



# THE OLD STONE CHURCH

JULY 9, 2023

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10AM Sanctuary Worship

## WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

*Andante*  
Organ Concerto Op. 4 No. 1      George Frideric Handel

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

\* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

INTROIT

*Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled*

Paul K. McKay

Do not let your hearts be troubled, trust in God and trust in me.  
There are many rooms in my Father's house, if there were not, I would have told you.  
I go to prepare a place for you, so that where I am, you may be there too.  
I am the way, the truth and the life.  
No one can come to the Father but through me.  
Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust in me.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Come with joy and gladness to praise and honor God.  
Come to the refreshing waters that God provides.  
**God is gracious and merciful and full of compassion.**  
**All creation joins us in giving thanks.**  
Give ear, all people, to the law of God.  
Give thanks for all the guidance God gives us.  
**God upholds all who are falling.**  
**God raises us up when we are bowed down.**  
Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens.  
Come, for Christ has promised rest.  
**The gentle spirit of Christ invites us.**  
**We have come to find rest for our souls.**

\* INVOCATION PRAYER

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation.  
We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry.  
You understand our weariness.  
Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite.  
We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you.  
The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment  
fills us with renewed joy and gladness.  
We thank you, God, that your revelation comes to us,  
not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word.  
Open our hearts to receive all you offer.  
Amen.



1 I heard the voice of Je-sus say, "Come un-to me and rest;  
2 I heard the voice of Je-sus say, "Be-hold, I free-ly give  
3 I heard the voice of Je-sus say, "I am this dark world's light;  
lay down, O wea-ry one, lay down your head up-on my breast."  
the liv-ing wa-ter, thirst-y one; stoop down and drink and live."  
look un-to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I came to Je-sus as I was, so wea-ry, worn, and sad; I  
I came to Je-sus, and I drank of that life-giv-ing stream; my  
I looked to Je-sus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and  
found in him a rest-ing place, and he has made me glad.  
thirst was quenched, my soul re-vived, and now I live in him.  
in that light of life I'll walk till trav-eling days are done.

Each stanza here pairs an invitation from Jesus with a response from the narrator. These three invitations recall how Jesus welcomed those who were heavy laden (Matthew 11:28), offered living water (John 4:10-14), and identified himself as the light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5).

\* CALL TO CONFESSION

Janie Chambers

We live in a generation of complainers, rich in things but poor in spirit.  
Increasingly isolated in our abundance,  
we have denied the community of mutual caring into which God has called us.  
It is easier for us to find fault with others than to celebrate their goodness.  
Let us seek God's mercy.  
Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,  
followed by time for silent personal confession.  
Thus, we pray:

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we do not understand our own actions.  
We turn away from the good we are intent on doing.  
Yet, we find wisdom in your law.  
We delight in the idea of mutual caring and celebrating life together,  
but we get bogged down in our own concerns.  
We are too busy to seek community  
and too preoccupied to ponder your will for us.  
We go our own way, cutting ourselves off from you and one another.  
O God, help us to put away this sin.  
*(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

God's forgiveness is realized most profoundly  
by those who understand their own emptiness  
and seek the refreshment God alone can provide.  
We are drawn to God and to one another  
by the Eternal Spirit who wills for our unity,  
who offers help with the burdens we carry  
and invites us to find rest for our souls.  
Christ assures us: "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light."  
**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 has greatly blessed us with many kinds of wealth.  
Let our joy and gladness overflow  
as we express gratitude to God with our offerings.  
As we support the ministries of the church,  
let us consider those whose lives are grievously burdened,  
reaching out to them in practical acts of mercy.  
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

Janie Chambers

Let us join our voices in prayer:

With all the gifts of creation, you have blessed us, gracious God.  
We give thanks for all your works.  
Gratitude is our first impulse for giving.  
Accept our grateful hearts, along with our gifts.  
We ask for wisdom as our church  
determines priorities for the use of resources.  
May we be as concerned about outreach and mission  
as we are about programs for ourselves.  
As you are faithful to us, O God, may we be faithful in all things,  
seeking always to live by your gracious will.  
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 7:15-25a (NRSVUE)

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!  
So then, with my mind I am enslaved to the law of God, but with my flesh I am enslaved to the law of sin.

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

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



“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’

Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.”

All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“Shared Burdens”



\* 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.

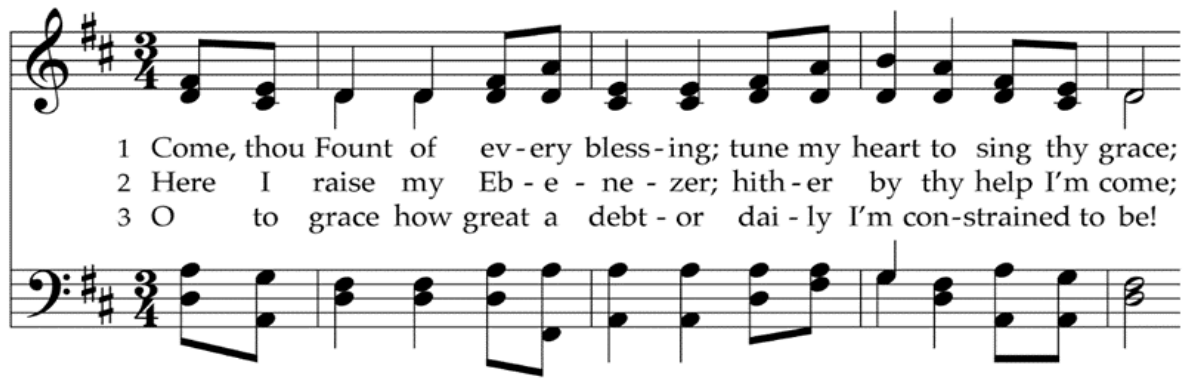
I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

