

THE OLD STONE CHURCH

JUNE 16, 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Love Lifted Me

Howard E. Smith
Frederick Peterbark, *tenor*

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

INTROIT

Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing

Gordon Young

Now let us all praise God and sing our great Redeemer's praise;
that we may all with one accord our joyful voices raise. Sing Alleluia!
All ye servant of the Lord, praise Him forever, sing Jehovah's mighty power,
praise Him forever. Sing of His righteousness, praise Him forever.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

It is good to give thanks to God!

Come to make music to our Creator.

God knows our troubles and remembers our need.

Our petitions are answered and our hearts' desires fulfilled.

Declare God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

Seek God's help in the sanctuary.

We know that God will help the anointed ones.

Our pride is in God alone.

Listen for the voice of God, speaking to us again.

How great is our God, our rock and defender!

God will respond when we call.

We will bear fruit for God as long as life endures.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

We turn to you, God of all worlds,

knowing we can depend on you when earthly rulers stumble and fall,

when other relationships are strained and broken,

when we are faced with difficult challenges.

It is good to sing your praises, even when we do not feel like singing.

It is good to declare your faithfulness when we have been faithful.

It is good to give thanks, for when we do,

we are reminded of the multitude of blessings

we so often take for granted.

Lead us in this time of worship.

Amen.

* HYMN #714

God of the Fertile Fields

ITALIAN HYMN

1 God of the fer - tile fields, shap - er of
2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
trust from you all that you give; help us in
serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
love to share, teach us like you to care,
toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - ery land be clothed and fed.
for peo - ple ev - ery - where, that all may live.
no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

Greater awareness has enlarged Christian stewardship to develop new dimensions of concern for people in all parts of the world. Because we believe that it is God's will that the gifts we have received should be shared, this hymn concludes with that phrase from the Lord's Prayer.

TEXT: Georgia Harkness, 1955, alt.
MUSIC: Felice de Giardini, 1769, alt.
Text © 1955, ren. 1983 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

ITALIAN HYMN
6.6.4.6.6.6.4

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Don Urban

Each of us has a mandate from God
to give our best and bear fruit for God's realm.
We who gather in God's house are called to be a faithful community
in which all bow humbly before God, motivated by the love of Christ.
This is a time to examine ourselves before our Creator.
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

**God of all truth, who can stand before you?
We judge by outward appearances, but you examine our hearts.
We see what is on the surface, but you discern beauty deep within.
We measure importance by paychecks,
but you find value among those we deem lowly and insignificant.
You offer us the deep and profound joy of living in your realm.
We forget your promises and turn to pursuits
that separate us from you and destroy community.
We seek forgiveness and a new direction for our lives.**

(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

All of us must stand before the judgment seat of Christ, today and every day.
When we come with true penitence, we can win a victory over sin.
Christ died for us, that we might no longer live only for ourselves.
In Christ, we no longer regard others from a human point of view.
We are a new creation.
The old has passed away; the new has come.
We can live confidently, urged on by the love of Christ, to joyous, daring service.
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 remembers our offerings of genuine thankfulness
and regards with favor the sacrifices we make to extend God's realm.
We give, not out of compulsion, but with joy.
Whatever our age or circumstances, we have something to give.
Let us give thanks as we present our tithes and offerings.
The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Ave Verum

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Ave, verum corpus
natum de Maria Virgine,
Vere passum immolatum
In cruce pro homine,
Cujus latus perforatum
Vero fluxit sanguine,
Esto nobis praegustatum
in mortis examine.

Hail, true body
born of the Virgin Mary,
Who truly suffered, sacrificed
on the Cross for man,
Whose pierced side overflowed
with water and blood,
Be for us a foretaste
In the test of death.

* 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:

**All that we have is yours, O God.
What we present for the church's use is no sacrifice.
We are privileged to share good news in word and deed.
May our common ministry be extended
by the time and talents and treasure we invest.
We would no longer live just for ourselves
but for the realization of your reign among us.
Let all things become new as we give our best.
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

**Holy Spirit, by your mysterious power
speak to us your truth and show us your wisdom,
that we may know you more deeply,
enable us to love,
and serve you more faithfully,
for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE READINGS

Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:6-17 (The Inclusive Bible)

And so we are always full of confidence, even though we realize that to live in the body means to be absent from Jesus Christ. We walk by faith, not by sight. We are full of confidence, I repeat, and would actually prefer to be absent from the body and make our home with Christ. Whether we are living in the body or absent from it, we are intent on pleasing Christ. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, and each of us will get what we deserve for the things we do while in the body, good or bad.

