



# THE OLD STONE CHURCH

JULY 23, 2023

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST WITH BAPTISM

10AM Sanctuary Worship

## WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come  
(*St. George's Windsor*)

Daniel Berghout

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT

*Open My Eyes, That I May See*

OPEN MY EYES

Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear.  
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.  
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit Divine!

\* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

God has searched us and knows us.  
God knows when we sit down and when we rise up.  
**God searches out our path and our lying down.**  
**God is acquainted with all our ways.**  
Before a word is on our tongues, God knows it.  
God's hand is ever available to guide us.  
**Such knowledge is a wonder to us.**  
**It is beyond anything we can attain.**  
We cannot escape from God's spirit.  
There is nowhere to flee from God's presence.  
**Darkness is as light to our God.**  
**God illuminates the way before us.**

\* INVOCATION PRAYER

Search us, O God, and know our hearts.  
Test us and know our thoughts.  
We gather with eager longing to know you, ever-present God,  
and to be known by you.  
We want to live as your beloved children.  
Assure us in these moments that you hear our prayers,  
even as your will is revealed to us.  
Fill our dreams and our waking hours with radiant hope.  
May every time of encounter move us to awe and fervent worship.  
Lead us in your way everlasting.  
Amen.

\* HYMN #714

*God of the Fertile Fields*

ITALIAN HYMN

The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are arranged in four lines, corresponding to the four voices. The first line of lyrics is: '1 God of the fer - tile fields, shap - er of', '2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in', '3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that', '4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the'. The second line of lyrics is: 'earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your', 'trust from you all that you give; help us in', 'serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our', 'Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our'.

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,  
 love to share, teach us like you to care  
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,  
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - ery land be clothed and fed.  
 for peo - ple ev - ery - where, that all may live.  
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.  
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

Greater awareness has enlarged Christian stewardship to develop new dimensions of concern for people in all parts of the world. Because we believe that it is God's will that the gifts we have received should be shared, this hymn concludes with that phrase from the Lord's Prayer.

TEXT: Georgia Harkness, 1955, alt.  
 MUSIC: Felice de Giardini, 1769, alt.  
 Text © 1955, ren. 1983 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

ITALIAN HYMN  
 6.6.4.6.6.6.4

## \* CALL TO CONFESSION

Lori Lippert

When we run away from our problems,  
 we discover that we cannot run away from ourselves.  
 Yet God is present with us to hear our confession and offer forgiveness.  
 God brings us back to face what we have left behind  
 in order that we may claim the promise of reconciliation and wholeness.  
 Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,  
 followed by time for silent personal confession.  
 Thus, we pray:

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Search us and test us,  
that all wickedness may be purged from us, O Creator.  
Save us from our futile striving after our own advantage.  
Reshape our will to conform with your intentions for us.  
We confess that we have allowed weeds to grow in our lives.  
Our focus has drifted from the harvest you intend  
to the fears and greed that hold us hostage.  
Release us from bondage of decay  
that we may grow in likeness to Jesus Christ.  
We want to bear fruit for you. Turn us to the brightness of a new day.  
*(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

If by the Spirit we put to death the misuse of our bodies, we will live.  
We are set free from bondage of death  
to claim the freedom of the glory of the children of God.  
Live in the hope God offers, waiting with patience for all that God will yet reveal.  
You will shine like the sun in the realm of God,  
who leads us in the way everlasting.  
**Alleluia and Amen!**

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Harper Grace Gibb  
Jessica & Andrew Gibb (Parents)  
Hannah-May Carpenter & Michael Vavruska (Godparents)

Eliza Medie Ferreria  
Joanne Medie & Anthony Ferreria (Parents)  
Felicite Medie, Fleurette Menair, & Sibyl Janssen (Godparents)

\* 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.

We are debtors to God, who has given us the precious gift of life.

We were created of good seed in God's own image  
that we might bear fruit for God's realm.

We have the capacity to dream and envision a better world,  
free of the sin that so often seems to choke out the good.

Through our offerings we give support to our common mission.

The offering will now be received.

