

POSTLUDE

“My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”

Psalm 73:26

We continue to keep in our prayers:

Lindsay Fritz and baby Evie, Michelle Baron, Chris Bryan, Joe Geraci, Zach Beaver,
Holly Hubert, Jesse Park, Thomas Kilbane, Jean English, Bruce Arnoff, Margaret Bell,
Pam Woody, Cindy Case and family, the Miskovic family, Covenant Presbyterian Church in Butler, PA.

We pray for the repose of the soul of Bob Case,
may his memory be a blessing.

We pray for those struggling with illness, convalescing, homebound or in need.

Names are generally removed after four weeks unless there is a continuing need.
Join OSC for a tour of Lake View Cemetery

Largely regarded as a crown jewel of Cleveland, join Old Stone Church for a walking tour of Lake View Cemetery on Saturday, May 20\textsuperscript{th} at 10:00 AM. The tour will last between 1.5 and 2 hours and is being presented to OSC members as part of the Welcoming & Fellowship Committee. For more information and to reserve your spot, please email Lee Ann Rader at rader.leeann@yahoo.com

National Mental Health Awareness Month

May is National Mental Health Awareness Month and the Mission and Urban Wellness Committee is planning on having a Minute for Mission each Sunday in May to address The Old Stone Church’s support of mental health issues. The Mission and Urban Wellness Committee has supported NAMI’s Walk for Awareness at the Platinum level.

Last Sunday Attendance

In-Person: 75
Online: 206

May 14-May 30

Sun May 14 8:30am - 9:30am Choir Rehearsal
10:00am - 11:00am Worship/Mother's Day
1:00pm - 4:00pm Guardians/Angels
Tues May 16 10:00am - 11:30am Staff Meeting
Thu May 18 Ascension Day
7:00pm - 9:00pm FPS Director's Meeting/Conference Room
Sat May 20 Cleveland Marathon
Sun May 21 Cleveland Marathon
8:30am - 9:30am Choir Rehearsal
10:00am - 11:00am Worship/In Person
Mon May 22 6:30pm - 8:00pm Stated Meeting of the PWR/ZOOM
Tue May 23 10:00am - 11:30am Staff Meeting
Thu May 25 10:00am - 12:00pm Jayne Z. Senior Citizen of the Year Luncheon
Sun May 28 8:30am - 9:30am Choir Rehearsal
10:00am - 11:00am Worship/Pentecost
1:00pm - 4:00pm Guardians/Cardinals
Mon May 29 Memorial Day/ Building and Offices Closed
Tue May 30 10:00am - 11:30am Staff Meeting
6:30pm - 8:30pm Session/ZOOM
There are many ways to support The Old Stone Church

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<th>Online Giving:</th>
<th>Mobile Giving:</th>
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<td>oldstonechurch.org/giving/</td>
<td>Text the keyword “oldstonecle” to 73256</td>
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Mail to:
Old Stone Church
Attn: Financial Office
91 Public Square
Cleveland, OH 44113

Checks should be made payable to “Old Stone Church.” If you would like to designate your contribution to one of Old Stone’s mission projects, please make a note on the memo line.

All contributions are tax-deductible and will be appropriately acknowledged at year-end.

THE OLD STONE CHURCH
LOVING CHRIST, SERVING CITY—SPIRITUALLY, SOCIALLY, CULTURALLY—SINCE 1820
91 Public Square, Cleveland, Ohio 44113-2058
Phone: 216-241-6145 Fax: 216-241-6149
Website: www.OldStoneChurch.org E-Mail: info@OldStoneChurch.org
Music copied under ccli#1638695

Senior Pastor: Rev. Stephen C. Blonder Adams

Guest Pianist: Gastón Frydman

The Old Stone Singers
Leah Jennings Brown, soprano
Cicely Schonberg, soprano
Val Sibila, soprano
Rayna Brooks, alto
McKenna Jones, alto
Emma Nossem, alto
Ian Atwood, tenor
Frederick Peterbark, tenor
Andrew J. Schoenhofer, tenor
R. Dominic Aragon, bass
Joseph K. Breslau, bass
Seth Hobi, bass

Church Elders:
Clerk of Session: Beth Buchanan

Class of 2023
Beth Buchanan
Robert Hubert Jr.
Judy Macuga
Harriet Niles
Lee Ann Rader
Marty Vassel
John Young

Class of 2024
Michelle Baron
Janie Chambers
Fred Heider
Bernard Medie
Bob Reid

Class of 2025
Kara Bane
Willie Brown
Dave Finley

Church Deacons:

Class of 2023
Melissa Maffia
Pete Maffia
Mary Mikula
Michael Rolen
Penni Rolen
Alyssa Niepokny

Class of 2024
Scott Bailey
Bernie Bischel
Carol Hoagland
Amy Wheeler
John Wheeler

Class of 2025
Elie Medie
Mark Pichler

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