



# THE OLD STONE CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024  
HOMECOMING SUNDAY  
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
**10AM Sanctuary Worship**

## WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE	Invocation from " <i>Melodic Suite</i> "	Charles Callahan
WELCOME		Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams
INTROIT	<i>Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing</i>	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 servants of the Lord, praise Him forever, sing Jehovah's mighty power,  
praise Him forever. Sing of His righteousness, praise Him forever.

\* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Come away from dullness and complacency.  
Wake up! God is calling us to listen and learn.

**The heavens are telling the glory of God.  
The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.**

How long will we refuse the wisdom God offers?  
How long will we ignore God's counsel and reproof?

**The law of God is perfect, reviving the soul.  
The decrees of God are sure, making wise the simple.**

Our waywardness separates us from God.  
Then, when we call on God, we hear no answer.

**We gather to renew our relationship with God.  
We seek enlightenment and the revival of our souls.**

\* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**God of all wisdom, renew our sense of awe and wonder  
as we gather before you, the Source of all knowledge.  
Make your Word known to us and stretch out your hand to touch us.  
Draw us away from our own devices  
that we may truly listen to the witness of all creation  
speaking of wonders we have ignored.  
Give us eyes to see beauty in all around us.  
Align us with truth and righteousness.  
Quiet our scoffing and awaken our trust.  
Show us the disciplines we need to stay in touch with you each day.  
Amen.**

\* HYMN #625

*O Lord My God*

HOW GREAT THOU ART



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con - sid - er  
2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der and hear the  
3 And when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to  
4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion and take me



all the \*worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I  
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees, when I look down from  
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross, my  
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then \*I shall bow in

hear the \*roll - ing thun - der, thy power through - out the  
 loft - y moun - tain gran - deur and hear the brook and  
 bur - den glad - ly bear - ing, he bled and died to  
 hum - ble ad - o - ra - tion, and there pro - claim, "My

*Refrain*

u - ni - verse dis - played:  
 feel the gen - tle breeze: Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to  
 take a - way my sin:  
 God, how great thou art!"

thee: How great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my

Sav - ior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!

\* CALL TO CONFESSION

Alyssa Niepokny

People of God,  
 the scriptures remind us that we are accountable to our Creator.  
 Instead, in our times of panic, we put God on trial,  
 wondering why we cannot find the help we seek.  
 Shutting our eyes and ears to God  
 becomes a habit we cannot break in times of desperation.  
 That is why, together, we come to God,  
 asking to be cleared of secret faults  
 and to detect the error of our ways in time to turn around,  
 letting God's Word reach our hearts.  
 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 worlds,  
we confess our arrogance in turning away from the knowledge you offer  
and the relationship with us that you desire.  
We make light of your commandments  
and scoff at discipline and boundaries as if they did not apply to us.  
Our tongues reveal our ignorance before the vastness of your truth.  
The words we speak in error spread poison that cannot be contained.  
Our waywardness is destroying us.  
Our complacency before evil,  
within us and all around, threatens life itself.  
O God, we cry out for forgiveness**  
*(moment of silent confession)*

\* KYRIE ELEISON #578                      *O Lord, Have Mercy*                      ORÉ PORIAJÚ VEREKÓ

**O Lord, have mercy; have mercy on us.  
O Christ, have mercy; have mercy on us.**

\* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

We eat the fruits of our way and are sated with our own devices.  
Words of confession are not enough to break the patterns  
of complacency and self-justification that separate us from God.  
Thankfully, our Creator knows our honest intent.  
If we truly turn from our insolent, and undisciplined ways,  
a new way is opening up for us, and God welcomes us as partners in the gospel.  
In keeping God's ordinances there is unexpected reward.  
**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 #582                      *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*                      GLORY TO GOD

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son,  
Whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

## OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.

The ways we use the wealth entrusted to us teach even more than our words.

What messages do our offerings send to the world?

Do they communicate our delight in knowing God and following the Christ?

The offering will now be received.

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Come Away*

Mark Hayes

Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

Arise, my love so beautiful, and come away.

For lo, the winter is past. The rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth.

The time for singing has come! The voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land.

The fig trees are bursting with buds and the promise of fruit.

The grapevines are fragrant

with blossoms. How delicious they smell!

Spring is here and my heart is filled with love!

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm.

For love is as strong as death,

And passion, fierce as the grave. Many waters cannot quench love.

All the world's riches cannot buy love.

### \* 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

Alyssa Niepokny

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**We offer the treasures of this world**

**as a way of recalling all of us to a right relationship with you, O God,  
the source of all wisdom and truth.**

**Your design for life is more to be desired than the finest gold.**

**To learn from you and to serve you is our highest joy.**

**May our offerings and our daily lives communicate this message.**

**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

**You speak to us, Lord, with tongues of wisdom.  
Let your Holy Spirit now open us to hear  
with great clarity the teachings of today,  
that we may hold dear in yet new ways  
what it is you will for us, in Jesus' name.  
Amen.**

## THE READINGS

Hebrew Scripture

Proverbs 1: 20-33 (Inclusive Bible)

Wisdom cries out in the streets;  
She raises her voice in the malls;  
She cries out from the top of the walls,  
on the roads leading to the city:  
“How much longer, you ignorant people,  
will you love being ignorant?  
How longer, you mockers, will you keep mocking?  
How much longer will fools sneer at understanding?  
Listen closely to my warning,  
For I'll pour out my heart to you,  
and tell you what's on my mind.  
Because I called and you chose not to listen,  
because I beckoned and you ignored me,  
because you rejected all my advice,  
and rejected all my counsels,  
I, in turn, will laugh at your calamity;  
I will mock you when fear swallows you up—  
when panic falls down upon you like a snowstorm,  
when terror engulfs you like a tornado,  
when distress and anguish knock you down.  
At that time you will call upon me, but I won't answer;  
when you search for me, I'll be hiding.  
Because you despised knowledge,  
didn't fear Almighty God,  
ignored all my advice  
and turned up your nose at my cautions,  
now you must eat the fruit of going your own way,  
and choke on your own choices.  
When you turn away from me, your choosing death,  
and your complacency will ruin you, you fool! But  
you who listen to me will be at peace,  
have quiet, and fear no misfortune.”

