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!

1 A hymn of glory let us sing! New songs through-
2 The holy apostolic band upon the
3 To all, the shining angels cry, "Why stand and
4 "You see him now, ascending high up to the
5 Or risen Christ, ascended Lord, all praise to

DEO GRACIAS

2 Hearing loop installed. Switch hearing aid to T-coil
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, 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.
* DOXOLOGY #607

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

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.

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE

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.
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

“A Mystical Faith”
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.
* HYMN #265

Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun

1 Jesus shall reign where’er the sun does its su-
cesses journeys run; his kingdom stretch from
shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume, shall rise with every morning sacrifice.
shall proclaim their early blessings on his name.
ter nal rest, and all who suffer want are blest.
songs again, and earth repeat the loud Amen!

2 To him shall endless prayer be made, and prais-
gress from throng to crown his head; his name, like sweet per-
ship pro claim their early blessing on his name.

3 People and realms of every tongue dwell on his
love with sweet est song, and infant voices
shall proclaim their early blessing on his name.

4 Blessings abound where’er he reigns: the pris-
leap to loose their chains; the weary find e-
ternal rest, and all who suffer want are blest.
songs again, and earth repeat the loud Amen!

5 Let every creature rise and bring honors pe-
cular to our King; angels descend with
shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.

DUKE STREET

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.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.
MUSIC: Attr. John Hatton, c. 1793

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* 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\textsuperscript{nd} 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

@ 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

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<th>Online Giving:</th>
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<tr>
<td>oldstonechurch.org/giving/</td>
<td>Text the keyword “oldstonecle” to 73256</td>
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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.

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**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  **E-Mail:** 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

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**The Old Stone Singers**

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*  
Cicely Schonberg, *soprano*  
Val Sibila, *soprano*  
Rayna Brooks, *alto*  
Margaret Raupp, *alto*  
Elizabeth Rickel, *alto*

Ian Atwood, *tenor*  
Stephen Brown, *tenor*  
Frederick Peterbark, *tenor*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*  
Christopher Clark, *bass*  
Albert Donze, *bass*

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**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  
David Finley  
Robert Hubert Jr.

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

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**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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