



# THE OLD STONE CHURCH

AUGUST 13, 2023

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10AM Sanctuary Worship

## WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Suite from "Water Music"  
1. *Allegro Vivace* 2. *Air*

G.F. Handel

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT

*O Come, Ye Servants of the Lord*

Christopher Tye

O come, ye servants of the Lord, and praise his holy name;  
From early morn to setting sun his might on earth proclaim.

His laws are just, and glad the heart; He makes his mercies known:  
Ye princes come, ye people too, and bow before his throne.

\* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Over the wind and waves, Christ comes to us.  
Do not fear to meet Christ here.

**We have heard the invitation.**

**Our hopes have brought us together.**

The storms of life do not have the last word.

Our faith keeps us from sinking.

**Our doubts lead us to greater faith.**

**Our losses open us to greater possibilities.**

Let us call on God's name and give thanks.

Let the hearts of all who seek God rejoice.

**We will sing of God's wonderful works.**

**We will share with others God's marvelous deeds.**

\* INVOCATION PRAYER

We seek your presence, holy God.

Break through all our pretenses

that we might sense the vibrant energy embracing the whole universe

yet know ourselves to be personally loved

within the vast expanse of space and time.

How amazing are all the miracles of life that surround us!

We praise you.

We thank you.

We bow in awe before you.

In this hour, we pray that our faith may be enlivened,  
our trust deepened,

our commitment expanded to meet the challenges of our times.

Amen.

\* HYMN #462

*I Love to Tell the Story*

HANKEY

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,  
2 I love to tell the sto - ry; 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat  
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.  
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!  
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it, like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know 'tis true;  
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard  
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else could do.  
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.  
'twill be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

*Refrain*

I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry

to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

\* CALL TO CONFESSION

Don Urban

We profess our faith in God, yet we rely more heavily on our own ingenuity.  
We say we believe, but our lives seldom show confident trust.  
We want to care as Jesus did, but we're often ready, as were Joseph's brothers,  
to sell off those with whom we disagree.  
Who can save us from ourselves?  
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 confess that we are dreamers  
more intent on our own importance than on your vision for us.  
We like our favored position on this earth,  
and we are jealous of those who have even more than we.  
We want to walk on water before we have even learned  
to stand upright on the land.  
We want to rise above others rather than reaching out with helping hands,  
that all might be uplifted by you.  
We pray for pardon, for greater insight,  
for another chance to live and serve with faithfulness.  
*(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

O you of little faith, why do you doubt?  
Take heart.  
Do not be afraid.  
The harsh winds will abate.  
The seas will not overwhelm.  
The treachery of some will not wipe out the good God intends.  
Everyone who calls on God's name will be saved.  
Remember God's wonderful works and share the good news.  
Let all humankind praise God. Praise God!  
**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*

GREATOR EX

**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.  
Like Joseph, we have been entrusted with our ruler's possessions.  
We are stewards of all that God places in our hands –  
our time, our talents, our accumulated treasures – life itself.  
Our offering is not just about tithes and gifts for the church's mission;  
it is about rededication of all life in Christ's service.  
The offering will now be received.

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*He Never Failed Me Yet*

Robert Ray

I will sing of God's mercy every day, every hour, He gives me power.  
I will sing and give thanks to Thee for all the dangers toils and snares  
that He has brought me out. He is my God, and I'll serve Him no matter what the test.  
Trust and never doubt, Jesus will surely bring you out. He never failed me yet.

I know God is able to deliver in time of storm. I know that He'll keep you safe from all earthly harm.  
One day when my weary soul is at rest, I'm going home to be forever blessed.  
Trust and never doubt, Jesus will surely bring you out. He never failed me yet.

Didn't my God deliver Moses from King Pharaoh?  
And didn't He cool the fiery furnace for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?  
When I think of what my God can do, He delivered Daniel, I know He will deliver you.  
Trust and never doubt, Jesus will surely bring you out. He never failed me yet.

### \* 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

Don Urban

Let us join our voices in prayer:

God, we cannot deceive you with the appearance of generosity.  
You know how we manage the wealth entrusted to our care.  
Help us to know the joy of sharing from the abundance you provide.  
Help us to trust when we feel we do not have enough.  
We give thanks that you enable us to be givers, not just receivers.  
May what we offer here provide a helpful ministry to many.  
May what we offer to our families, friends and co-laborers  
tomorrow also be blessed as ministry.  
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 10:5-15 (First Nations Version)

Here is what the lawgiver Drawn from the Water (Moses) has written down about finding good standing by following the law: "The one who seeks good standing through the law must find it by keeping the law all the days of their life." But here is what is written down for the ones who trust in Creator for their good standing: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will go up into the spirit-world above?'"—to bring the Chosen One down—"or 'Who will go down into the deep dark pit of the world below?'"—to raise the Chosen One up from the dead. But if it does not say that, what does it say to us? It says, "The word is not far away from you. It is in your mouth and in your heart." It is not far away in the spirit-world above or buried in the earth below.

So then, this, is the message of trusting that we speak: if you will lift up your voice and make it known that Creator Sets Free (Jesus) is the Honored Chief over all the earth, and trust in your heart that the Great Spirit has raised him from the dead, you will be set free and made whole. For trusting comes from the heart and leads to good standing. Then the mouth says what the heart believes, which takes us down the path of being set free and made whole.

The Sacred Teachings tell us, "All who trust in him will never be dishonored or put to shame." So it matters not whether one is a Tribal Member or from an Outside Nation, for the same one we call Chief is the Great Spirit of all people. He pours out his treasures on all who call out to him. For "anyone who calls out to our Great Spirit Chief Creator Sets Free (Jesus) will be set free and made whole."

