



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 22, 2024
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Gabriel's Oboe

Ennio Morricone

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Fred Heider

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

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.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you.

Happy are those who find delight in God's law.

God is always nearer than our next breath.

We gather to become more aware of that presence.

Knowledge of God is a delight to the righteous.

They seek to grow in wisdom and understanding.

There is always more to discover than we know.

God is our teacher and helper and judge.

Put your trust in God as you prepare to serve.

Learn to be peaceable, gentle, and merciful.

We seek to do good and not harm all our days.

We would open our hands to the poor and needy.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

You watch over us, O God,

and show us the way to prosper in life,

**not so much in things as in relationships that contribute
to our wholeness and well-being.**

Thank you for meeting us here

and helping us to deal with our selfish ambition, disorder, and conflicts.

We submit ourselves to you for instruction.

Help us to be honest with ourselves and with you,

voicing our doubts as well as our faith,

our hypocrisy along with all that is deeply genuine.

Create in us a space for quiet listening and thoughtful meditation.

Amen.

1 Christ be be - side me; Christ be be - fore me; Christ be be -
 2 Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all a -
 3 Christ be in all hearts think - ing a - bout me; Christ be on

hind me, King of my heart. Christ be with - in me; Christ be be -
 round me, shield in the strife. Christ in my sleep - ing, Christ in my
 all tongues tell - ing of me. Christ be the vi - sion in eyes that

low me; Christ be a - bove me, nev - er to part.
 sit - ting, Christ in my ris - ing, Light of my life.
 see me; in ears that hear me Christ ev - er be.

This text adapts part of a traditional Irish prayer associated with St. Patrick (see also no. 6). Such a prayer for protection is known as a *lorica*, from a Latin word for "breastplate" or "armor." It is set to a Gaelic melody that gained wide popularity in the 1970s.

TEXT: James Quinn, SJ, 1969
 MUSIC: Gaelic melody; arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985
 Music Arr. © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources

BUNESSAN
 5.5.5.4.D

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Mary Musson

We are called to resist evil and to purify our hearts.
 Often our need for such cleansing is not apparent to us.
 We are hard pressed to find anything bad that we need to confess,
 and we take real delight in the good we have done.
 Yet the peaceful community God seeks,
 the serving church that embodies Christ,
 the spirit-filled company we are meant to be, are not yet realized.
 Our Prayer of Confession is for the whole people of God, including ourselves.
 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

Forgive us, God, for our complacent attitudes and self-serving comforts. We do not relish the thought of sacrificing for some larger good we cannot see, for people with whom we find it difficult to identify. We compare ourselves favorably against many who seem less attuned to your purposes than we, forgetting that our true standard is Christ Jesus. We ask you to take from us all the bitterness, envy, and anger that stands in the way of your reign. May all we ask of you be for the common good of all your children.
(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

God, who tries our hearts and minds, judges righteously,
hears our prayers, and forgives and upholds us.
In our daily meditation,
God meets us, and in our encounters with one another,
God's presence is revealed in unexpected ways
to those who are alert and receptive.
Nourished by the streams of living water which our God provides,
we will prosper in the work God gives us to do.
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 live 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.

With free-will offerings, we will sacrifice to God,
giving thanks for mercies too abundant to count.

We want to share all that has been entrusted to our keeping,
that God may be praised, and peace may come to all God's people.
The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Gentle Saviour

Raymond H. Haan

Gentle Saviour, keep me near your loving heart;
Gently draw me from the world apart.
Mighty Saviour, close me in your sheltering arms;
for if you will shield me, I fear no alarms.
Gracious Saviour, help when my faith would fail;
for if you uphold me, doubt cannot prevail.
Tender Saviour, lead me by your spirit's power;
let me never falter in temptation's hour.
Holy Friend and Saviour, hear the prayers I make:
let me live and labor only for your sake.

* 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

Mary Musson

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**We who have spent much on our own pleasures
are pleased to share that others may obtain
the necessities of body and spirit.
Thank you, God,
for this opportunity to support the ministry
and mission of our congregation.
May there be a harvest of righteousness among us,
shown in the peaceful handling of disputes,
in mutual love and support, and in courageous outreach
to people near and far who need the help we can give.
Bless each gift and giver. 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

**Your Word is our wisdom;
It gives us insight, strength, and courage.
Open our hearts and our minds on this day,
that we might receive what you want to give.
Speak, Lord! Your people listen!
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Epistle

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a (Inclusive Bible)

If there are any wise and learned among you, let them show it by good living—with humility, and with wisdom in their actions. But if you have the bitterness of jealousy or self-seeking ambition in your hearts, be careful or you will find yourself becoming arrogant and covering up the truth with lies. This kind of “wisdom” doesn’t come from above. It’s earthbound, animal-like and demonic. Where there is jealousy and ambition, there is also disharmony and wickedness of every kind. The wisdom from above, however, has purity as its essence. It works for peace; it’s kind and considerate. It’s full of compassion and shows itself by doing good. Nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds that will bear fruit in holiness.

Where do these conflicts and battles among you first start? Isn’t it that they come from the desires that battle within you? You want something but you don’t get it, so you’re prepared to kill to get it. You have ambitions that you can’t satisfy, so you fight to get your way by force. The reason that you don’t have what you want is that you don’t ask for it in prayer. And when you do ask and don’t get it, it’s because you haven’t prayed properly. You have prayed to indulge your own pleasures.

