



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

JULY 20, 2025

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST WITH BAPTISM

10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Nearer, My God, to Thee

Clay Christiansen

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

INTROIT

Let Us Make a Joyful Noise

Douglas E. Wagner

Let us make a joyful noise unto the Lord. Let us make a joyful noise.

Praise, O praise the Lord! And make a joyful noise evermore!

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, people of faith, trusting God's steadfast love.

Take refuge in the eternal presence.

We want to acknowledge God first in our lives.

We seek to rely on a power beyond ourselves.

Gather in silent awe before the source of all things.

Climb God's holy hill, giving thanks.

It is not easy to have faith in one we do not know.

It is frightening to realize God's sovereign power.

Know that Christ is the image of the invisible God,

the one in whom the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

We are the church, gathered in Christ's name.

We are the body of Christ, seeking to live faithfully.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

Awesome God, we thirst for your Word.

We long to make sense of so much we do not understand.

**We want our worship to be more than a quick diversion
from tasks that seem more pressing.**

**We want to believe there is more to life than seeking personal gain. We
bring to you today our troubles and anxieties,**

our estrangements and hostilities, our boasting and deceptions.

Meet us here with truth we cannot avoid.

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

Bob Reid

God calls for our full-time devotion.
 In all that we think and do, God's will is to hold first place.
 Our worship is hollow and empty
 if it is only a small, separate compartment in our lives.
 No matter how good we are,
 all of us need a time of reorientation and reconciliation.
 That is why, together, we confess our sin.
 Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
 followed by time for silent personal confession.
 Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Take away our distractions, O God,
so we may be confronted by your expectation of us.
We realize that our busy striving after things
has dulled our awareness of you.
We have sought fulfillment in ways that deny you and hurt other people.
Sometimes our success tramples the needy and brings ruin to the poor.
Even our benevolence becomes self-serving.
O God, we want to find our hope in the gospel.
Help us, we pray.**

(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

Do you truly want to be forgiven?
If that is your honest choice,
experience that forgiveness now in the very core of your being.
Know that in the mystery of Jesus Christ we are truly reconciled to God.
Continue in faith, not shifting from the hope of the gospel.
Dwell consciously in God's presence in the midst of all you do every day.

Alleluia and Amen!

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AND RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

Gurleen Kaur

* 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.

The psalmist laughs at those who trust in wealth.

Perhaps we are the ones who are objects of that scorn.

Let us use our wealth to proclaim the one in whom we really trust,
that creative energy of love who fills the whole universe
and has been revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Ride the Chariot

Spiritual arr. Andre Thomas

Ride the chariot in the morning Lord.

I never shall forget that day, all my sins were taken away.

Ride the chariot in the morning, Lord, I'm gettin' ready for that judgement day.

My feet were snatched from the miry clay, I'll serve my Lord till judgement day.

Are you ready my brother? Are you ready my sister?

I'm ready for that journey my Lord.

* DOXOLOGY #605

Praise to God the Father

DA N'ASE

Praise to God the Father; praise to God the Son; praise to God the Spirit:

Praise to the Three-in-One. Sing praise, sing praise to the Lord on high.

Praise to God Almighty; praise to the Holy One.

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Bob Reid

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**Through our offerings, loving God, we proclaim Christ to the world. We
dedicate all we are giving to preaching, teaching,
and outreach that move people toward Christian maturity.**

**We offer ourselves as advocates for the poor and needy,
as seekers for justice, as stewards of hope.**

**We turn from false securities to put our confidence in you,
that the mystery of your glorious Word
may be opened up among all your people.**

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

**Open our hearts and our minds,
so that we can understand the fullness of your Word.
Fill us with the light of the Holy Spirit,
and bless the servant you have chosen,
to share the Word proclaimed today.
In the name of Christ, the Word revealed.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Epistle

Colossians 1:15-28 (Inclusive Bible)

Christ is the image of the unseen God, and the firstborn of all creation, for in Christ were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and invisible, Thrones, Dominions, Sovereignities, Powers—and all things were created through Christ and for Christ. Before anything was created, Christ existed, and all things hold together in Christ. The church the body; Christ is the head. Christ is in the Beginning, the firstborn from the dead, and so Christ is first in every way. God wanted all perfection to be found in Christ, and all things to be reconciled to God through Christ—everything in heaven and everything on earth—when Christ made peace by dying on the cross.

At one time, you were alienated from God by the way you thought and the evil things you did. But now you are reconciled through Christ's mortal body through death, so that you can now stand before God as holy, pure and blameless—provided you persevere and stand firm on the solid base of your faith.

Never let yourselves drift away from the hope promised by the Good News that you have heard, that even now is being preached to the whole human race, and for which I, Paul, was made a minister.

