



# THE OLD STONE CHURCH

MAY 12, 2024  
ASCENSION SUNDAY  
RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

**10AM Sanctuary Worship**

## WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

*Come Away to the Skies*

Wilbur Held

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Pam Hardy

\* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

## INTROIT

*The God of Heaven*

Michael Perry

The God of heaven thunders, whose voice in strident echoes  
resounds above the waters, and all the world sings, "Glory, glory, glory!"

The desert writhes in tempest; wind whips the trees to fury;  
the lightning splits the forest and flame diffuses glory, glory, glory!

The mighty God eternal is to the throne ascended,  
and we who are God's people, within these walls cry, "Glory, glory, glory!"

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Come together expecting great things.  
Wait for the promises of God.

**Is this the time when God will come to reign?**

**Will we receive power and authority?**

In God's time, the Holy Spirit will come to you.

You will be empowered as faithful witnesses.

**We are here to learn about all that Jesus did.**

**We are ready to listen to all that Jesus taught.**

Clap your hands, all you peoples;

Sing praises to God, sing praises.

**God is ruler over all the earth.**

**We seek to experience God's rule in our lives.**

## \* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**Appear to us again, risen Savior, for we have lost sight of you.**

**We have come to find you here**

**so we may recognize you among all who suffer.**

**We seek wisdom and revelation to cope with the confusion**

**we face every day amid competing claims.**

**We are here to remember the authority with which you spoke**

**so we may walk amid the rulers of our day, speaking in Christ's name.**

**We who seek to be your body, the church,**

**need the eyes of our hearts enlightened**

**so we may once more embrace hope and know your joy.**

**Amen.**

## \* HYMN #258

*A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!*

DEO GRACIAS

1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New songs through-  
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the  
 3 To all, the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and  
 4 "You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the  
 5 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to

out the world shall ring: Christ, by a road be -  
 Mount of Ol - ives stand, and with his fol - low -  
 gaze up - on the sky? This is the Sav - ior!"  
 por - tals of the sky. Here - af - ter you shall  
 you let earth ac - cord. You are, while end - less

fore un - trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.  
 ers they see their Lord as - cend in maj - es - ty.  
 thus they say; "This is his glo - rious tri - umph - day."  
 Je - sus see re - turn - ing in great maj - es - ty."  
 a - ges run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.

These stanzas have been crafted from various English translations of a much longer Latin hymn preserved in an 11th-century manuscript in the British Museum. This text celebrating Christ's majesty is well set to a 15th-century English tune commemorating a military victory.

TEXT: The Venerable Bede, 7th–8th cent.; trans. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978, alt. DEO GRACIAS  
 MUSIC: "The Agincourt Song," c. 1415; harm. Alfred V. Fedak, 2012 LM  
 Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship (admin. Augsburg Fortress) (alternate tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN with "Alleluias," 15)  
 Music Harm. © 2012 Alfred V. Fedak (alternate harmonization, 189)

\* CALL TO CONFESSION

Pete Maffia

If the people of Galilee spent too much time looking up toward heaven,  
 perhaps our problem is that we spend too little.  
 In our busyness, we do not examine our busyness.  
 Are we about God's business?  
 Are we on a spiritual quest in the midst of all our doing?  
 Let us confess the way things are between ourselves and God.  
 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

**O God it is hard for us to wait for anything.  
We want instant answers and immediate gratification of our desires.  
We are more acquisitive than grateful.  
We forget the amazing riches of your gifts to us and only want more.  
We don't take time simply to enjoy being in your presence,  
singing your praises, delighting in your love.  
Forgive us for our arrogant, selfish pride and our neglect of values  
and relationships that would supply all we really need.**  
*(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

Forgiveness is yours to receive and to proclaim to all nations.  
The power of God at work in Christ, is offered to us:  
the power of love to make a difference among us.  
Let us give thanks that we are restored  
as sons and daughters of the Living God  
who promises to us the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

**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.  
We are called as witnesses to God's love for us in Jesus Christ,  
to the ends of the earth.  
Our glorious inheritance is meant to be shared  
with brothers and sisters in our community and throughout the world.  
May our generous gifts praise God  
and give radiant testimony to the faith we share.  
The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Jubilant Praise*

Mark Hayes

Lord of life and Lord of love, blessed spirit that comes from above,  
source of our music and infinite song, all of our praise to thee belong.  
O may we lift our hearts to thee, joined with our voices in harmony.  
Echoing ever jubilant praise, age to age, alleluia!  
All of our praise to thee belong.

