



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

JULY 16, 2023

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Prelude on Rhosymedre (*Lovely*)

Ralph Vaughan Williams

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

INTROIT

Open My Eyes, That I May See

OPEN MY EYES

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
 Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.
 Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
 Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!

* CALL TO WORSHIP

God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.
 Open yourselves this day to receive the Word.

We have committed ourselves to follow the light.

We have come now to be instructed by God's law.

Minds set on the flesh are hostile to God.

Let us, therefore, open ourselves to the Spirit.

We reach out for more than we can see and hear.

We long to know Love's embrace deep within.

The Spirit of God raised Jesus from the dead.

That Spirit dwells in you and offers you new life.

We praise God, who saves us and gives us hope.

God cares for the earth and for each one of us.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

All-powerful God,
 we celebrate the freedom you give us to make our own response
 to all the possibilities you lay out before us.

We are grateful for the revelation you provide
 through the witness of many in the Scriptures.

Through their words, help us to discern your Word.

Come to us in the midst of our diversity
 to bring understanding and mutual caring.

Open us to a new appreciation of our birthright as your children.

Beyond all our clamor for the things of this world,
 we long for the richness of spirit you alone can provide.

Feed us here, we pray.

Amen.

* HYMN #171

A Sower Came from Ancient Hills

SEACHRIST



1 A Sow - er came from an - cient hills and cast good
 2 A Sow - er walked through - out the land and, ev - ery -
 3 The Seed was bur - ied deep in death be - neath a
 4 O Christ, you come a - mong us still, the Sow - er



seed a - broad: his field, ten thou - sand hu - man hearts; his
 where he trod, he sowed his life be - cause he was him -
 blood - red sky, and deep - er still was bur - ied hope for
 and the Seed. As once you sowed the truth of God in



seed, the word of God. And some who lis - tened would not
 self the Seed of God. But then, a - top a bar - ren
 those who watched him die. But then, in Jo - seph's gar - den
 glow - ing word and deed, im - plant your Word in wait - ing



hear, and some who heard for - got. But some re - ceived in
 hill, be - neath a dark - ening sky, they threw God's Seed on
 fair, as dawn broke o'er the land, the Seed, from three days'
 hearts, and let it there take hold, un - til it bears in



fer - tile soil the truth the Sow - er taught.
 ston - y ground and left it there to die.
 si - lent sleep, a - woke at God's com - mand!
 fruit - ful lives a har - vest hun - dred - fold.

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Carmen Cox Harwell

We have gathered to find release from the cares of life
 which sap our energy and depress our spirits.
 We have come seeking deeper roots for our faith
 and the ability to survive and thrive amid life's thorny pathways.
 We open all the hidden places of our lives to the light of God's forgiving love,
 that we might be cleansed, healed, and set free from sin.
 God knows our need for this time of confession.
 Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
 followed by time for silent personal confession.
 Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All-knowing God,
we know you understand us more deeply than we understand ourselves.
You know how much the cares of this life weigh us down.
Our thoughts and actions are often very shortsighted.
We take so much for granted,
failing to value the wonder of life all around us,
the gift of family and friends,
the amazing reality of your Spirit dwelling in us.
We want to be like good soil,
receiving the seed of your word with understanding
that nourishes roots of trust and joy.
Free us from all that keeps us from bearing fruit for you.
(moment of silent confession)

KYRIE ELEISON

John Merbecke

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

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
As disciples of Jesus, we have the opportunity to grow
in understanding and in the joy of serving others in Christ's name.
The Spirit of life sets us free from our narrow concerns,
to celebrate the good within and around us.
Life is transformed by our new attitude of gratitude.

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

GREATOREX

**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.
God's Word has been sown among us.
We are the soils, receiving seeds of truth.
The harvest depends on our accepting the Word,
letting it take root and getting rid of the weeds.
What we offer to God is a small return on God's investment in us.
Let us give with joy.
The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Lead Me, Lord* Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness; make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only, that makest me dwell in safety.

* 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

Rev. Carmen Cox Harwell

Let us join our voices in prayer:

Accept our offering of praise and our offering of ourselves, O God,
along with our tithes and contributions toward our church's mission.
You have given us life and guidance for living.
You have made us partakers of your own Spirit.
We rejoice in the opportunity to receive and share your Word.
May the ministry in which all of us have a share bear much fruit,
bringing in an abundant harvest for your realm.
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

God of All Wisdom, since the dawn of history,
you have spoken to your people to teach us and guide us.
Speak to us again this day,
and let your Holy Spirit open our minds and hearts to understand.
Speak to us, Lord, in this hour.
In the name of that Holy Spirit we pray.
Amen.

THE READINGS

Epistle

Romans 8:1-11 (NRSVUE)

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Holy Spirit has a word for each of us today.

With God's help we are listening.

Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (NRSVUE)

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach.

And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. If you have ears, hear!"