It is because we know "the fear of God" that we try to persuade others. What we really are is plain to God, and I hope that it is also plain to your conscience. No, we are not attempting to commend ourselves to you once again. We are just giving you a reason to be proud of us. In that way you will have an answer for those who boast of what is seen, rather than what is in the heart. If we are beside ourselves, it is for the sake of God. If we are in our right minds, it is for you.

The love of Christ overwhelms us whenever we reflect on this: that is one person has died for all, then all have died. The reason Christ died for all, was so that the living should no longer live for themselves but for Christ, who died and was raised to life for them.

And so from now on, we don't look upon anyone in terms of mere human judgment. Even if we did once regard Christ in these terms, that is not how we know Christ now. And for anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old order has passed away; now everything is new!

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

With God's help we are listening.

Jesus said further, “The reign of God is like this: a sower scatters seed on the ground, then goes to bed at night and gets up day after day. Through it all the seed sprouts and grows, without the sower knowing how it happens. The soil produces a crop by itself—first the blade, then the ear, than finally the ripe wheat in the ear. When the crop is ready, the sower wields the sickle, for the time is ripe for the harvest.”

Jesus went on to say, “What comparison can we use for the reign of God? What image will help to present it? It is like a mustard seed which people plant in the soil: it is the smallest of all the earth’s seeds, yet once it is sown, it springs up to become the largest of shrubs, with branches big enough for the birds of the sky to build nests in its shade.”

Using many parables as these, Jesus spoke the message to them, as much as they could understand. Everything was spoken in parables, but Jesus explained everything to the disciples later when they were alone.

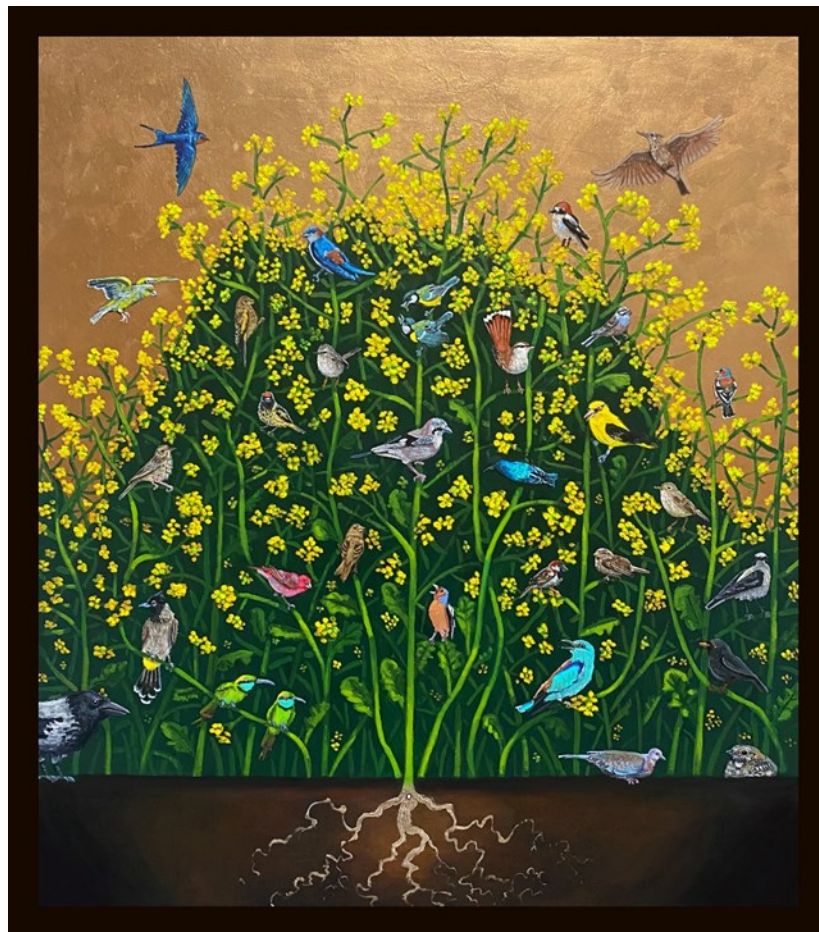
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“A New Creation”



AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**This is the good news
which we have received,
in which we stand,
and by which we are saved,
if we hold it fast:**

**that Christ died for our sins
according to the scriptures,
that he was buried,
that he was raised on the third day,
and that he appeared
first to the women,
then to Peter, and to the Twelve,
and then to many faithful witnesses.
We believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of the living God.**

**Jesus Christ is the first and the last,
the beginning and the end;
he is our Lord and our God.**

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.