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

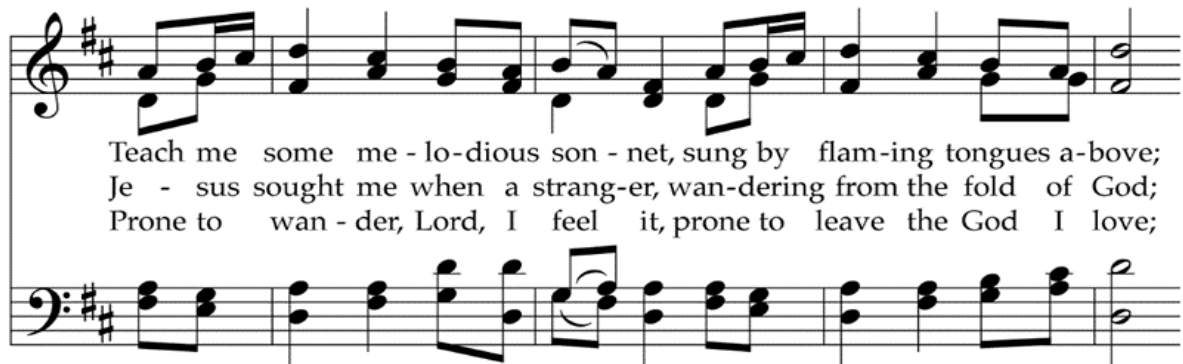




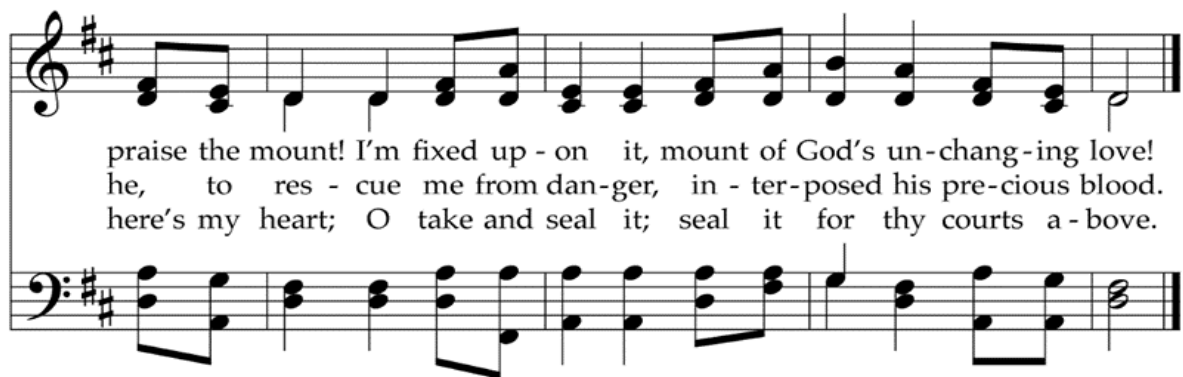
1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
 2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith - er by thy help I'm come;  
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.  
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.  
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;  
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;  
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!  
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.  
 here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, this text is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.

\* BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

Carry with you, in your innermost selves, delight in God's law.

Meditate day by day on God's purpose for your lives.

**We rejoice that God dwells with us every day.**

**We want to know and do God's will for us.**

We encounter God in unexpected places.

God surprises us in the life and witness of people.

**We learn from the youngest in our midst.**

**Simple and humble persons have much to teach us.**

Take Christ's yoke upon you, for that yoke is key.

It imparts confidence that lightens our burdens.

**We will find rest and renewal through Christ.**

**We seek to express the same humility and gentleness.**

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

*Sevenfold Amen*

Peter Lutkin

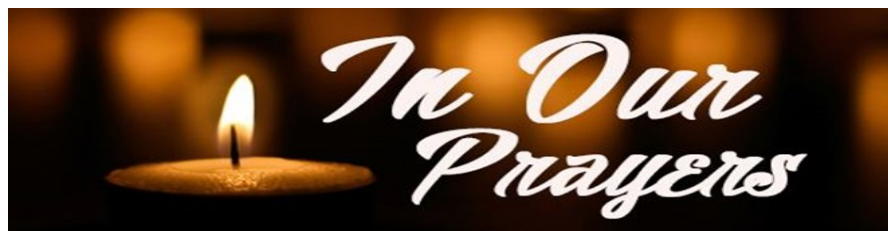
POSTLUDE

*Trumpet Voluntary*  
The Prince of Denmark's March

Jeremiah Clark

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

*Psalms 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,  
the LeBron 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 11 2023 6:00pm  
APNC Meeting/ZOOM

Thursday July 13, 2023 11:00PM  
Worship Committee/ZOOM

Thursday July 20, 2023 7:00PM  
FPS Director's Meeting

### Last Sunday Attendance

In-Person:68

Online:177

### July 9-July 23, 2023

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

2:00pm Worship Committee/ZOOM

Sun Jul 16 10:00am Worship

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: <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

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

Ian Atwood, *tenor*

R. Dominic Aragon, *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.