But how can anyone trust in or call out to one they have never heard of. And how can they hear if no one has told them? And how will his message reach their ears if no one is sent? Just as it is written down in the Sacred Teachings, "How beautiful are the feet of the good story bringers, who tell about the good things Creator has done for us through the Chosen One!"

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

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

### Gospel

Matthew 14:22-33 (First Nations Version)

Right away Creator Sets Free (Jesus) had his followers get into the canoe and go ahead of him to the other side of the great lake, while he sent the people back to their homes. After that he went up into the mountainside to be alone while he sent his voice to the Great Spirit. He stayed there and prayed as the sun set and the stars came out.

His followers were still in the canoe, far from land. The wind blew strong against them, and the waves pounded the canoe and began to toss it about.

Late into the night, just before the morning light, Creator Sets Free (Jesus) came near them, walking on the water! When his followers saw him, they cried out in terror, "It is a ghost-spirit!"

But he heard their cries and called out to them, "Do not fear, take heart. It is I."



"Wisdomkeeper, is it you?" Stands on the Rock (Peter) shouted back to him. "If so, tell me now to come to you on the water."

"Come!" he said to him without any hesitation.

With reckless abandon, Stands on the Rock (Peter) climbed over the side of the canoe and began to walk on the water toward him. The wind howled and the waves splashed against him as he made his way toward Creator Sets Free (Jesus). But when he felt how strong the wind was, fear took hold of him. He began to sink and cried out, "Wisdom-keeper, save me!"

Creator Sets Free (Jesus) quickly reached out and took hold of him. "Man of small faith," he said, "what made you hold back and doubt me?"

The wind stopped blowing and the waves grew still as they climbed into the canoe. All twelve of his message bearers gave honor to him, saying, "Truly, you are the Son of the Great Spirit."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

"Let faith grow as doubts are explored."



\* 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 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,  
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,  
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,  
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!  
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;  
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;  
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,  
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,  
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign  
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.  
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.  
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.  
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

It seems odd now to think of singing this text to ADESTE FIDELES, but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against shape note music. The vigor of the present tune seems especially right for the final line's reference to Hebrews 13:5.

\* BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

Go out to share the good news, without favoritism.

Meet both friend and enemy with forgiveness and grace.

**God's word is on our lips and in our hearts.**

**We face a dangerous world with assurance and trust.**

Take heart; do not be afraid.

God is with you wherever you go.

**We are assured of God's presence and protection.**

**We believe God's help is always available.**

Let faith grow as doubts are explored.

Christ invites us to follow new pathways.

**We will listen for Christ's invitation.**

**We will follow where God leads us.**

**Amen.**

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

*Sevenfold Amen*

Peter Lutkin

POSTLUDE

Postlude from "Celtic Suite"

Charles Callahan

*"My flesh and my heart may fail,  
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."  
Psalm 73:26*



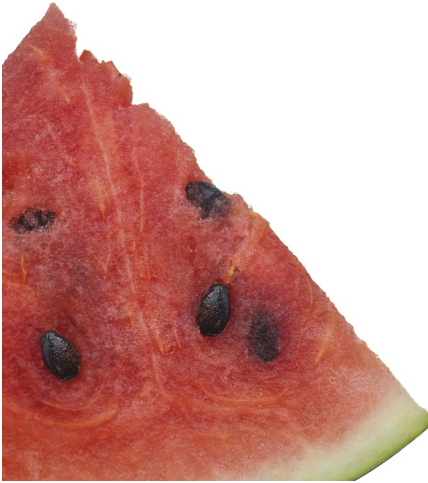
**We continue to keep in our prayers:**

Becky Shipp, Leah Merritt, Orette Ayton, Caroline Poirier, Kinza and Maheen,  
Karen Cogar, Clarence Niles, Martha Simons, Marlon, Brennan, Mary Lou Eisaman,  
Harry Hatters, John Gibbons, Chris Bryan, Joe Geraci, Zach Beaver, Jesse Park,  
Thomas Kilbane, Jean English, Bruce Arnoff, Margaret Bell, Pam Woody

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.*

# SAVE THE DATE!



## OLD STONE CHURCH HOMECOMING 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!



### @ Old Stone Church

Sunday August 13, 2023 11:15AM

Welcoming & Fellowship Committee Meeting/Conference Room

Thursday August 17, 2023 7:00PM

FPS Director's Meeting/Conference Room

Sunday August 20, 2023 11:00AM

Deacon Meeting/Chapel

### Last Sunday Attendance

In-Person:83

Online:191

### August 13-August 20, 2023

Sun Aug 13 All day Cruise Ship Cleveland

10:00am - 11:00am Worship

11:15am - 12:30pm Welcoming & Fellowship Committee Meeting

Mon Aug 14 All day Cruise Ship Cleveland

5:30pm - 7:00pm Park Building HOA Meeting/Memorial Hall

Tue Aug 15 10:00am - 11:30am Team Meeting

Thu Aug 17 All day Cruise Ship Cleveland

7:00pm - 9:00pm FPS Director's Meeting

Fri Aug 18 All day Cruise Ship Cleveland

Sun Aug 20 10:00am - 11:00am Worship

11:00am - 12:00pm Deacon Meeting

1:00pm - 4:00pm Guardians/Tigers

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*

91 Public Square, Cleveland, Ohio 44113-2058

Phone: 216-241-6145 Fax: 216-241-6149

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

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Rayna Brooks *alto*

Frederick Peterbark, *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 Rolén  
Penni Rolén  
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.