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

For the Beauty of the Earth

John Rutter

*For the beauty of the earth, For the beauty of the skies  
For the love which from our birth, Over and around us lies  
Lord of all, to thee we raise, This our joyful hymn of praise*

*For the beauty of the hour, Of the day and of the night  
Hill and vale and tree and flower, Sun and moon and stars of light  
Lord of all, to thee we raise, This our joyful hymn of praise*

*For the joy of human love, Brother, sister, parent, child  
Friends on earth and friends above, For all gentle thoughts and mild  
Lord of all, to thee we raise, This our joyful hymn of praise*

### \* 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

Lori Lippert

Let us join our voices in prayer:

Thank you, God,  
for the rich heritage of faith we have received from our ancestors.  
We are grateful that your Spirit is ever with us,  
assuring us of your acceptance and love.  
May our offerings share this good news with other children of God  
who have not yet discovered their identity.  
May all of us grow in righteousness  
that we might together experience the reality of your realm in our daily lives,  
here and now and for all eternity.  
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 8:12-25 (NRSVUE)

So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! God!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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

**With God's help we are listening.**

### Gospel

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (NRSVUE)

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”



Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams  
"Of Wheat and Weeds"



\* 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.

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 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the  
 2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the  
 3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the



blood of Christ our King; heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing the  
 tomb with Christ our King; one with his ris - ing, freed and for -  
 sign of Christ our King; born of the Spir - it, we are God's



prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.  
 giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.  
 chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.

\* BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

Scatter to serve, listening for God's decision.

Let your faces shine with the good news you have received.

**The Spirit of God will lead us day by day.**

**God claims us and is with us every moment.**

God promises to be with us wherever we go.

We can say, "Surely God is in this place."

**God searches us and knows us.**

**All our thoughts and actions are discerned by God.**

Let us live, then, according to the Spirit.

Let us show forth the first fruits of the Spirit.

**With eager longing, we seek to live in the Spirit.**

**We look up with hope and patience and joy.**

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

*Sevenfold Amen*

Peter Lutkin

POSTLUDE

Psalm XIX

Benedetto Marcello

*"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:**

Bucky Buchanan, Caroline Poirier, Kinza and Maheen, Karen Cogar, Clarence Niles,  
Martha Simons, Marlon, 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 those struggling with illness, convalescing, homebound or in need.

*Names are generally removed after four weeks unless there is a continuing need.*



## @ Old Stone Church

Tuesday July 25 2023 6:30PM

Stated Session Meeting/ZOOM

Wednesday August 2, 2023 6:00PM

Welcome & Fellowship Committee/ZOOM

Sunday August 6, 2023 11:15AM

Mission & Urban Wellness Committee Meeting/Hybrid

# SAVE THE DATE!

## OLD STONE CHURCH PICNIC

\*Sunday, September 10, 2023 2:30-5:30PM

\*North Olmsted Community Cabin

28114 Lorain Road. North Olmsted, Oh 44070

\*Raffle to benefit Compassionate Friends Fund

\*Dinner, Fellowship, Games

\*Bring a Side Dish or Dessert to share

Sign up sheets are located outside of the Chapel  
and at the Public Square entrance.

Thank you to the Old Stone Deacons for organizing the picnic!

## Last Sunday Attendance

In-Person:88

Online:149

## July 23-August 06, 2023

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

Mon Jul 31 Cruise Ship Cleveland

Tue Aug 01 10:00am Team Meeting

Wed Aug 02 Cruise Ship Cleveland

6:00pm Welcome & Fellowship Committee/ZOOM

Sat Aug 05 Cruise Ship Cleveland

Sun Aug 06 Cruise Ship Cleveland

10:00am Worship/Baptism/Communion

11:15am Mission & Urban Wellness Committee Meeting/ Hybrid

1:00pm Guardians/Phillies

There are many ways to support The Old Stone Church

Online Giving: <a href="http://oldstonechurch.org/giving/">oldstonechurch.org/giving/</a>	Mobile Giving: Text the keyword <b>"oldstonecle"</b> 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*

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Website: [www.OldStoneChurch.org](http://www.OldStoneChurch.org) E-Mail: [info@OldStoneChurch.org](mailto: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

Cicely Schonberg, *soprano*

Rayna Brooks, *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 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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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.