



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Lord, Have Mercy

Pepper Choplin

Old Stone Singers – Soloist: Frederick Peterbark, tenor

WELCOME

Elizabeth Buchanan

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Tenisha Gant-Watson

Founder, President & CEO/Jordan CRC

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

Be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands! And serve the Lord with gladness.
Be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands! Come before his presence with a song.

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Call on God with praise and thanksgiving.

Tell of God's wonderful works.

Today we open ourselves to God's presence.

Let the hearts of all who see God rejoice.

When we eat, we are reminded of God's provision.

When we drink pure water, we give thanks.

Surely God has blessed us with food and drink.

Daily we are strengthened for the tasks we face.

We are guided by God's laws and statutes.

We benefit from God's generosity.

Let all the people worship with joy!

Let all who God has chosen sing together!

*** INVOCATION PRAYER**

Glory to your name, holy God.

We rejoice in your wonderful works,

in miracles you have caused among us,

and in the wealth you have entrusted to our stewardship.

You have called us to important work in your vineyard.

Wherever we go, we represent your church and interpret your ways
to those who observe our words and deeds.

Enfold us in your presence and give us strength and courage

to pass on the light you have sent to illuminate our journey through life.

We are eager to be fed by your Word today.

Amen.



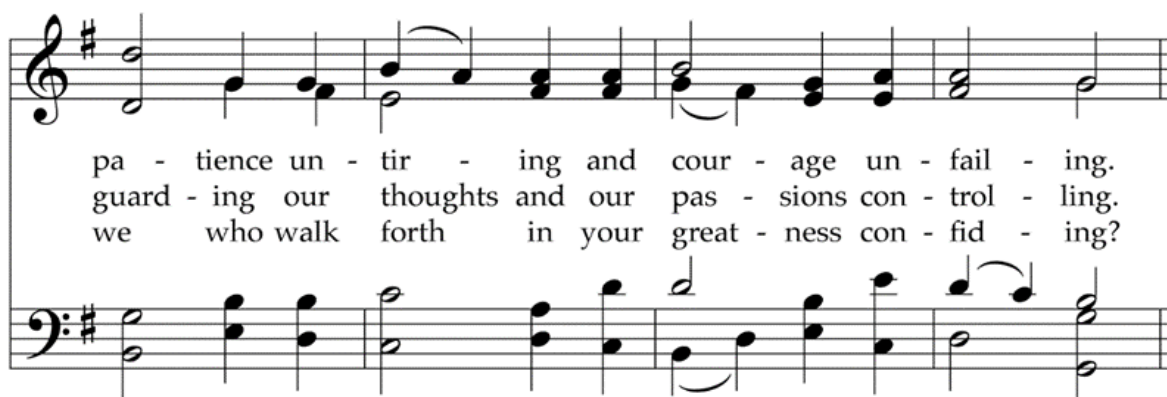
1 God of com - pas - sion, in mer - cy be - friend us,
 2 Though we are lost, you have sought us and found us,
 3 How shall we stray, with your hand to di - rect us,



giv - er of grace for our needs all - a - vail - ing.
 stilled our rude hearts with your word of con - sol - ing.
 you who the stars in their cours - es are guid - ing?



Wis - dom and strength for each day ev - er send us,
 Wrap now your peace, like a man - tle, a - round us,
 What shall we fear, with your power to pro - tect us,



pa - tience un - tir - ing and cour - age un - fail - ing.
 guard - ing our thoughts and our pas - sions con - trol - ling.
 we who walk forth in your great - ness con - fid - ing?

By ending with questions rather than simple affirmations, this text conveys a strong sense of faith in God's presence and guidance without ignoring how much of the future remains unknown. The confidence of the text is well matched by its sturdy 17th-century French tune.

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Bob Heath

Like the Israelites in the wilderness, we have been heard to complain.
God is often blamed for calamities
more than praised for the sustaining presence that works for our good.
It is easier for us to be jealous of others
than to rejoice in the opportunities God gives them.
Surely we need to repent.
Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
followed by time for silent personal confession.
Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we are people of the flesh more than people of the spirit.
Our lives are not worthy of the gospel of Christ.
We admit our resentment when some people we deem unworthy
benefit from your generosity.
We confess our lack of attention to your laws,
your living Word, your prompting Spirit.
You alone are our salvation, our healing, our high opportunity to serve.
We choose to belong to you.
Accept and change us, we pray.
(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 has offered us a presence we have not recognized,
bread we have ignored,
and compassion we have not deserved.
The food from heaven is offered to us daily,
freely given to all who are open to receive it.
Let us rejoice in this moment of God's amazing generosity,
opening our lives to the gifts of God, that we might share them with others.
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

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 provides generously for all of us.
We are blessed with pure water and nourishing food.
We have found joy in the faith that sustains our spirits.
Let us now expand the circle of opportunity as we share what God has promised.
The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

C. H. H. Parry
text: Whittier

Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind; In purer lives, Thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

In Simple trust like theirs who heard, beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord, let us, like them, without a word,
Rise us and follow Thee.

Drop Thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease:
Take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire Thy coolness and Thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still small voice of calm!

* 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

Bob Heath

Let us join our voices in prayer:

Receive our tithes and offerings to your honor and glory, loving God.
May fruitful results occur through and beyond our sharing.
Call us all into the vineyard of meaningful labor and constructive leisure,
that your Word, living through us,
may call our neighbors to joyous reunion with you.
May we help one another to live in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ,
in whose name we pray.
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

Hebrew

Jonah 3:10-4:11 (NRSVUE)

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behavior. And God relented by not inflicting on them the disaster that threatened them.

