



# THE OLD STONE CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 29, 2024  
NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS  
**10AM Sanctuary Worship**

## WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE	Mvt. I, Modéré from " <i>Sonatine</i> "	Maurice Ravel
WELCOME		Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams
STEWARDSHIP MOMENT		Dave Finley
INTROIT	<i>I Will Worship the Lord</i>	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.

\* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Come one and all to meet God here.

Let all who are suffering find hope in this place.

**We have come that God might raise us up.**

**Our only hope is in the Maker of heaven and earth.**

Come, all who are weary and oppressed.

God offers relief and enlists our mutual helpfulness.

**God hears our prayers and answers us.**

**God equips us to be helpful to one another.**

Come together to sing songs of praise to God.

Give thanks for God's wondrous deeds.

**God's glory abides in this place of worship.**

**God's presence and help are real.**

\* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**May all your people find favor with you this day,**

**God of majesty and power.**

**Turn our sorrow into gladness and our mourning into a holiday,**

**a holy day, in which to praise you**

**and find ways to help those less fortunate than ourselves.**

**Lift us from our daily preoccupations**

**that we may pray with earnest intent,**

**both to thank you and to be changed by you.**

**Let our prayers be powerful and effective.**

**May our worship be alive and life changing.**

**May the service we extend find favor in your eyes, blessed God.**

**Amen.**

\* HYMN #741

*Guide My Feet*

GUIDE MY FEET

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Guide My Feet". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first line of lyrics is "1 Guide my feet while I run this race;". The second line of lyrics is "(yes, my Lord!)".

guide my feet while I run this race;  
(yes, my Lord!)

guide my feet while I run this race, for I  
don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

2 Hold my hand . . .      3 Stand by me . . .      4 I'm your child . . .

This African American spiritual is based on the imagery of "the race that is set before us" in Hebrews 12:1–2. Its call-and-response structure allows for the improvisation and addition of stanzas related to an athletic metaphor that is as vivid today as it was centuries ago.

TEXT: African American spiritual  
MUSIC: African American spiritual; harm. Wendell P. Whalum, c. 1984  
Music Harm. © Estate of Wendell P. Whalum

GUIDE MY FEET  
8.8.8.10

## \* CALL TO CONFESSION

Don Urban

Confess your sins to one another,  
and pray for one another, so you may be healed.  
Prayers of the righteous are powerful and effective.  
We seek that right relationship with God  
that empowers our prayers and our service.  
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

**All-powerful God, we confess our devious ways.  
Even when prayers for others are on our lips,  
we seek ways to secure our own advantages.  
We put our trust in things we can accumulate  
rather than aligning ourselves with your will and way.  
Our behavior creates enemies  
and multiplies divisions among your people.  
Then we want you on our side  
against those who are different from us.  
We confuse our preferences with your intentions. O God,  
we need healing, but we are afraid to lose the illusions of control  
that are so much a part of us.  
We fear the very changes that would give us integrity.  
Help us, gracious God.**

*(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

The snares that entrap us are broken.  
Our help is in the name of God, who made heaven and earth.  
Prayers of faith make a difference.  
They are powerful and effective.  
We are changed in the hands of a loving God.  
We have much to give, beginning with the simplest of gifts,  
like a cup of cold water offered to one who is thirsty.  
Praise God, who is transforming us.

**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.  
Like salt that enhances the flavor of food,  
Christians are called to share the joy and gladness  
we are discovering in our relationship with Jesus Christ.  
The good news is extended through our support  
of the church and its ministries.  
The offering will now be received.

## OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Ubi Caritas

Maurice Duruflé

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.  
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.  
Exsultemus, et in ipso jucundemur,  
timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum  
et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.

Where true charity and love dwell, God himself is there.  
Since the love of Christ has joined us in one body,  
Let us all rejoice and be glad now and always.  
And as we hear and love the living God,  
So let us in sincerity love all people.

\* 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:

**We dedicate ourselves and our offerings to the work of your church.  
For those who are sick, who are suffering, who are grieving,  
who are lost, we have words of hope and acts of caring.  
We stand with all who face discrimination,  
oppression, and confusion,  
seeking to work with them for justice and a meaningful existence.  
As you have accepted us, we reach out to include all your children  
in the family of mutuality, self-revelation, and growing in love.  
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

**We pray for your great wisdom, O God,  
to come to your people and set us free.  
Help us hear what the Spirit is saying to the church this day.  
Amen.**

## THE READINGS

Hebrew Scripture      Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 (NRSVUE)

So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace, but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" Esther said, "A foe and an enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very pole that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." So they hung Haman on the pole that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

Mordecai recorded these things and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday, that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

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

**With God's help we are listening.**



Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up, and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Denise Clark-Jones

"For Just Such a Time as This"



## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

On behalf of the session,  
I present Eric Grattan, Anna Masica, and Alexander Wright,  
who have been received into the membership of this congregation  
by reaffirmation of faith.

In baptism you were claimed by God,  
marked as Christ's own forever,  
and joined to his body by the Holy Spirit.  
You come to us then, not as strangers,  
but as friends in Christ and members of the household of God.  
We rejoice that you now desire to join with this congregation  
in the worship and mission of the church.

Hear these words from scripture:  
There is one body and one Spirit,  
just as you were called to the one hope of your calling,

**one Lord, one faith, one baptism,  
one God and Father of all,  
who is above all and through all and in all.**

As members of the body of Christ, let us reaffirm the faith  
into which we were baptized:

## THE APOSTLES' 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.**



Eric, Anna, and Alex, we have professed our faith as one body.  
Will you be a faithful member of this congregation,  
share in its worship and mission  
through your prayers and gifts,  
your study and service,  
and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

**I will, with God's help.**

Holy God,  
thank you for calling us to be your people  
and joining us to Christ's body, the church.  
We praise you for leading Eric, Anna and Alex, to this congregation.  
Empower us by your Spirit,  
that we might love one another as Christ loved us,  
honoring him in all that we say and do,  
giving our lives in service to others,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Eric, Anna and Alex, remember your baptism and be thankful,  
and know that the Holy Spirit is at work within you.

**Thanks be to God.**

Welcome to this ministry that we share in Jesus Christ

#### 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 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple  
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -  
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its  
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our  
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in  
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.  
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

This stirring hymn used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930 was penned by its widely-known and influential pastor, and it has gained a firm place in English-language hymnals around the world. The Welsh tune name honors the Rhondda Valley in Glamorganshire.

\* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

God sends us out with courage to face life's evils.  
We have insight to name the enemies we encounter.

**Sometimes we are our own worst enemies.**

**Sometimes perceived enemies can become friends.**

We are called to care in an uncaring world.

We are commissioned as lovers among the indifferent.

**As Christians, we cannot be apathetic.**

**The people we encounter are brothers and sisters.**

God is our helper, and Christ is our teacher.

Our prayers and our efforts will make a difference.

**God is with us wherever we go.**

**The maker of heaven and earth cares for us.**

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

*Sevenfold Amen*

Peter C. Lutkin

POSTLUDE

*Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus*

James Masfield

*“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:**

Amy Wheeler, 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.*

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 Jungman, *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.