THE OLD STONE CHURCH

JULY 2, 2023

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
WITH COMMUNION

10 AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE
Jerusalem, My Happy Home
LAND OF REST
arr. Charles Callahan

WELCOME
Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT
Be Joyful in the Lord
Kendal L. Gunlicks

Be joyful in the lands! And serve the Lord with gladness.
Be joyful in the lands! Come before His presence with a song.

* Those who are able are requested to stand
Please silence all electronic devices.
* CALL TO WORSHIP

Early in the morning, our thoughts turn toward God.
We have been led to this mountaintop of worship.

   We come, trusting in God’s steadfast love.
   We gather, seeking the way of salvation and peace.

God has made an everlasting covenant with us.
Let us proclaim God’s faithfulness to all generations.

   Sometimes we think God has forgotten us.
   Often we do not understand what God expects of us.

God deals bountifully with us in much that we take for granted.
God shows us the value of life and helps us celebrate it.

   We bring our sorrow and pain to this healing time.
   May God provide what we need to grow in Christ.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Have you forgotten us, God?
Will you remain hidden from us forever?
We speak of you, but we do not know you.
We often distrust those who speak glibly of your intervention in their lives.
We marvel at the amazing variety of life on this planet.
All that we see with our eyes is but a small hint of all that is revealed
through microscopes and telescopes – other worlds of form
and beauty so amazing beyond any telling.
Yet our spiritual ancestors have known you not only as Creator of all things
but as one who knows and loves each one of us.
Help us to know you here today.

* HYMN #187  Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us  BRADBURY

1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.
2 We are yours: in love befriend us, be the guardian of our way.
3 You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
4 Early let us seek your favor; early let us do your will.

   In your pleasant pastures feed us; for our use your fold prepare.
   Keep your flock: from sin defend us; seek us when we go astray.
   You have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.
   Blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.
CALL TO CONFESSION

Was it God who tested Abraham?
Does God put us to the test?
Do we believe that God will provide what we most need?
Are we willing to trust God,
or would the apostle Paul describe us as “slaves of sin”?
This time of confession is not meant to weigh us down with guilt, but to free us to respond to God’s love.
Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession, followed by time for silent personal confession.
Thus, we pray:

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Brad Oglesby
* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Free us, O God, from such absorption in our own concerns that we forget your loving intention for us. We find it hard to view what is happening around us through any eyes but our own. We obey our own passions rather than joining your intention for the good of all. It is hard for us, who so value our autonomy, to speak of obedience. Yet we are ashamed of things we have done and things we have failed to do. We want to claim your free gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. We sense that you intend for us to accept and live within that gift here and now. Help us, loving God. (moment of silent confession)

* KYRIE ELEISON

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

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

We are not under law but under grace. We are being given God’s great bounty as we receive the teaching of Jesus, the witness of our spiritual forbearers, and the exultation of the psalmist. God comes to us, not only from the past, but in every moment when we welcome another with even a cup of water in Christ’s name. We are forgiven and renewed! 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: We can offer to God only what we have been given. God may require our dearest treasure, for it is only lent to us for a time. What God has provided, we are now invited to invest in the disciple-making business of the church. The offering will now be received.
OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM  Lord I Stretch My Hands to You  Jay Althouse

Lord, I stretch my hands to you; no other help I know.
If you should leave me all alone, where then shall I go?

Oh Lord, I give my soul to you; I seek your care and love.
No other blessings do I need but those from you above.

Lord, I ask you: give me faith, and help me understand.
And Lord, when I this life shall leave, just hold me in your hand.

Lord, I stretch my hands to you; no other help I know.
If you should leave me all alone, where then shall I go?
Oh Lord, I stretch my hands to you. Amen.

* 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  Brad Oglesby

Let us join our voices in prayer:
We bring our offering,
not with thought of reward,
but because we are grateful.
We give, not from guilt over having so much,
but because it is such a privilege and joy to share.
We dedicate these gifts, not to pay bills,
but to enable a ministry that meets basic human needs
with the good news of the gospel.
May your people be empowered to give the service each moment requires,
in even a deed as simple as giving a cup of cold water
to quench another’s thirst.
Amen

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE  All Things Come of Thee  Herbert C. Peaboy

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

Let us pray together:

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

Torah                                           Genesis 22:1-14 (The Inclusive Bible)

