



# THE OLD STONE CHURCH

OCTOBER 27, 2024  
REFORMATION SUNDAY  
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
**10AM Sanctuary Worship**

## WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE	Michael Crawley <i>Bagpiper</i>	
WELCOME		Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams
INTROIT	<i>Introit for Reformation</i>	Kurt J. Eggert

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.  
Therefore, will we not fear though the earth be removed and though  
The mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.  
God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble.  
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.  
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

\* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

God is gathering us from many different places.  
No one is worthy, but all are invited.

**God lifts us up when we stumble and leads us back.**

**God cares for us amid our pain and losses.**

We are delivered from our fears and saved from trouble.

Happy are those who take refuge in a loving God.

**Our lips pour forth laughter and joyous singing.**

**We join in shouts of praise to God Most High.**

Taste and see how good God is.

Trust in the One who awakens joy in place of tears.

**We will bless our God in all times and places.**

**Let us exalt God's name together!**

\* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**All-powerful God, we invoke your presence among us,  
for we need the knowledge and energy you alone can provide.**

**Your ways are wonderful beyond our understanding.**

**When our strength is spent, our vision clouded, and our hope gone,  
you reach out to us in ways we often fail to discern.**

**We take heart to think that you are calling us to yourself,  
opening our eyes to see your wonders as if for the first time.**

**We want to be a part of your faithful remnant in a world  
that too often loses sight of the holy.**

**Help us, we pray.**

**Amen.**

\* HYMN #275

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

EIN' FESTE BURG



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er  
2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be  
3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -  
4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -

fail - ing. Our help - er he, a - mid the flood of  
 los - ing, were not the right man on our side, the  
 do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his  
 bid - eth. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours through

mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe doth  
 man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ  
 truth to tri - umph through us. The Prince of Dark - ness grim, we  
 him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go, this

seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and  
 Je - sus, it is he. Lord Sab - a - oth his name, from  
 trem - ble not for him. His rage we can en - dure, for  
 mor - tal life al - so. The bod - y they may kill; God's

armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.  
 age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.  
 lo, his doom is sure. One lit - tle word shall fell him.  
 truth a - bid - eth still. His king - dom is for - ev - er.

\* CALL TO CONFESSION

Kristy Sawicki

We who are called to be a servant people  
 have often forgotten what it means to sacrifice ourselves for others.  
 Success becomes more attractive than service,  
 and so we focus on getting ahead,  
 which often means leaving behind those who cannot keep up.  
 This is a time to confess selfish motives and hurtful actions.  
 Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,  
 followed by time for silent personal confession.  
 Thus, we pray together:

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We confess, O God,  
that our lives have made of you a distant deity.  
We listen to what others say about you,  
but we have seldom glimpsed for ourselves who you are.  
We are dominated by our doubts instead of by our practice of prayer.  
We are not ready to repent in dust and ashes,  
but we do ask for mercy as we face up to sins  
we have not recognized and wrongdoing we have tried to ignore.  
Instill in us a new appreciation of righteousness  
and help us to grow in the way you would have us go.**  
*(moment of silent confession)*

\* KYRIE ELEISON #578                      *O Lord, Have Mercy*                      ORÉ PORIAJÚ VEREKÓ  
**O Lord, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy,  
have mercy on us.  
O Christ, have mercy; O Christ, have mercy; O Christ, have mercy,  
have mercy on us.**

\* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Our God who has reached out to us in love,  
welcomes even our timid answers.  
God is most generous in blessing us  
and lifting us beyond our losses and our fears.  
In Christ, we are linked with God's saving grace for all time and eternity.  
Let us praise God, recognizing that faith has power to heal.  
**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 #582                      *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*                      GLORY TO GOD

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son,  
Whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose live has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

## OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.  
Our offerings are to magnify God's name  
and to express our deep sense of thanksgiving.  
They are also an expression of empathy and concern  
for sisters and brothers who struggle to find life.  
Giving reorients our lives to what is of lasting value and importance.  
Let us give as we are able with joy!  
The offering will now be received.

## OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM                      *To the Lamb on the Throne*                      Dan Forrest

Ye Servants of God, your master proclaim, and publish abroad his wonderful name;  
the name all victorious of Jesus extol; His kingdom is glorious and rules over all.  
“Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!” let all cry aloud, and honor the Son;  
    The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
    fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.  
God rules in the height, almighty to save; though hid from our sight,  
His presence we have, the great congregation His triumph shall sing,  
    Ascribing salvation to Jesus our King. “Worthy the Lamb.”  
Then let us adore and give Him His right, all glory and power all wisdom and might;  
All honor and blessing with angels above, and thanks never ceasing and infinite love.

\* 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

Kristy Sawicki

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**Hear our prayer for all who may be helped by what we give.  
We offer more than money; we offer ourselves.  
May the sympathy and comfort we share with people in need  
serve to draw them closer to you.  
Keep us strong, that this church may give radiant witness to truth,  
constructive opposition to evil, and merciful redemption  
to those caught up in the wickedness of our times.  
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 light,  
let your Holy Spirit come into our darkness  
and open our hearts,  
that your word may show us  
the blessings you intend for all creation.  
Amen.**

## THE READINGS

Epistle

Hebrews 7:23-28 (Inclusive Bible)

There's another difference: there were so many priests in the old Covenant because death prevented them from continuing their work. But Christ lives on forever, and Christ's work as priest doesn't pass on to someone else. And so Christ is able, now and always, to save those who come to God through Christ, because Christ lives forever to plead to God for them.

God ordained that we should have such a high priest—one who is holy, who has no fault or sin, who has been set apart from sinners, and raised above the heavens. Jesus is not like other high priests and doesn't need to offer sacrifices every day, first for personal sins and then for the sins of the people.

Christ's self-sacrifice was offered once and for all. For the Law appoints as high priests people who are weak; but God's sworn promise, which came later than the Law, appoints the Only Begotten, who has been made perfect forever.

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

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

They came to Jericho. As Jesus was leaving Jericho with the disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus ben-Timaeus, was sitting by the side of the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and to say, "Heir of David, Jesus, have pity on me!" Many people scolded him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the louder, "Heir of David, have pity on me!" Jesus stopped and said, "Call him here." So they called the blind man. "Don't be afraid," they said. "Get up, Jesus is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, Bartimaeus jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus said, "What do you want me to do for you?" "Rabbuni," the blind man said, "I want to see." Jesus replied, "Go; your faith has saved you." And immediately Bartimaeus received the gift of sight and began to follow Jesus along the road.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams  
"Change For God's Sake"

**RE•FORMATION**  
**THEN • NOW • ALWAYS**



## A LITANY FOR REFORMATION SUNDAY

*This litany for Reformation Sunday is composed of excerpts from the Creeds, Catechisms, and Confessions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).*

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church,

**the holy catholic Church;**

**the communion of saints.**

*Nicene Creed*

*Apostles' Creed*

This Kirk is catholic, that is, universal,  
because it contains the chosen of all ages,  
of all realms, nations, and tongues,  
be they of the Jews or be they of the Gentiles,  
who have communion and society with God the Father,  
and with the Son, Christ Jesus,  
through the sanctification of the Holy Spirit.

*Scots Confession*

**We believe that,**

**from the beginning to the end of the world,**

**and from among the whole human race,**

**the Son of God, by his Spirit and his Word,**

**gathers, protects, and preserves for himself,**

**in the unity of the true faith,**

**a congregation chosen for eternal life.**

*Heidelberg Catechism*

The Church is an assembly of the faithful  
called or gathered out of the world;  
a communion of all saints,  
namely, of those who truly know  
and rightly worship and serve  
the true God in Christ the Savior,  
by the Word and Holy Spirit,  
and who by faith are partakers in all the benefits  
which are freely offered through Christ.

