



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

JULY 7, 2024

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST WITH COMMUNION

10 AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Lord I'll Go

Jaqueline Hairston
Frederick Peterbark, *tenor*

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT

I Will Worship the Lord

John Rutter

I will worship the Lord all the days of my life;
I will tell of his glory and will show forth his praise;
I will sing and rejoice, for the Lord is my stronghold. Alleluia.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Great is our God and greatly to be praised.
Worship the One whose grace covers all our needs.

The God of hosts is with us here.

We praise, with joy, God's holy name.

Ponder God's steadfast love in the temple.

Practice sharing that love while we are together.

God's love is amazing, beyond our understanding.

We seek to share the love we are receiving.

We are here to be equipped for the journey of life.

We have gathered that our daily witness might be empowered.

Sometimes we are not strong enough to love.

We pray that God will use our weakness for good.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

**God of faithful elders and lowly followers,
our sure defense and faithful guide,
we evoke your presence among us in this time of praise.
Your name is proclaimed through all the earth,
and by your hand we are made victorious
over the unclean spirits and unbeliefs that stalk our paths.
When we ponder your greatness, we are filled with awe.
When we come to your holy mountain, we are amazed.
Who are we to approach your majesty?
How can we fulfill the covenant you offer us?
Come, Spirit of truth, to show us the way.
Amen.**

* HYMN #835

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

CLOSER WALK

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Just a Closer Walk with Thee'. It features a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with three verses of the refrain. The first verse is '1 I am weak, but thou art strong; Je - sus,'. The second verse is '2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I'. The third verse is '3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for'. The score ends with a double bar line.

Refrain Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it,
1 I am weak, but thou art strong; Je - sus,
2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I
3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for

Je - sus, is my plea, dai - ly walk - ing close to
 keep me from all wrong; I'll be sat - is - fied as
 fal - ter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my bur - den
 me will be no more; guide me gent - ly, safe - ly

thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.
 long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *Ref.*
 shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *Ref.*
 o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore. *Ref.*

The chromatic musical style of this anonymous short hymn suggests that it probably dates from the early 20th century. It also seems to owe much of its popularity to radio broadcasts and recordings as well as to evangelistic meetings and singing conventions of that era.

TEXT and MUSIC: Trad. North American hymn

CLOSER WALK
Irregular

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Bob Reid

Let us give voice to our anxiety before God.
 Let us bring to God the panic we feel
 when we measure our inner resources
 against the outward challenges of our frantic lives.
 Let us dare to confess the ways we fall short of God's expectations.
 God already knows them, but we need to face them.
 Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
 followed by time for silent personal confession.
 Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**When we ponder the vast universe at your command, O God,
we are astounded.**

We are nothing, except that you have given us life.

**How often we have squandered that gift in meaningless pursuits,
killing time we might have invested in honoring you!**

**Instead we have belittled your prophets
and made light of your commands.**

**We alternate between boasting over our personal accomplishments
and near-panic about our inability to cope with life's challenges.**

**O God, we confess our desperate need for healing forgiveness
and a new perspective on life.**

(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

Rejoice in the judgments of God that are ever tempered with mercy.

God understands our weaknesses and is acquainted with our needs.

The grace of God is sufficient to cover our sin,

for power is made perfect in weakness.

When we recognize our weakness, God can strengthen us.

When we accept the reign of love among us,

we are empowered to be the church,

reaching out to a sick and troubled world.

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:

Some take offense when asked to give, but all of us are eager to receive.

Jesus Christ turned these priorities around,

giving thanks for the generosity of God's covenant with humanity,

but finding greatest joy in the opportunity to share.

In gratitude and joy, we bring our offerings.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Go Ye Into All the World

Eugene Butler

Go ye into all the world and preach My gospel to every creature!

Go ye into all the world and preach My gospel!

Jesus said, "This is the great commandment:

that ye love one another as I have loved you.

Greater love hath no man than this; that he lay down his life for his friends."

"Let not your heart be troubled, you believe in God,

if you believe in God, you believe in Me!"

Go ye into all the world and preach My gospel to every creature!

Go ye into all the world and preach My gospel!

* 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

Bob Reid

Let us join our voices in prayer:

Thank you, God, for your steadfast love.

We offer our praise; may it reach to the ends of the earth.

We ask that our gifts empower ministry in this place

and wherever our influence can reach.

