



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

MAY 25, 2025
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Alleluia from “Exsultate, Jubilate” K. 165

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Val Sibila, *soprano*

WELCOME

Pastor Denise Clark-Jones

INTROIT

Festival Alleluia

James Chepponis

Alleluia! O Lord, open our hearts to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Come to this place of prayer; God is calling us.
Come, all who are burdened; there is healing here.

We have come to hear the Word of God.

We have brought with us all that weighs us down.

Let voices of praise greet the one who calls us.

Be glad together and sing for joy.

Our hearts respond with hope for a new day.

Our voices join in thankful prayers and praise.

God reigns among us and fills the world with light.

We are invited to make our home with the living God.

May God's ways be known within and among us.

May God guide all nations in ways of peace.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

Maker of all things, Ruler of all peoples of the earth,

we bring our prayers of thanksgiving and praise.

You have provided the water of life for our baptism.

You have fed us with the fruits of the earth

and nourished us through your Word.

Meet us again in the joyous encounter of worship,

lest we forget the source of all we have and all that we are.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!

Amen.

* HYMN #395

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

LIEBSTER JESU

1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
3 Glo - rious Lord, your - self im - part, Light of Light, from

gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed, till your Spir - it breaks our night,
God pro - ceed - ing. Touch our lips and ears and heart;

and in glow - ing faith be near you. By your gos - pel
fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
help us by your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry your

true and ho - ly, teach us, Lord, to love you sole - ly.
all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
church now rais - es; hear, and bless our prayers and prais - es.

Originally conceived to be sung before the sermon, this hymn assumes a congregation that assembles regularly, and it needs to be placed near the beginning rather than the end of worship. The simple repetitive tune reinforces the text's sense of receptivity and expectation.

TEXT: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1663; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1858, alt.
MUSIC: Johann Rudolph Ahle, 1664; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach, 18th cent., alt.

LIEBSTER JESU
7.8.7.8.8.8

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Sandy Kuban

All who keep God's Word know God's love and live by it.
But obedience is not easy amid all the world's distractions,
and the gift of love is not incorporated into our lives without effort.
There is a gap between intention and reality,
a chasm we create between ourselves and God.
That is why we observe a time of confession.
Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
followed by time for silent personal confession.
Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God, we have wandered far from your love.
We have neglected your Word
in the torrent of words that we hear and read every day.
Our hearts are troubled amid the conflicts and violence of our world.
Sometimes we find it easier to withdraw from everything,
to resist change, lest it require more of us.
We know you are reaching out to heal us; help us to respond.
We know we are surrounded by your love.
Let us feel it deep within, that we may reflect that love to all we meet.**
(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

Jesus invites us to stand, to feel our own strength,
to understand our own power,
to sense the changes that love is accomplishing within us.
The Holy Spirit has come to teach us all that we need in order to be faithful.
We are loving servants of God,
who claims us and sends us on a journey of peace.
Praise God, who has blessed and forgiven 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 #581

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

**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.
What do we have to give?
Only what we have received.
The earth has yielded its increase.
God has blessed us in more ways than we can count.
Let us offer to God more than support of a church.
Let us offer ourselves for the healing of the nations.
The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Lloyd Larson

Jesus lives! Sing your alleluias! Heav'n and earth rejoice in praise!
 Jesus Christ is risen today!
 Jesus Christ is ris'n today, this triumphant holy day!
 He who once upon the cross suffered to redeem our loss.
 Hymns of praise then let us sing unto Christ, our heav'nly King:
 Jesus Christ is ris'n today! Alleluia!

Now the pain which Christ endured our salvation has secured;
With the angels let us sing praises to our risen King!
Sing we to our God above, praise eternal as His love.
Jesus Christ is ris'n today! Alleluia!

* DOXOLOGY #609 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*
LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia!

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Sandy Kuban

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**For the hospitality of your good earth,
for the people you have given us to love,
for the tasks you have called us to do,
we give thanks gracious God.**

**Our offerings are a measure of our faith and evidence of our gratitude.
We dedicate ourselves with our gifts,
that your reign of light may realize in the places where we live and work
and far beyond our personal reach.**

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

**Living God, you sent your apostle to preach the gospel
to women gathered by the river,
in a secluded place of prayer.
There a businesswoman named Lydia
was led by the Spirit to hear your word as truth.
You opened her heart in love,
and she opened her home for the spreading of the gospel.
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
fling wide the doors of our hearts this day
as we hear your word of life,
that we too may open our lives to serve your world in love.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

THE READINGS

First Reading

Acts 16:9-15 (Inclusive Bible)

Then one night Paul had a vision. A Macedonian stood before him and said, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After this vision, we immediately made efforts to get across to Macedonia, convinced that God had called us to bring them the Good News.

We put out to sea from Troas and set a course straight to Samothrace, and the next day on to Neapolis, from there we went to Philippi, which is one of the bigger cities in Macedonia and a Roman colony and spent a few days there. On the Sabbath we went along the river outside the gates, thinking we might find a place of prayer. We sat down and preached to the women who had come to the gathering. One of them was named Lydia, a devout woman from the town of Thyatira who was in the purple-dye trade. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. As she listened to us, Christ opened her heart to accept what Paul was saying. After she and her household were baptized, she extended us an invitation: "If you are convinced that I am a believer in Christ, please come and stay with us." We accepted.