“Hear, then, the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams
“Of Flesh and Spirit”



RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

On behalf of the session,
I present Bram Chisholm, Joan Freeze, and Ellen Myers,
who have been received into the membership of this congregation
by transfer from Alpharetta Presbyterian, Alpharetta, Georgia,
Westminster Presbyterian, Alexandria, Virginia, and Parma South Presbyterian,
Parma, Ohio, congregations.

On behalf of the session,
I present Anand Bandari, Mark Corey, Edwina Horvat, Eileen Kelly, Sunil Kunche,
Brad Niepokny, Charles Rabb, Charlene Thornton, and Donald Urban,
who have been received into the membership of this congregation
by reaffirmation of faith.

In baptism you were claimed by God,
marked as Christ's own forever,
and joined to his body by the Holy Spirit.
You come to us then, not as strangers,
but as friends in Christ and members of the household of God.
We rejoice that you now desire to join with this congregation
in the worship and mission of the church.

Hear these words from scripture:

There is one body and one Spirit,
just as you were called to the one hope of your calling,

**one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of all,
who is above all and through all and in all.**

As members of the body of Christ, let us reaffirm the faith
into which we were baptized:

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.

Bram, Joan, Ellen, Anand, Mark, Edwina, Eileen, Sunil, Brad,
Charles, Charlene, and Donald, we have professed our faith as one body.
Will you be a faithful member of this congregation,
share in its worship and mission
through your prayers and gifts,
your study and service,
and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Holy God,
thank you for calling us to be your people
and joining us to Christ's body, the church.
We praise you for leading Bram, Joan, Ellen, Anand, Mark, Edwina, Eileen, Sunil,
Brad, Charles, Charlene, and Donald, to this congregation.
Empower us by your Spirit,
that we might love one another as Christ loved us,
honoring him in all that we say and do,
giving our lives in service to others,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Bram, Joan, Ellen, Anand, Mark, Edwina, Eileen, Sunil, Brad,
Charles, Charlene, and Donald, remember your baptism and be thankful,
and know that the Holy Spirit is at work within you.

Thanks be to God.

Welcome to this ministry that we share in Jesus Christ.

LIGHTING OF CANDLES, 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 Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life a - new,
 2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
 3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
 4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
 un - til with thee I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
 un - til this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
 but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

* BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

Carry the lamp of God's Word into the week ahead.

Share its light with all you meet.

God's Word lights our path and guides our feet.

The heritage we have received is ours to pass on.

Do not be bound by concerns of the flesh.

Set your minds on matters of the Spirit.

The Spirit of Christ dwells in us.

God gives us gifts of life and peace.

Share in daily offerings of praise to God.

Pass on the joy of living in the Spirit.

Our hearts are inclined to God's statutes.

Your ways, O God, bring joy to our hearts.

Amen.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Sevenfold Amen

Peter Lutkin

POSTLUDE

Trumpet in Dialogue
(Basse et Dessus de Trompette)

Louis Nicolas Clerambault

*“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:

Caroline Poirier, Kinza and Maheen, Karen Cogar, Clarence Niles, Martha Simmons, Brennan, Mary Lou Eisaman, Harry Hatters, Mardia Long, John Gibbons, Chris Bryan, Joe Geraci, Zach Beaver, Jesse Park, Thomas Kilbane, Jean English, Bruce Arnoff, Margaret Bell, Pam Woody, Melvin Hilliard, the LeBron Family, the Stinchcomb Family

We pray for the repose of the soul of William Jay Stinchcomb,
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.

Last Sunday Attendance

In-Person:61

Online:166

July 16-July 30, 2023

Sun Jul 16 10:00am Worship/New Member Welcome
11:00am Deacons Meeting/Chapel
Tue Jul 18 10:00am Team Meeting
12:00pm City Club Lecture/Public Square
Sun Jul 23 Cruise Ship Cleveland
10:00am Worship/Baptism
1:00pm Guardians/Phillies
Mon Jul 24 6:30pm Stated Meeting of the PWR/ZOOM
Tue Jul 25 10:00am Team Meeting
6:30pm Stated Session Meeting/ZOOM
Sun Jul 30 Cruise Ship Cleveland
10:00am Worship/Rev. Cinda Gorman

There are many ways to support The Old Stone Church

Online Giving: oldstonechurch.org/giving/	Mobile Giving: Text the keyword "oldstonecle" to 73256
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

Minister of Music: David L. Dettloff

The Old Stone Quartet

Val Sibila, *soprano*

McKenna Jones, *alto*

Frederick Peterbark, *tenor*

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 Rolan
Penni Rolan
Alyssa Niepokny

Class of 2024

Scott Bailey
Bernie Bischel
Carol Hoagland
Amy Wheeler
John Wheeler

Class of 2025

Elie Medie
Mark Pichler

By entering The Old Stone Church and by your presence here, you consent to be photographed, filmed, livestreamed, and/or otherwise recorded.

Your entry constitutes your consent to such photography, filming, livestreaming, and/or recording and to any use, in any media for The Old Stone Church/First Presbyterian Church, Cleveland, Ohio. Thank you.