After these events, God tested Abraham.
"Here I am," Abraham replied.
"Take your son," God said, "your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land
of Moriah, "Seeing." Offer him there as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will
point out to you."
Rising early the next morning, Abraham saddled a donkey and took along two
workers and his son Isaac. Abraham chopped wood for the burnt offering, and
started on the journey to the place God showed them. On the third day, Abraham
looked up and saw the place in the distance. Then Abraham said to the workers,
"Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there; we will worship and
come back to you."
Abraham took wood for the burnt offering and gave it to Isaac to carry. In his own
hands he carried the fire and the knife. Then the two of them went on alone.
Isaac said, "Father!"
"Here I am, my child," Abraham replied.
"Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"
Abraham answered, "My child, God will provide the lamb for the burnt offering."
Then the two of them went on together. When they arrived at the place God had
pointed out, Abraham built an altar there and arranged wood on it. Then he tied up
his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out
his hand and seized the knife to kill the child.
"But the angel of God called to him from heaven: "Abraham! Abraham!"
"Here I am!" he replied.
"Do not raise your hand against the boy!" the angel said. "Do not do the least thing
to him. I know now how deeply you revere God, since you did not refuse me your
son, your only child."
Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. He went and took the ram, and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his child. Abraham called the place "God Provides," and so it is said to this day: "On this mountain YHWH provides."

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

With God's help we are listening.

Gospel  Matthew 10:40-42 (NRSVUE)

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE  Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“Akedah”
WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND FAITH

* HOLY COMMUNION

* HYMN #515  

I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ’s communion bread,  
in Christ’s communion bread.

* INVITATION TO THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

The invitation is simple: come and eat of the feast.  
Not a meal to nourish the body, but to feed the soul.

We receive the bread and the fruit of the vine connected to the ages:  
to the saint of old who felt unworthy,  
to the seeker eager to know God,  
to the teenager who wonders what it’s all about,  
to the child who eats with unburdened faith.

Woven into this time, the hopes and tears of generations.  
There is great joy here.  
No one is turned away for God is the host!

* HYMN #515  

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends,  
and strangers now are friends.

* PRAYER

God is in this place.  
And in our hearts.  
Open yourself to the nudging God.  
We feel the breath of the Spirit.  
Remember God made flesh.  
Jesus, who taught us a new way.

(Allow silence to speak for a few moments.)

Tender, transforming God, you have invited us to gather at this table,  
to taste the feast,  
the same abundant promises offered to our ancestors in faith.

Time and time again you’ve offered your grace,  
even as we have stepped away,  
You continue to call us to be your people.

You have never left us.  
We praise you for second, third, and fourth chances.  
You are ever-patient, always faithful.
We give thanks for this time of celebration.
For the One this meal remembers.
For the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

With those who have gone before us,
whose hands touched the bread,
whose lips embraced the cup,
We worship you.
We glorify you.

This is the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Bless them and your people all around the world. As we eat of these common elements, unite our spirits in love for you, and our hearts in love for one another.
In the name of the Creator, the Redeemer, the Sustainer.

* HYMN #515  
*I Come with Joy*  
DOVE OF PEACE

The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.

* THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE POURING OF THE CUP

Gathered with his friends, Jesus took bread, broke it and said:
Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha’olam hamotzi lehem min ha’aretz.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
who brings forth bread from the earth.
“This is my body, broken for you. Take and eat.”

And pouring the fruit of the vine into the cup, he blessed it saying:
Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha’olam borei p’ri hagafen.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
who creates the fruit of the vine.
“This is my blood, spilled out for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”
* PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT
  Holy Spirit, send power upon these gifts, your bread and your cup.
  God of all, send your Spirit to this place
  so that those gathered here, in this sacred moment,
  may know your presence.
  As we eat the bread and drink of the cup,
  make us one with the saints,
  and with our sisters, siblings and brothers in faith around the world.
  Be with us God, not only here but in every moment of our lives.
  Help us
  To know you,
  To be guided by the Holy Spirit,
  And to live Christ.
  Now and forever.

* PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER
  We pray for all those in need of healing, comfort or strength,
  whether it be of body, mind, or spirit. We pray for...
  
  We pray 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

* CALL TO THE FEAST
  This is the feast prepared for you.
  Come and share for all is ready.
  Please hold onto the elements till all are served,
  that we might partake of them together.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP
  The Body of Christ broken for you.
  The Blood of Christ shed for you.
I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to worship you, o my soul, rejoice!
Take joy, my King, in what you hear, may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION

    Creative, connecting God,
    you have sent your Spirit and made us the body of Christ;
    From child-like faith, to youthful energy,
    from middle-aged mindfulness, to elder’s wisdom.
    We thank you for this time, this remembrance. Amen.
God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit's deepest sighs,
through the thrill of sudden beauties that can catch us by surprise.
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder; hush of stillness, rush of wonder;
God is calling—can you hear? God is calling—can you hear?