Even now I find my joy in the suffering I endure for you. In my own body I fill up what is lacking in the sufferings of Jesus, for the sake of Christ's body, the church. I became a minister of this church through the commission God gave me, to preach among you the word in its fullness—that mystery hidden from ages and generations past, but now revealed to God's holy ones. God's will was to make known to them the priceless glory this mystery brings to the nations—the mystery of Christ in you, the hope of glory. This is the Christ we proclaim, while we admonish everyone and teach them in the full measure of wisdom, hoping to make everyone complete in our Savior.

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

With God's help we are listening.

Gospel

Luke 10:38-42 (Inclusive Bible)

As they traveled, Jesus entered a village where a woman named Martha welcomed him to her home. She had a sister named Mary, who seated herself at Jesus' feet and listened to his words. Martha was busy with all the details of hospitality, came to Jesus and said, "Rabbi, don't you care that my sister has left me all alone to do the household tasks? Tell her to help me!" Jesus replied, "Martha, Martha! You're anxious and upset about so many things, but only a few things are necessary—really only one. Mary has chosen the better part, and she won't be deprived of it."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams
"Christ, Before & After, Jesus"



* 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.**

Capo 1: (D) E^b (G) A^b (D/F#) E^b/G (A7) B^b7 (D) E^b



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

(A) B^b (D) E^b (G) A^b (A) B^b




naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

(G) A^b (D) E^b (F#m7) Gm7 (G) A^b (A) B^b



thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

(Bm) Cm (D/F#) E^b/G (G) A^b (D) E^b



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

These stanzas are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Choose this day a life of listening and trusting.

Let God have first place on your daily agenda.

We will give ear to promptings of the Spirit.

We seek to hear God's teachings and warnings.

Let your faith be evidenced in all your dealings.

Share humbly and caringly the hope that is in you.

We believe others can hear the Word of God through us.

We will be careful to represent the gospel faithfully.

You have chosen well; receive God's blessing.

Give thanks each day for God's gracious favor.

Thanks be to God for both comfort and judgment.

Praise God for both reassurance and challenge.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Sevenfold Amen

John Stainer

POSTLUDE

Postlude from "*Celtic Suite*"

Charles Callahan

*"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:

Luke, Scheem Hempstead, Kim Bischel, David Damm, JoAnn Hood,
Fred Heider, Judy and Frank Macuga, Shelley Wheeler

We give thanks for the life of Lori (Larry) Lippert

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 July 20

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

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

1:40PM Guardians/Athletics/Progressive Field

4:00PM Celebrity Chef-Rocco Whalen/Memorial Hall

Tuesday July 22

6:30PM Stated Session Meeting/ZOOM

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

Wednesday July 23

11AM-2PM Open Doors/Sanctuary

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Friday July 25

4:00PM Rolston-Kaur Wedding Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Saturday July 26

3:00 PM Rolston-Kaur Wedding/Sanctuary

Sunday July 27

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

Monday July 28

6:30PM PresbyPalooza/Lyndhurst Community of Faith Church

Tuesday July 29

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

Wednesday July 30

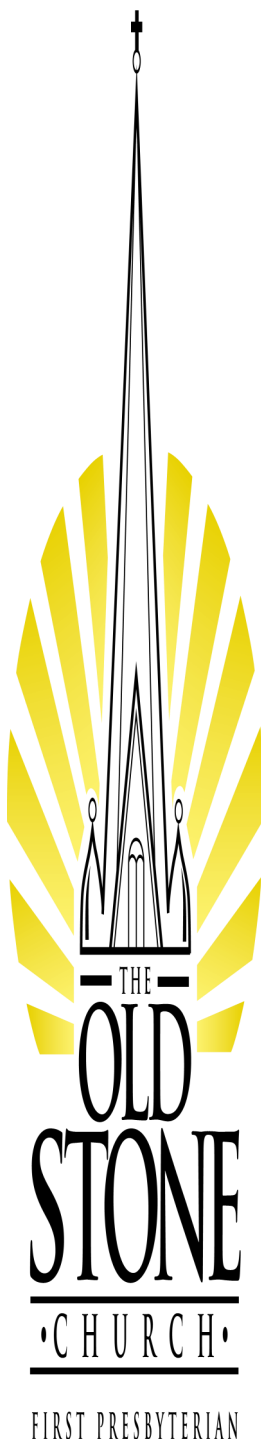
11AM-2PM Open Doors/Sanctuary

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Sunday August 3

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary with Communion

1:40PM Guardians/Twins/Progressive Field



Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:62 Online:247

There are many ways to support The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

Online Giving:

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Text the keyword “oldstonecle” to 73256



Mail to:

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All contributions are tax-deductible and will be appropriately acknowledged at year-end.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

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Phone: 216-241-6145 **Fax:** 216-241-6149

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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*

Stephen Brown, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

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
Amy Wheeler
John Wheeler

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