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

With God's help we are listening.

Gospel

John 5:1-9 (Inclusive Bible)

Some time after this, there was a Jewish festival and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem, near the Sheep Gate, there is a pool with five porticoes; it's Hebrew name is Bethesda. The place was crowded with sick people—those who were blind, lame or paralyzed—lying there waiting for the water to move. An angel of God would come down to the pool from time to time, to stir up the water; the first one to step into the water after it had been stirred up would be completely healed.

One person there had been sick for thirty-eight years.

Jesus, who knew this person had been sick for a long time, said, “Do you want to be healed?” “Rabbi,” the sick one answered, “I don’t have anyone to put me in the pool once the water has been stirred up. By the time I get there, someone else has gone in ahead of me.” Jesus replied, “Stand up! Pick up your mat and walk.” The individual was immediately healed, and picked up the mat and walked away.

This happened on a Sabbath.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Denise Clark-Jones

“Spiritual and Religious”



NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
 2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - ery place.
 3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
 4 Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,

Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
 Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
 the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
 for I am with you till the age shall end,

bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
 Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
 As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
 when all the hosts of glo - ry cry "A - men!"

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Based on Christ's great commission (Matthew 28:19-20), this text was written for a Convocation of Emmanuel College in Toronto, the largest theological school of the United Church of Canada, a denomination formed by the union of Methodists, Congregationalists, and Presbyterians.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Worshippers of God, we are called into the world.

We cannot stay here; God has work for us to do.

God invites us to follow where Jesus leads.

Our presence is needed in unexpected places.

If we love God, we will live by God's Word.

If we have met God here, our lives are being changed.

God's Word of love is finding a home in our hearts.

God's light is leading us on new ventures of service.

The peace of God goes with you, today and always;

let not your hearts be troubled or afraid.

God is blessing us every day; praise God!

We will carry God's saving power to all nations.

Walk softly. Speak truthfully.

Love gently. Breathe deeply.

Live wisely. Go in peace.

Amen.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

John Rutter

POSTLUDE

Improvisation-Toccata on the "Tonis Peregrinus" Everett Titcomb

*"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:

Bob Baus and family, Renita and the Jackson family, Ken Topar, Gerald Wright,
JoAnn Hood, Mary Jane Sykora, Fred Heider, Judy and Frank Macuga,
Debbie McLaughlin, Harry Hatters, Annie and Tony Carlos, Nichole and Paul Bellantoni,
Timothy Truitt, Paolo, Donna Sue Buchanan, Shelley Wheeler,
Prisicella Fayne, Ronald Richard

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

Sunday May 25/Easter VI

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

Monday May 26/Memorial Day

All Day Building and Offices Closed

Tuesday May 27

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

Wednesday May 28

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Sunday June 1/Easter VII

10:00AM Worship with Communion/Sanctuary

1:40PM Guardians/Angels/Progressive Field

Tuesday June 3

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

Wednesday June 4

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Saturday June 7

9AM-12PM Open Doors/Sanctuary

10:00AM Pride in Cle Parade

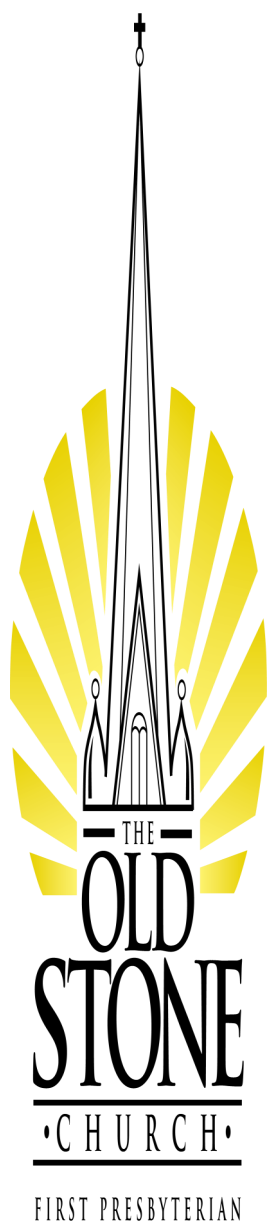
Sunday June 8/Pentecost

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

11:30AM Mission and Urban Wellness Committee Meeting/
Cuyahoga Room/Second Floor

11:30AM Plant Exchange/Memorial Hall



There are many ways to support The Old Stone Church-The First Presbyterian Church of Cleveland

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

Scan the QR Code with your phone.

Checks should be made payable to “Old Stone Church.”

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*

Kaya Sparks, *soprano*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Ian Atwood, *tenor*

Stephen Brown, *tenor*

Noah Whitaker, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

Reese Henrick, *alto*

Elizabeth Rickel, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Christopher Clark, *bass*

Albert Donze, *bass*

Church Elders:

Clerk of Session: Beth Buchanan

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

Class of 2027

Michelle Baron

Fred Heider

Bernard Medie

Bob Reid

Church Deacons:

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

Class of 2027

Anand Bandari

Eric Grattan

Sunny Kunche

Lori Lippert

Amy Wheeler

John Wheeler

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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.