*Second Helvetic Confession*

**The visible Church,**

**which is also catholic or universal under the gospel,**

**consists of all those throughout the world**

**that profess the true religion,**

**together with their children;**

**and is the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ;**

**the house and family of God.**

*Westminster Confession of Faith*



The visible church has the privilege  
of being under God's special care and government;  
of being protected and preserved in all ages,  
notwithstanding the opposition of all enemies;  
and of enjoying the communion of saints,  
the ordinary means of salvation,  
and offers of grace by Christ, to all members of it,  
in the ministry of the gospel,  
testifying that whosoever believes in him shall be saved,  
and excluding none that will come unto him.

*Larger Catechism*

**The church's commission,  
upon which its freedom is founded,  
consists in delivering the message  
of the free grace of God  
to all people in Christ's stead,  
and therefore in the ministry  
of his own Word and work  
through sermon and Sacrament.**

*Theological Declaration of Barmen*

The church confesses its faith  
when it bears a present witness  
to God's grace in Jesus Christ.  
The life, death, resurrection,  
and promised coming of Jesus Christ  
has set the pattern for the church's mission.  
The church follows this pattern  
in the form of its life  
and in the method of its action.  
So to live and serve  
is to confess Christ as Lord.

*Confession of 1967*

**With believers in every time and place  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

*Brief Statement of Faith*

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.**

\* HYMN #643

*Now Thank We All Our God* NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT



1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,  
2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
3 All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,



who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;  
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:



who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way  
and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,



with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.  
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.  
the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

\* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Take heart; your faith is making you well.

You will know wholeness and peace beyond your suffering.

**We have witnessed miracles of transformation.**

**Christ grants insight and deep inner healing.**

You are chosen as disciples and apostles of good news.

You have gathered to learn; now go out to witness.

**It is hard to share good news that people resist.**

**We fear we do not know enough to defend our views.**

God needs no defense from us but welcomes our thanks.

We can tell others about our own journey with God.

**Our gladness and our humility are genuine.**

**We pray that God will work in and through us.**

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

*Sevenfold Amen*

Peter C. Lutkin

POSTLUDE

*Highland Cathedral*

Ulrich Pöever/  
Michael Korb

Michael Crawley  
*Bagpiper*

*“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:**

Clayton Rohrer, Shirley Daly, Barbara Haynes, Hannah Reid, Joe Geraci,  
Kimberly Williams, Amy Wheeler, Michael Rekoric, Sunny Kunche, Madison,  
Emily Jones, Syam Kowshik, Nadiya and Yulia Ivajenko, Annabelle,  
Cathy Clegg, Thomas L. Azare, Brian and Marissa Kellums,  
Stephanie Webb and family, Matt Spevak and family, Ruth Fawcett 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.*

There are many ways to support The Old Stone Church

<p>Online Giving:  <a href="http://oldstonechurch.org/giving/">oldstonechurch.org/giving/</a></p>	<p>Mobile Giving:          Text the keyword “oldstonecle” to 73256</p>
<p>Mail to:          Old Stone Church          Attn: Financial Office          91 Public Square          Cleveland, OH 44113</p>	<p>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.</p>

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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**Senior Pastor:** Rev. Stephen C. Blonder Adams

**Parish Associate:** Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

**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*

Samuel Jungman, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

Elizabeth Rickel, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Christopher Clark, *bass*

Albert Donze, *bass*

**Church Elders:**

Clerk of Session: Beth Buchanan

Class of 2024  
 Michelle Baron  
 Janie Chambers  
 Fred Heider  
 Bernard Medie  
 Bob Reid

Class of 2025  
 Dorothy Baunach  
 Willie Brown  
 David Eifert  
 Dave Finley  
 Robert Hubert Jr.

Class of 2026  
 Beth Buchanan  
 Judy Macuga  
 Melissa Maffia  
 Harriet Niles  
 Marty Vassel

**Church Deacons:**

Class of 2024  
 Anand Bandari  
 Bernie Bischel  
 Amy Wheeler  
 John Wheeler

Class of 2025  
 Valorie Hempstead  
 Eileen Kelly  
 Elie Medie  
 Mark Pichler

Class of 2026  
 Mark Corey  
 Forrest Diehl  
 Pam Daly  
 Ruth Finley  
 Alyssa Niepokny  
 Charlene Thornton

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