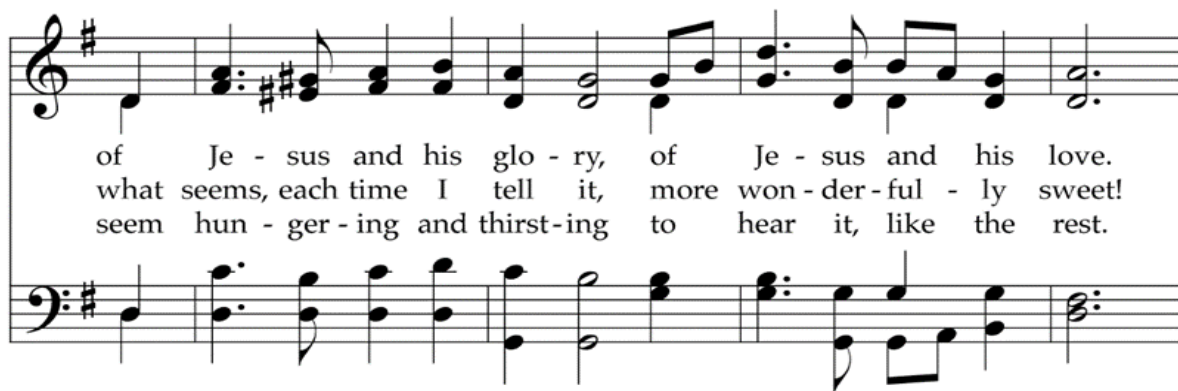
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

* 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.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Share your mustard-seed faith with the world.
God will make of it more than you can imagine.

We will dare to speak of God's love.

We will seek to live out the love of Christ.

In Christ, we are a new creation.

Our dried-up faith has received new life.

The mighty have been toppled from power.

The humble and lowly have been lifted up.

Walk by faith, not by sight.

God will add to your understanding day by day.

We will seek to view others as God sees them.

We will claim them as sisters and brothers.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Sevenfold Amen

Peter C. Lutkin

POSTLUDE

Amazing Grace

arr. Frederick Swann

*“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:

Jayne Zborowsky, Sue Blazek, Paul, Zoey, Thomas Jeffrey McBroom,
Sara and Evan, Janie Chambers, Rev. June Begany, Peggie Willett, Debbie Carrick,
Eli Justice, Regis Bookshar, Kathleen, Frank Macuga, Joe Geraci, Laurie Thomson,
Katherine Gilmore Maynard, Diane Priscilla, Chelsea and Kyle, Sharon Steranko,
Jan, Conor, Ray Alford, JoAnn Hood, Bertha Nunn, Theresa Germann,
the Peterbark family, the Jackson family, the Buchanan family

We pray for the repose of the soul of Bucky Buchanan,
may his memory be a blessing.

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.



Old Stone Church's Welcoming and Fellowship Committee invites the community to a free potluck meal in Memorial Hall after worship service on Sunday, June 30th. The luncheon is in observance of the 4th of July holiday and is the perfect fellowship opportunity to celebrate summer together. The committee will provide fried chicken, watermelon, and drinks. Please consider bringing a side dish or dessert. Please RSVP by signing up in our Parish House lobby. All are welcome.



A tour of the Cleveland Museum of Art will be held on Sunday, August 25, 2024 at 2:00 PM. It will highlight religious works. The museum is located at: 11150 East Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44106. There is a large parking lot attached to the museum. Parking is on your own. We will meet around the "Central Desk" in the atrium at 2:00 PM. Lunch is on your own. Provenance Café and Provenance Restaurant and Bar are located just off the atrium. The Restaurant is open from 10:30 AM until 2:00 PM. The Café is open from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM.

@ Old Stone Church

Sunday June 16

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

Wednesday June 19 Juneteenth

All Day/Building and Offices Closed

Thursday June 20

6:30PM FPS Directors Meeting/Conference Room

Saturday June 22

10:00AM Memorial Service/Lenore Rutti/Sanctuary

1:00PM Memorial Service/Nova Kordalski/Sanctuary

Sunday June 23

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

1:40PM Guardians-Blue Jays

Tuesday June 25

6:30PM Stated Session Meeting/ZOOM

Wednesday June 26

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Sunday June 30

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

11:30AM Welcome and Fellowship Potluck /Memorial Hall



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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Senior Pastor: Rev. Stephen C. Blonder Adams

Parish Associate: Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

Minister of Music: David L. Dettloff

The Old Stone Quartet

Cicely Schonberg, *soprano*

Frederick Peterbark, *tenor*

Elizabeth Rickel, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *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
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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