God is calling through the voices of our neighbors' urgent prayers,
through their longing for redemption and for rescue from despair.
Place of hurt or face of need—ing; strident cry or silent pleading:
God is calling—can you hear? God is calling—can you hear?

God is calling through the music of sublime and human arts,
through the hymns of earth and angels, and the carols of our hearts.
Lift of joy and gift of singing; days and nights our praises bringing:
God is calling—and we hear! God is calling—and we hear!

This wide-ranging text reminds us of the many surprising and urgent ways God calls to us, both to draw us near and to send us forth. In the third line of music it is especially effective at harnessing the momentum of the phrases that are each a note higher than the one before.
COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Scatter into the world, believing God will provide.
Our service in Christ’s name will be blessed.

We present ourselves for service in the world.
We seek to be instruments of righteousness.

Extend Christ’s welcome to your friends.
Dare to share that welcome with strangers.

We will honor all people as God’s own.
We will reach out to bless all God’s children.

God’s grace will be with you wherever you go.
There is delightful freedom in serving God.

We rejoice in the light we have received.
We accept with joy the tasks of discipleship.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Sevenfold Amen

Peter Lukin

ORGAN POSTLUDE

God Bless America

Irving Berlin
arr. Roy Ringwald

“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:
Karen Cogar, Clarence Niles, Martha Simmons, Brennan, Bill Stinchcomb,
Mary Lou Eisaman, Harry Hatters, Melvin Hilliard, Mardia Long, John Gibbons,
Eric Zaslov, Chris Bryan, Joe Geraci, Zach Beaver, Jesse Park, Thomas Kilbane,
Jean English, Bruce Arnoff, Margaret Bell, Pam Woody, Dwayne Ware Sr. and family

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 Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity on **Saturday, July 8th**, for a fun outdoor event with a great cause!

Check in starting at 8AM  
Step Off starting at 10AM

"Walk Run Mosey" kicks off at 10 a.m. at Edgewater Park and features two events; the first is a 5k run, walk, or mosey with coffee and donuts (and healthy snacks) provided.

The second is a 1-mile leisurely walk (perfect for those who want to get back to the donuts sooner.)

Games, shirt decorating, and more will happen at this family (and pet) friendly event! For more information and to sign up, visit Habitat for Humanity's info page.
@ Old Stone Church

Sunday July 2, 2023 11:15AM
Mission and Urban Wellness Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

Tuesday July 4, 2023
Fourth of July Holiday/Building and Offices Closed

Wednesday July 5, 2023 6:00PM
Welcoming & Fellowship Meeting/ZOOM

Last Sunday Attendance
In-Person:72
Online:159

July 2-July 23, 2023

Sun Jul 2 10:00am Worship/Communion
  11:15am MUW Meeting/ Hybrid/Cuyahoga Room
Tue Jul 4 Fourth of July/ Building and Offices Closed
Wed Jul 5 Cruise Ship Cleveland
  6:00pm Welcoming & Fellowship Meeting/ZOOM
Sat Jul 8 Cruise Ship Cleveland
Sun Jul 9 Cruise Ship Cleveland
  10:00am Worship
  1:00pm Guardians/Royals
Tue Jul 11 Cruise Ship Cleveland
  10:00am Team Meeting
  12:00am City Club Lecture/ Public Square
  6:00pm APNC Meeting/ZOOM
Wed Jul 12 Cruise Ship Cleveland
Thu Jul 13 Cruise Ship Cleveland
Sun Jul 18 10:00am Worship
  11:00am Deacon Meeting
Tue Jul 18 10:00am Team Meeting
  12:00am City Club Lecture/ Public Square
Thu Jul 20 7:00pm FPS Director's Meeting
Sun Jul 23 Cruise Ship Cleveland
  10:00am Worship/Baptism
  1:00pm Guardians/Phillies
There are many ways to support The Old Stone Church:

**Online Giving:**
[oldstonechurch.org/giving/](http://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.

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**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*  Stephen Brown, *tenor*
McKenna Jones, *alto*  Seth Hobi, *bass*

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**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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