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the Devil, and it will flee from you. Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you.

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

With God’s help we are listening.

They left that district and began a journey through Galilee, but Jesus did not want anyone to know it. He was teaching the disciples along these lines: “The Promised One is going to be delivered into the hands of others, and will be put to death, but three days later this One will rise again.” Though they failed to understand these words, they were afraid to question him.

They returned home to Capernaum. Once they were inside the house, Jesus began to ask them, “What were you discussing on the way home?” At this they fell silent, for on the way they had been arguing about who among them was the most important. So Jesus sat down, and called the Twelve over and said, “If any of you wants to be first, you must be the last of all and at the service of all.” Then Jesus brought a little child into their midst and, putting his arm around the child, said to them, “Whoever welcomes a child such as this, for my sake, welcomes me. And whoever welcomes me, welcomes not me, but the One who sent me.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams
“All God’s Children”



* 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 Je - sus loves me! This I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so.
 2 Je - sus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long a - go,

Lit - tle ones to him be - long. They are weak, but he is strong.
 tak - ing chil - dren on his knee, say - ing, "Let them come to me."

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!

Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

Few songs of faith have supported people from cradle to grave like this one. The great theologian Karl Barth said that its opening two lines were a summary of all that he had learned. The composer formed the refrain from those lines when creating this universally used tune.

TEXT: Stanza 1, Anna Bartlett Warner, 1859; stanza 2, David Rutherford McGuire, 1971
MUSIC: William Batchelder Bradbury, 1862, alt.

JESUS LOVES ME
7.7.7.7 with refrain

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Go forth, trusting God and one another.
Live each day seeking to be trustworthy.

We seek to do well the tasks set before us.

We commit ourselves to quiet times for meditation.

The rhythms of prayer and service enrich our lives.
A gentle spirit and good fruits are the result.

We seek the wisdom God imparts.

We aim to serve without partiality or hypocrisy.

God is watching over you and caring for you.
In God's hands, your hearts are being purified.

We put our trust in the God who loves us.

Our strength and dignity find renewal in Christ.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Sevenfold Amen

Peter C. Lutkin

POSTLUDE

Festive Finale

Malcolm Archer

*“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:

Sarah Kachler, Michael Rekoric, Rev. June Begany, Daryl Spur,
Barbara, Sunny Kunche, Harry Hatters, Laurel Ashdown

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.

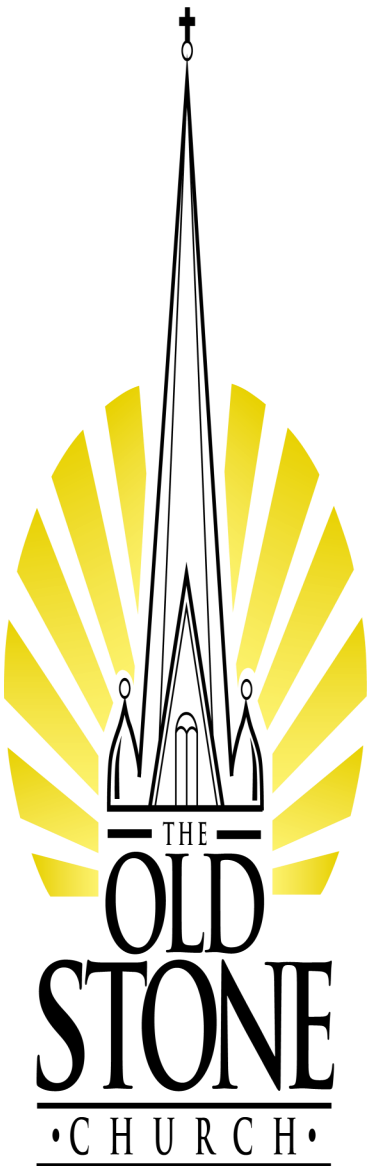
Wednesdays at 12:15 PM please join us in the Sanctuary for a Mid-Week Communion Service.



A Priceless Invitation

**Consecration Sunday is
October 6, 2024**

A Potluck Luncheon will follow Sunday worship.
Please sign up for the Potluck Luncheon on the table outside the Chapel.



@ Old Stone Church

Sunday September 22

9:00AM Bible Study-Pastor Denise/Gallery

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

11:30AM Deacons Meeting/Conference Room/First Floor

1:00PM Browns/Giants

Monday September 23

6:30PM Stated Meeting/PWR/ZOOM

Tuesday September 24

6:30PM Stated Session/ Meeting/ZOOM

7:00PM Commentary on the Gospel of John/ZOOM

Wednesday September 25

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Friday September 27

4:00PM Print-Czyz Wedding Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Saturday September 28

3:00PM Print-Czyz Wedding/Sanctuary

Sunday September 29

9:00AM-12:00PM Fall Food Drive

9:00AM Bible Study-Pastor Denise/Gallery

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

1:00PM Guardians/Astros

Tuesday October 1

7:00PM Commentary on the Gospel of John/ZOOM

Wednesday October 2

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Saturday October 5

12:00PM-1:30PM Blessing of the Animals/OSC Front Steps

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:74 Online:193

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 Singers

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*

Ian Atwood, *tenor*

Cicely Schonberg, *soprano*

Stephen Brown, *tenor*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Frederick Peterbark, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Margaret Raupp, *alto*

Christopher Clark, *bass*

Elizabeth Rickel, *alto*

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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