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen**

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**May our offerings leave no doubt  
that you are head of our church and the inspiration for our lives.  
Empower our ministries with the fullness of Christ  
that we may be inclusive in our outreach  
and effective as teachers and healers.  
Help us to find joy in our praying and in our serving.  
For these purposes and to the glory of your name,  
we dedicate our money and our lives.  
Amen.**

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

**Enlighten the eyes of our hearts, O God,  
and grant us a spirit of wisdom and revelation  
through the reading of this, your Word. Amen.**

### THE READINGS

Epistle

Ephesians 1:15-23 (Inclusive Bible)

From the first time I heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all the holy ones, I have never stopped thanking God for you and remembering you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Savior Jesus Christ, the God of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation, to bring you to a rich knowledge of the Creator. I pray that God will enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see the hope that this call holds for you—the promised glories that God's holy ones will inherit, and the infinitely great power that is exercised for us who believe. You can tell this from the strength of God's power at work in Jesus, the power used to raise Christ from the dead and to seat Christ in heaven at God's right hand, far above every sovereignty, authority, power or dominion, and above any other name that can be named—not only in this age, but also in the age to come. God has put all things under Christ's feet and made Christ, as the ruler of everything, the head of the church, and the church is Christ's body; it's the fullness of the One who fills all creation.

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

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

Gospel

Luke 24:44-53 (Inclusive Bible)

Then Jesus said to them, “Remember the words I spoke when I was still with you: everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms had to be fulfilled.” Then Jesus opened their minds to the understanding of the scriptures, saying, “That is why the scriptures say that the Messiah must suffer and rise from the dead on the third day. In the Messiah’s name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of all this. Take note: I am sending forth what Abba God has promised to you. Remain here in the city until you are clothed with the power from on high.” Then Jesus took them to the outskirts of Bethany, and with upraised hands, blessed the disciples. While blessing them, the Savior left them and was carried up to heaven. The disciples worshiped the risen Christ and returned to Jerusalem full of joy, They were found in the temple constantly, speaking the praises of God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“A Mystical Faith”



## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

On behalf of the session,  
I present Kristy Sawicki, Ted Sawicki, Peggie Willett, and Stephen Willett,  
who have been received into the membership of this congregation  
by reaffirmation of faith.

In baptism you were claimed by God,  
marked as Christ's own forever,  
and joined to his body by the Holy Spirit.  
You come to us then, not as strangers,  
but as friends in Christ and members of the household of God.  
We rejoice that you now desire to join with this congregation  
in the worship and mission of the church.

Hear these words from scripture:

There is one body and one Spirit,  
just as you were called to the one hope of your calling,

**one Lord, one faith, one baptism,  
one God and Father of all,  
who is above all and through all and in all.**

As members of the body of Christ, let us reaffirm the faith  
into which we were baptized:

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

Kristy, Ted, Peggie, and Stephen,  
we have professed our faith as one body.  
Will you be a faithful member of this congregation,  
share in its worship and mission  
through your prayers and gifts,  
your study and service,  
and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

**I will, with God's help.**

Holy God,  
thank you for calling us to be your people  
and joining us to Christ's body, the church.  
We praise you for leading Kristy, Ted, Peggie, and Stephen  
to this congregation.

Empower us by your Spirit,  
that we might love one another as Christ loved us,  
honoring him in all that we say and do,  
giving our lives in service to others,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Kristy, Ted, Peggie, and Stephen,  
remember your baptism and be thankful,  
and know that the Holy Spirit is at work within you.

**Thanks be to God.**

Welcome to this ministry that we share in Jesus Christ.

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 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -  
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es  
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his  
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - oners  
 5 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring hon - ors pe -



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from  
 thron'g to crown his head; his name, like sweet per -  
 love with sweet - est song, and in - fant voic - es  
 leap to loose their chains; the wea - ry find e -  
 cu - liar to our King; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
 fume, shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.  
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.  
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud A - men!