But Jonah grew indignant and fell into a rage. He prayed to YHWH and said, "Please YHWH! Isn't this exactly what I said would happen, when I was still in my own country? That is why I left and fled to Tarshish: I knew that you were a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness, relenting from violence.

Now, YHWH, please take my life! I would rather be dead than keep on living!"

Then YHWH said, "What gives you the right to be angry?"

Jonah then left the city and sat down to the east of it. There he made a shelter for himself and sat down under the shade to see what would happen to the city. Then YHWH God sent a castor oil plant to grow up over Jonah to shade his head and soothe his indignation. Jonah was delighted with the castor oil plant. But at dawn the next day, God sent a worm to attack the castor oil plant and it withered. And after the sun had risen, God sent a scorching east wind. The sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he was overcome and begging for death, and said, "I would rather be dead than keep on living!"

God said to Jonah, "What gave you the right to be upset about the castor plant?"

He replied, "I have every right to be angry, to the point of death!"

God replied, "You feel sorrow because of a castor plant that cost you no labor, that you did not make grow, that sprouted in a night, and that perished in a night. Is it not right, then, for me to feel sorrow for the great city Nineveh, in which there are more than 120,000 people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, to say nothing of all the animals?"

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

With God's help we are listening.

“The kingdom of heaven is like the owner of an estate who went out at dawn to hire workers for the vineyard. After reaching an agreement with them for the usual daily wage, the owner sent them out to the vineyard.

About mid-morning, the owner came out and saw others standing around the marketplace without work, and said to them, 'You go along to my vineyard and I will pay you whatever is fair.' At that they left.

Around noon and again in the mid-afternoon, the owner came out and did the same. Finally, going out late in the afternoon, the owner found still others standing around and said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?'

'No one has hired us,' they replied.

The owner said, 'You go to my vineyard, too.'

When evening came, the owner said to the overseer, 'Call the workers and give them their pay, but begin with the last group and end with the first.' When those hired late in the afternoon came up, they received a full day's pay, and when the first group appeared they assumed they would get more. Yet they all received the same daily wage.

Thereupon they complained to the owner, 'This last group did only an hour's work, but you've put them on the same basis as those who worked a full day in the scorching heat.'

'My friends,' said the owner to those who voiced this complaint, 'I do you no injustice. You agreed on the usual wage, didn't you? Take your pay and go home. I intend to give this worker who was hired last the same pay as you. I'm free to do as I please with my money, aren't I? Or are you envious because I am generous?'

Thus the last will be first and the first will be last.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Jo Nygard Owens

“I've Got a Big Feeling About This”



* 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 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures

of the sea. There's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice,
of the mind. And the heart of the E-ter-nal

which is more than lib-er-ty. There is no place where earth's
is most won-der-ful-ly kind. If our love were but more

sor-rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's Word, and our lives re-

where earth's fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
flect thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our Lord.

These stanzas, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.

*** BENEDICTION AND BLESSING**

May you know joy and progress in your faith.

May this be a week of spiritual growth for you.

May Christ dwell in us and among us.

May the faith of the gospel empower us.

In all your struggles, know that Christ is with you.

In all your labors, the love of God surrounds you.

Glory be to God's holy name.

Let all who seek God be assured and rejoice.

God surprises us and provides for us.

Trust and give thanks for God's wonderful works.

There is a song on our lips and joy in our hearts.

In Christ our suffering finds meaning.

Amen.

*** CHORAL RESPONSE**

Amen

John Rutter

POSTLUDE

Toccata "Deo Gratias"

Richard Keys Biggs

*"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:

Jenni Plants, Faith Battan, Barney Taxel, Gail Reid, Mark Merritt, Angela Hendricks, Eldora Levert, Melvin, Karen Cogar, Vito Zinerco, Cara Murkins, JoAnn Hood 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.

Today's Guest Preacher

The Rev. Jo Nygard Owens is the founder of Vibrant Church Communications where she creates resources to help make ministry both vibrant and easy for churches. Jo is married to BJ Owens, Dean of Trinity Cathedral, and they have two children, Alex and Graham. She is passionate about integrating spirituality into everyday life, incorporating the arts into worship and formation, and practicing taekwondo.



@ Old Stone Church

Tuesday September 26

6:30pm Session/ZOOM

Saturday September 30

11:00am New Member Retreat/Chapel

Wednesday October 4

6:00pm Welcoming & Fellowship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Saturday October 7

12:00pm Blessing of the Animals/on OSC Front Steps

Sunday October 8

9:00am Fall Food Drive with Greater Cleveland Food Bank

Last Sunday Attendance

In-Person:78

Online:245

Old Stone Church Fall Food Drive

Old Stone Church is pleased to announce the return of our Fall Food Drive with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank on **Sunday, October 8th, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

A list of needed items may be found in the weekly Connexions

Please bring your filled bags to Old Stone Church on Sunday October 8, 2023.

**PLEASE JOIN US ON THE FRONT STEPS
OF OLD STONE CHURCH**

Saturday, October 7, 2023

12:00PM-1:30PM

Blessing of the Animals



Animals should be on leash or in a carrier.

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

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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 Singers

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*

Cicely Schonberg, *soprano*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Ian Atwood, *tenor*

Stephen Brown, *tenor*

Frederick Peterbark, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

Margaret Raupp, *alto*

Elizabeth Rickel, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Christopher Clark, *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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