Let unbelief be turned to faith, ignorance to knowledge,

sickness to health, brokenness to wholeness,

both in us and in our neighbors near and far.

Guide us, as we seek to invest our best for the sake of Christ.

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

Let us pray together:

**Come, Holy Spirit, giver of life;
breathe into us that we may hear a word of truth this day.
Draw us into communion,
enable us to love,
conspire to make us one with You
for the world You so deeply love.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Epistle

2 Corinthians 12:2-10 (Inclusive Bible)

I know someone (in Christ) who fourteen years ago was caught up in the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know— only God knows. And I know that this person—whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know, only God knows— was caught up into paradise to hear words that cannot be uttered, words that no one may speak. About this person I will boast, but I will do no boasting about myself, unless it is about my weaknesses. And even if I were to boast, it wouldn't be foolish of me, because I am speaking the truth.

But I refrain, so that no one will think more of me than is justified by what I do or say. Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, in order to keep me from being conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh— a messenger of Satan to beat me— to keep me from exalting myself! Three times I begged God that it might leave me. And God said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." Most gladly therefore, I would rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. So I am content with weaknesses, with mistreatment, with distress, with persecutions, and difficulties for the sake of Christ, when I am powerless, it is then that I am strong.

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

With God's help we are listening.

After leaving there, Jesus came to his own town, followed by the disciples. When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many of the listeners were astonished and said, “Where did he learn all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted, and these miracles that are performed by his hands? Isn’t this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joses and Judah and Simon? Are not his sisters here with us?” They found these things to be stumbling blocks. Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometowns and among their own relatives and in their own households.” And he could work no miracles there, apart from laying his hands upon a few sick people and healing them; their lack of faith astounded him. He made the rounds of the neighboring villages instead, and spent time teaching.

Then Jesus summoned the twelve and began to send them out in pairs and gave them authority over unclean spirits. He instructed them that they should take nothing for their journey, except a mere staff— no bread, no bag, no money in their belts. They were to wear sandals, but, he added, “Do not take a spare tunic.” And Jesus said to them, “Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave town. Any place that does not receive you or listen to you, as you leave it, shake off the dust from the soles of your feet as a testimony against them.” And so they set off, proclaiming repentance as they went. They cast out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“Power in Weakness?!”



WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND FAITH

* HYMN #512

The Bread and the Wine Are Here

LOVE FEAST

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 3/4 time. It consists of five systems of staves, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: 'The bread and the wine are here; (The feast is here.) come now, all who hun - ger and thirst. Come need - y; come now with - out fear. Drink joy, as the last be - come first! (The last are first!) Refrain Come in; sit down; there's room at the ta - ble; en - joy the feast love has spread for you.' The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, key signatures, time signatures, notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

The bread and the wine are here; (The feast is here.)

come now, all who hun - ger and thirst.

Come need - y; come now with - out fear.

Drink joy, as the last be - come first! (The last are first!)

Refrain

Come in; sit down; there's room at the ta - ble;

en - joy the feast love has spread for you.

* INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

May the Spirit of love be with you.

And may the love of Christ be with you.

Open wide your cautious hearts.

May the hope of our Creator pour peace in our souls.

Let us give thanks to the One who created this time and space.

From our joy we give God thanks and praise.

God of the fair winds and bounteous fields,
Of the storms overhead and the seas below,
With joy we celebrate the connection we have with all of creation
"From sea to shining sea,"
From the beautiful mountain caps to the rivers winding across the land.

We honor the connection we have with your beings-
from the chipmunks scurrying through our yards
to the swallows swooping in the air above.
We embrace the relationships with our neighbors near and far-
the ones who are close to our hearts,
and the ones with whom distance in miles and souls sets us apart.

And so we come to this table:
The ones with many opportunities, and those seeking liberty.
The ones who have been disregarded and those embraced,
knowing that Christ's welcome receives all.
Knowing that Jesus the Christ ate with sinners and tax collectors,
with those who disapproved and those who leapt for joy,
with Judas and Peter, with Mary and Martha, with Philip and Thomas.
Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of heaven
and with all the faithful of every time and place
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
You are holy, O God of majesty,
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.**

And so we too come to the table.
The table of God's freedom. The table of God's justice and love.
The table which reflects the true Kingdom, empire, realm of God
where all are welcome.

Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

We pray for all in need of healing, whether it be in body, mind, or spirit...
Harry Hatters, Suzanne Vassel, Frank Macuga, Chelsea and Kyle,
the Willison and Browne families

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray as our Savior has taught us:

**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.**

(Please be seated)

We come to the table remembering the night before Jesus died.

As Jesus ate with his followers in a room away from the world, taking a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying,

**Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melek ha'olam
hamotzi lekhem min ha'aretz.**

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
who brings forth bread from the earth.

‘This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’

And Jesus did the same with the cup after supper, saying,

**Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melek ha'olam
borei p'ri hagafen.**

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
who creates the fruit of the vine.

‘This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant.’

Whenever we eat and drink at the table, we remember the Christ in our midst.

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
who creates the fruit of the vine.

“This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant.”

Whenever we eat and drink at the table, we remember the Christ in our midst.

Spirit of Hope, Holy Winds of Divine Freedom,
encircle this bread and cup.

Encircle us in our eating and drinking
that we may experience the radical love of Christ here today
and sharing this care as we journey throughout this week.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Please partake of the elements as you receive them,
and then place the cup back into the tray.

You may then light a candle in petition of prayer
or in remembrance.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Starting from the back of the sanctuary
you are invited to come forward at this time.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Communion Prayer

Allen Pote

We place upon your table, Lord, the food of life, the bread and wine,
As symbols of our daily work, according to your grand design.

Within these simple things there lie the height and depth of human life;
Our pain and tears, our thoughts and toils, our hopes and fears, our joy and strife.
Accept them, Lord, they come from you. We take them humbly from your hand.
These gifts of yours for higher use we offer up as you command.

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION:

**God of abundance,
with this bread of life and cup of salvation
you have united us with Christ,
making us one with all your people.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue forever in the risen life
of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.**

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart; give thanks to the Ho-ly One;

give thanks be-cause we're giv-en Je-sus Christ, the Son. Give

Son. And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the

poor say, "We are rich be-cause of what the Lord has done for

us!" And us!" Give thanks. Give thanks.

Drawing on language from 2 Corinthians 6:10 and 12:10 as well as Psalm 126:3, this short and repetitive song can be easily memorized. The simple vocabulary makes it suitable for multigenerational use, reminding all ages how gratitude for God's goodness changes our perspective.

TEXT: Henry Smith, 1978, alt.

MUSIC: Henry Smith, 1978

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GIVE THANKS
Irregular

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Go out into the world in the name of the carpenter.
Emulate Christ's deeds of compassion and power.

We face hardships and calamities with courage.

Christ strengthens us when we are weak.

In humility, reach out to help and to be helped.
Travel light, with your faith as your major resource.

We will trust God in our preparations and on the journey.

Will give our best, relying also on God's grace.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, you are blessed and empowered.
God's steadfast love surrounds you wherever you go.

Great is our God, and greatly to be praised!

God will be our guide today and forever.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Sevenfold Amen

Peter C. Lutkin

POSTLUDE

God of Our Fathers

NATIONAL HYMN
arr. J. Wayne Kerr

*“My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”*

Psalms 73:26



We continue to keep in our prayers:

Harry Hatters, Suzanne Vassel, Frank Macuga, Chelsea and Kyle,
the Willison and Browne families

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.



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.



Sunday July 14, 2024 at 11:30 AM

Frank Schwartz will conduct a guided tour of the inner workings of Old Stone Church and the Parish House. Please meet in the gallery.



OLD STONE CHURCH ANNUAL PICNIC

- * Sunday, August 18, 2024, 2:30–5:30PM
- * North Olmsted Community Cabin
28114 Lorain Road North Olmsted, Oh 44070
- * Raffle to benefit Compassionate Friends Fund
- * Dinner, Fellowship, Games
- * Bring a Side Dish or Dessert



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



@ Old Stone Church

Sunday July 7

10:00AM Worship/Communion/Sanctuary

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

1:40PM Guardians/Giants

Wednesday July 10

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday July 11

2:00PM Worship Committee/ZOOM

Sunday July 14

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

11:30AM OSC Building Tour

Wednesday July 17

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday July 18

7:00PM FPS Directors Meeting/ Conference Room

Sunday July 21

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

1:40PM Guardians/Padres

Monday July 22

6:30PM Stated Meeting of the PWR/ZOOM

Tuesday July 23

6:30PM Stated Session Meeting/ZOOM

Wednesday July 24

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:90 Online:98

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

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*

Frederick Peterbark, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *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
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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