Psalm 19 (Inclusive Bible)  
(Read responsively by whole verse.)

- <sup>1</sup>The heavens herald your glory, O God,  
and the skies display your handiwork.
- <sup>2</sup>**Day after day they tell their stories,  
and night after night they reveal the depth of their understanding.**
- <sup>3</sup>Without speech, without words;  
without even an audible voice,
- <sup>4</sup>**their cry echoes throughout the world,  
and their message reaches the ends of the earth.  
For in the heavens the sun has pitched a tent.**
- <sup>5</sup>It comes forth with the grandeur of a wedding procession,  
with the eagerness of an athlete ready to race.
- <sup>6</sup>**It rises at one end of the sky  
and travels to the other end,  
and nothing escapes its warmth.**
- <sup>7</sup>Your law, YHWH, is perfect,  
it refreshes the soul.  
Your rule is to be trusted;  
it gives wisdom to the naïve.
- <sup>8</sup>**Your purposes, O God, are right;  
they gladden the heart.  
Your command is clear,  
it gives light to the eyes.**
- <sup>9</sup>Holding you in awe, YHWH, is purifying; it endures.  
Your decrees are steadfast, and all of them just.
- <sup>10</sup>**They are more precious than gold,  
than the purest gold,  
and sweeter than honey,  
than honey fresh from the comb.**
- <sup>11</sup>In them your faithful people find instruction;  
there is great reward in keeping them.
- <sup>12</sup>**But who can detect one's own failings?  
Forgive the misdeeds I don't even know about!**
- <sup>13</sup>Keep your faithful one from presumption as well,  
so that my faults never control me.  
Then I will be blameless  
and innocent of grave error.
- <sup>14</sup>**May the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart  
be pleasing in your sight, YHWH,  
my rock and my redeemer!**

Only a few of you, my sisters and brothers, should be teachers. You should realize that those of us who are teachers will be called to a stricter account. After all, each of us falls from time to time. However, those who never say anything wrong are truly close to perfection, for they can then control every part of themselves. Once we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we control the rest of their bodies. The same with ships—no matter how large they are, and even if they are driven by fierce winds, they are directed by a very small rudder to wherever the captain wants to go. The tongue is like that. It's a small part of the body, yet it makes great boasts.

See how tiny the small spark is that sets a huge forest ablaze! The tongue is such a flame. Among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a whole wicked world in itself. It infects the entire body. Its flames encircle our course from birth, and its fire is kindled by hell. All kinds of animals—bird, reptiles and creatures of the sea—can be tamed by us, but no one can tame the tongue. It's a restless evil, full of deadly poison. We use it to say, "Praise be our God and Creator"; then we use it to curse each other—we who are created in the image of God. Blessing and curse come out of the same mouth. This shouldn't be, my sisters and brothers! Does a spring emit both pure water and brackish water? My sisters and brothers, can a fig tree produce olives, or can a grapevine produce figs? No—and neither can a fountain produce both salt water and fresh water.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams  
"Coming Home with Wisdom"





## THE APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand  
of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

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



1 Though I may speak with brav - est fire,  
 2 Though I may give all I pos - sess,  
 3 Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol;



and have the gift to all in - spire,  
 and striv - ing so my love pro - fess,  
 our spir - its long to be made whole.



and have not love, my words are vain,  
 but not be given by love with - in,  
 Let in - ward love guide ev - ery deed;



as sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.  
 the prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.  
 by this we wor - ship, and are freed.

As paraphrases of 1 Corinthians 13:1, 3 the first two stanzas here are in the first person singular, yet they lead into a plural prayer for the gift of such love, for it thrives in community. These words are especially poignant with this adaptation of an English folk melody.

\* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Let your words this week proclaim God's love.  
May your hearts' meditations be acceptable to God.

**We seek to let God guide our tongues.**

**We want to speak without arrogance or false pride.**

Listen for the wisdom God wants you to know.

Seek God's counsel and reproof each day.

**We will look for God in the midst of creation.**

**We will seek God's face in the people around us.**

The heavens are telling the glory of God.

God's hand is outstretched to touch and heal you.

**How good it is to sense God's guidance.**

**How exciting it is to follow where Christ leads!**

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

*Sevenfold Amen*

Peter C. Lutkin

POSTLUDE

*Festal Piece*

G.F. Handel

*“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:**

Michael Rekoric, Rev. June Begany, Daryl Spur, Barbara, Sunny Kunche,  
Harry Hatters, Laurel Ashdown, Chelsea and Kyle, Rev. Jason Thompson,  
The Jackson-Dix family, the Brownfield family, the Kordalski family

We pray for the repose of the soul of Doug Wilson,  
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.*

There are many ways to support The Old Stone Church

Online Giving: <a href="http://oldstonechurch.org/giving/">oldstonechurch.org/giving/</a>	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 Singers

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*

Ian Atwood, *tenor*

Cicely Schonberg, *soprano*

Stephen Brown, *tenor*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Samuel Jungen, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Elizabeth Rickel, *alto*

Christopher Clark, *bass*

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  
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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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.