This hymn is a classic example of how Isaac Watts Christianized the Psalms, in this case Psalm 72:5-19, by turning their messianic language to New Testament equivalents. The tune was at first nameless and anonymous, but is now called by the address of the supposed composer.

\* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Return to your homes with great joy.  
Look around you to see how God is blessing you.

**God has opened our minds to understand the scriptures.  
We are surrounded with evidence of God's care.**

Delight in God's revelation and wisdom.  
Embrace the hope to which you have been called.

**We have been baptized by the Holy Spirit.  
We are empowered to be Christ's disciples.**

Clap your hands and sing your praises.  
Let your spirits be lifted up with rejoicing.

**We are witnesses to God's presence with us.  
God is with us when we are together and when we part.**

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

*Amen*

John Rutter

POSTLUDE

Fanfare on "Ein Feste Burg"

James Pethel

*"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:**

Regis Bookshar, Kathleen, Frank Macuga, Lee Rutti, Joe Geraci,  
Laurie Thomson, Katherine Gilmore Maynard, Diane Priscilla, Sharon Steranko,  
Aaron Beard, Conor, Ray Alford, JoAnn Hood

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.*



Please join us for Communion following the service this morning  
in the Chapel.

Wednesdays at 12:15 PM please join us in the Sanctuary for a  
Mid-Week Communion Service.

## National Mental Health Awareness Month

The Mission and Urban Wellness Committee will present a Minute for Mission each Sunday in May. Old Stone Church is proud to support NAMI in their mission of mental health awareness.

### Celebrity Chef with Rocco Whalen Returns to Old Stone Church

**Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4 p.m.**

Fahrenheit's Rocco Whalen, will be presenting a signature dish of seared spicy scallops with summer cucumber salad, citrus relish, and arugula. Wine will be offered. This special ticketed event starts at 4 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Admission is \$20, scholarships are available. To reserve your tickets, please email our Welcoming & Fellowship Committee member Pam Daly. [pjdaly@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pjdaly@sbcglobal.net)

### @ Old Stone Church

#### Sunday May 12/ Ascension Sunday/Reception of New Members

**10:00AM** Worship/Sanctuary

**11:15AM** Communion/Chapel

#### Wednesday May 15

**12:15PM** Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

#### Thursday May 16

**7:00PM** FPS Directors Meeting/Conference Room

#### Sunday May 19/ Day of Pentecost/ Marathon Sunday

**10:00AM** Worship with Communion/Sanctuary

**1:10PM** Guardians-Twins

#### Monday May 20

**6:30PM** Stated Meeting of the PWR/ZOOM

#### Wednesday May 22

**12:15PM** Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

#### Sunday May 26/ Trinity Sunday

**10:00AM** Worship/Sanctuary

**11:15AM** Communion/Chapel

#### Monday May 27/ Memorial Day

**Building and Offices Closed**

#### Tuesday May 28

**6:30PM** Stated Session Meeting/ZOOM

#### Wednesday May 29

**12:15PM** Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

#### Saturday June 1/ Pride in CLE

**9:00AM** Open Doors

#### Sunday June 2/ Pride Sunday/ Communion

**10:00AM** Worship/ Sanctuary

**11:15AM** Mission and Urban Wellness Committee Meeting/  
Cuyahoga Room/Second Floor

**11:30AM** Deacons Meeting/Conference Room/First Floor

**1:10PM** Guardians-Nationals

**4:00PM** Celebrity Chef Rocco Whalen/Memorial Hall



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*

91 Public Square, Cleveland, Ohio 44113-2058

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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

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

**Minister of Music:** David L. Dettloff

**The Old Stone Singers**

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*

Ian Atwood, *tenor*

Cicely Schonberg, *soprano*

Stephen Brown, *tenor*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Frederick Peterbark, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Margaret Raupp, *alto*

Christopher Clark, *bass*

Elizabeth Rickel, *alto*

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

Scott Bailey  
 Anand Bandari  
 Bernie Bischel  
 Carol Hoagland  
 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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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.