WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE
Prelude on “Rhosymedre”  Ralph Vaughan Williams

WELCOME
Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT  Lead Me, Lord  Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness; make thy way plain before my face. For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only, that makest me dwell in safety.

* Those who are able are requested to stand  Please silence all electronic devices.
CALL TO WORSHIP

Gather in awe before God, who laid the foundations of the earth.
Open your hearts to the steadfast love God offers.

The deeds of God are beyond our knowing.
Yet we catch glimpses of God's mercy and care.
God does not forsake us when we are dismayed and afraid.
Our Creator is with us in all times and places.

God is a stronghold for the oppressed and troubled.
The needy and the poor are not forgotten.
God is ready to listen to us in these moments together.
See, now is the acceptable time, the day of salvation.

Surely God will meet us here in our faith community!
How good it is when we sense our unity in Christ.

INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

We sing praises to you, O God,
for you have been gracious to us amid the storms of life.
We do battle with many enemies within and among us,
but you give us confidence and courage to face them.
Out of the whirlwind, you answer when we call.
We have gathered to listen for the voice
we sometimes cannot hear in the daily clamor of our lives.
Help us to discard the excess baggage and unnecessary armor
that keeps us from the fullness of life you intend for us.
Amen.

HYMN #14

For the Beauty of the Earth

1 For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
2 For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind’s delight,
4 For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
5 For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given;

Hearing loop installed. Switch hearing aid to T-coil
* CALL TO CONFESSION

All of us have faltered before the lions and giants 
that seem ready to destroy us. 
Life's storms overwhelm us, and fear takes a deadly toll. 
Sometimes we are snared in the work of our own hands. 
We forget the greatest source of help and hope. In these moments together, 
we lay aside our doubts and fear of judgment to open our lives to 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

Help us, God, for we do not have the wisdom to help ourselves. When the good we have known crumbles beneath our feet and we are mired down in hopelessness and self-pity, we need you. When we cannot hide from the evil that is all around us because some of it is also in us, we cry out for your saving mercy. We confess that it is easier to see the problems than the promise. We have been more ready to complain than to accept your help. O God, we open our hearts to you. We want to be healed.

(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 listened to us. In spite of all we have done or not done, God accepts us. This is a day of salvation, when brokenness is mended, problems are seen in a new light, and fierce winds are stilled. God does not forget the cry of the afflicted. God's affection for us is limited only by our failure to respond. Accept the gift of God's love, for it is everything we need.

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

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 has lifted us up from the gates of death.
We will praise God with all we have to give.
Christ walks with us through difficult days and sleepless nights.
We give thanks for the church that proclaims this good news.
The Holy Spirit meets us in our weakness with a love that will not let us go.
All this we want to share with the world.
These moments of giving represent the commitment of our lives to God.
The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM  
* It Is Well With My Soul  
John Ness Beck

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, “It is well, it is well with my soul.”

My sin, O the joy of this glorious thought, my sin, not in part, but the whole
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more: Praise the Lord, O my soul!

And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll:
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend, “Even so, it is well with my soul!”

* 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  
Ruth Finley

Let us join our voices in prayer:

Thank you, God, for meeting us in our need.
We give that others in even greater need might not be forgotten.
We are grateful for the trust you place in us.
We give that others might respond to the good news of your love.
We are hearing the word Jesus spoke in the midst of a storm:
"Peace! Be still!"
With fresh calm and confidence,
we give ourselves that others might live.
Thank you, God, for your steadfast love endures forever.
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 God,
we know that our own words lack knowledge
whenever we try to speak of you or to you.
Yet we are drawn into your presence
and desire to understand all your mysteries.
So now, by the gift of your Holy Spirit,
speak your words and we will listen carefully,
responding in awe and gratitude.
Through Jesus Christ we pray.
Amen.

THE READING

Hebrew Scripture  Job 38:1-11 (The Inclusive Bible)

Then YHWH answered Job from the heart of the storm:
Who is this obscuring my plans with such ignorant words?
Hitch up your belt like the fighter you are;
now I will ask the questions and you will answer me!
Where were you when I created the earth?
If you know the answer, tell me!
Who decided its size? Do you know?
Who stretched the measuring line across it?
Into what foundation were its pillars sunk?
Who laid the cornerstone
while the choruses of morning stars sang
and the heavenly court shouted for joy?
And who held back the sea behind partitions
when it burst forth from my womb,
when I created clouds as the earth’s raiment
and thick darkness as its swaddling clothes—
when I drew limits around the waters
and locked the partitions in place
and said, “This far and no more;
this is where your mighty waves stay”?

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

With God’s help we are listening.
Gospel
Mark 4:35-41 (The Inclusive Bible)

With the coming of the evening that same day, Jesus said to the disciples, “Let’s cross over to the other shore.” Leaving the crowd behind, they took Jesus in the boat in which he was sitting. There were other boats with them.

Then a fierce gale arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat so much that it was almost swamped. But Jesus was in the stern through it all, sound asleep on the cushion. They woke him and said, “Teacher, doesn’t it matter to you that we’re going to drown?”

Jesus awoke, rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Quiet! Be calm!” And the wind dropped, and everything was perfectly calm. Jesus then said to the disciples, “Why were you so afraid? Have you no faith?”

But they became filled with fear and said to one another, “Who is this, whom even the wind and sea obey?”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE
Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams
“From the Heart of the Storm”
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.
My Life Flows On

1. My life flows on in endless song, above earth’s lamentation.
2. Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.
3. What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior liveth.
4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!

I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?

Refrain

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I’m cling ing.

Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

In the New York Observer of August 7, 1868, this text was titled “Always Rejoicing,” and was attributed to “Pauline T.” This may well be where the Baptist pastor and musician to whom it is usually credited encountered the words that he later published with his tune.

TEXT and MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1869

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING
8.7.8.7 with refrain
* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

As servants of God, we commend ourselves in every way.
God has given us the ministry in which we serve.
We seek to be patient and kind with all people.
Our speech is truthful and our love genuine.
The grace of God rests on each one of us.
Holiness of spirit is God's gift to us today.
We feel empowered to endure all things.
God equips us to rejoice in all circumstances.
Let your faith grow and your trust expand.
Go into the world with confidence and courage.
We are not afraid for we know God's presence.
We are alive to the possibilities before us.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen
John Rutter

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God
Siegfried Karg-Elert

“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, Sherman, Calvina, Jan, Conor, Ray Alford, JoAnn Hood, Bertha Nunn, Theresa Germann, the Peterbark family, the Jackson family, the Buchanan family, the Rutti family, the Kordalski 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.
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.

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 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

Wednesday July 3
  12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday July 4 Independence Day
  All Day/ Building and Offices Closed

Sunday July 7
  10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary/Communion
  11:15AM Mission and Urban Wellness Committee Meeting/Cuyahoga Room/ Second Floor
  1:40PM Guardians/Giants
There are many ways to support The Old Stone Church

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<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.

THE OLD STONE CHURCH
LOVING CHRIST, SERVING CITY—SPIRITUALLY, Socially, Culturally—SINCE 1820
91 Public Square, Cleveland, Ohio 44113-2058

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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
Leah Jennings Brown, soprano    Stephen Brown, tenor
Rayna Brooks, alto              Christopher Clark, 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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