



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

JULY 27, 2025
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Lord, I'll Go

Traditional arr.
Jacqueline Hairston
Frederick Peterbark, *tenor*

WELCOME

Pastor Denise Clark-Jones

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!

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

God is eager to restore us to right relationships.
The Creator is waiting to claim us now as God's own.

We have come to meet the God who welcomes us.

We have gathered to experience God's steadfast love.

Listen, for God will speak to those who want to hear.

Turn your hearts toward the one who saves.

We bow down to receive God's mercy.

We open ourselves to the source of peace.

God will answer us and will give what is good.

God restores us to faithfulness and righteousness.

We come asking, searching, and knocking:

Seek the good gifts only God can provide.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

Living God, we come as your children to be reclaimed and blessed.

We need the inner strength that comes to us through worship.

**All week long we have wrestled with emptiness
and deceit on every hand.**

Take away the noisy clamor

that would make us captives of human traditions.

Turn us toward the source of our salvation,

toward your steadfast love and faithfulness.

Amen.

* HYMN #37

Let All Things Now Living

ASH GROVE

G D G Am D

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks-giv - ing
2 By law God en - forc - es, the stars in their cours - es,

G C G D G

to God our Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise;
the sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

G D G Am D

who fash-ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us,
the hills and the moun-tains, the riv - ers and foun-tains,

by guid - ing us on to the end of our days.
the depths of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

Harmony God's ban - ners are o'er us; pure light goes be - fore us,
We too should be voic - ing our love and re - joic - ing;

a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night:
with glad ad - o - ra - tion, a song let us raise,

till shad - ows have van - ished, all fear - ful - ness ban - ished,
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing:

as for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
to God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Bob Heath

God judges the earth, God knows our disloyalty.
Our grave sins against others are not unnoticed.
Our haughty pretensions are noted.
Surely God has every reason to be indignant with us,
to pour out anger on us
for the many ways we misuse the gifts we have been given.
Yet God is eager to spare us from the horrible consequences of sin.
Let us seek forgiveness.
Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
followed by time for silent personal confession.
Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, bring our evil to awareness
so we can address it and be rid of its burden.
Forgive our iniquity and pardon our sin.
Turn us away from false pride and violence,
from lies and hardness of heart.
Erase the record that stands against us.
Restore us to a right relationship with you
and with those from whom we are alienated.
Grant us also the capacity to extend forgiveness to all
who have wronged us.
Have pity on us now, O God.**

(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

God forgives our trespasses and restores us to life.
Our puffed-up pretenses are set aside
so we can claim a far greater identity as children of the living God.
Our sense of alienation is overcome as we are embraced by steadfast love.
Friends, the doors of God are open wide to receive us.
We are heard and known.
The peace of God is ours to accept and cherish.
Thank God with whole hearts!

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

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 faithfulness of God elicits our answering faithfulness.
The good gifts of our heavenly Parent call for an outpouring of gratitude.
May our offerings give evidence of abounding thankfulness.
The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

He Never Failed Me Yet

Robert Ray

I will sing of God's mercy every day, every hour, He gives me power.
I will sing and give thanks to Thee for all the dangers toils and snares
that He has brought me out. He is my God, and I'll serve Him no matter what the test.
Trust and never doubt, Jesus will surely bring you out. He never failed me yet.
I know that He'll keep you safe from all earthly harm.
One day when my weary soul is at rest, I'm going home to be forever blessed.

Trust and never doubt, Jesus will surely bring you out. He never failed me yet.

Didn't my God deliver Moses from King Pharaoh?
And didn't He cool the fiery furnace for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?
When I think of what my God can do, He delivered Daniel, I know He will deliver you.
Trust and never doubt, Jesus will surely bring you out. He never failed me yet.

* 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 Heath

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**Holy God, whose name is before all names,
we worship you with our offerings.
They represent our labor, our investment of time and energy.
We want them to be put to the best possible use.
May they save many from the course of evil
and turn them toward faithful discipleship.
May they provide bread for body and soul,
that your people may be preserved and strengthened for ministry.
Bless and multiply our efforts, we pray.
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

**God of Wisdom,
you promise to give your Spirit to those who ask.
Overwhelm us with your Word,
that we may know you more fully,
love you more passionately,
and follow you more closely;
in Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Hebrew Scripture

Hosea 1:2-10 (Inclusive Bible)

When YHWH first spoke to Hosea, YHWH said, "Go! Marry a prostitute and beget children of prostitution! For the land is guilty of the most hideous kind of prostitution by forsaking YHWH. "

So Hosea went and married Gomer bat—Diblaim, who conceived and bore a son. Then God said to Hosea, "Name him Jezreel, for soon I will take my revenge on the house of Jeru for the slaughter at Jezreel, and I will destroy the dominion of Israel. On that day, I will smash Israel's bow in the valley of Jezreel."

Then Gomer conceived again and bore a daughter. God said to Hosea, "Name her Lo-ruhamah—'No Compassion'—for I will no longer hold dear the house of Israel, nor will I forgive them.

But I will hold dear the house of Judah, and I will rescue —not by the bow or by the sword or by battle or by horses or riders, but by YHWH their God."

Once Gomer had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived again, and bore another son.

God said, "Name him Lo-ammi—'Not my People'—for you are not my people, and I will not be your God."

Yet the people of Israel will be as numerous as the sands of the seashore that can neither be measured nor counted. And one day, instead of it being said of them, 'You are not my people,' it will be said, 'You are the children of the living God.'"

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

With God's help we are listening.

One day Jesus was praying, and when he had finished, one of the disciples asked, “Rabbi, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.” Jesus said to them, “When you pray, say,

‘Abba God, hallowed be your Name!

May your reign come.

Give us today Tomorrow’s bread.

Forgive us our sins,

for we too forgive everyone who sins against us;

And don’t let us be subjected to the Test.”

Jesus said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, a neighbor, and you go to your neighbor at midnight and say, ‘Lend me three loaves of bread, because friends of mine on a journey have come to me, and I have nothing to set before them.’ Then your neighbor says, ‘Leave me alone. The door is already locked and the children and I are in bed. I can’t get up to look after your needs.’ I tell you, though your neighbor will not get up to give you the bread out of friendship, your persistence will make your neighbor get up and give you as much as you need. That’s why I tell you, keep asking and you’ll receive; keep looking and you’ll find; keep knocking and the door will be opened to you. For whoever asks, receives; whoever seeks, finds; whoever knocks, is admitted. What parents among you will give a snake to their child when the child asks for a fish, or a scorpion when the child asks for an egg? If you, with all your sins, know how to give your children good things, how much more will our heavenly Abba give the Holy Spirit to those who ask?”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Denise Clark-Jones

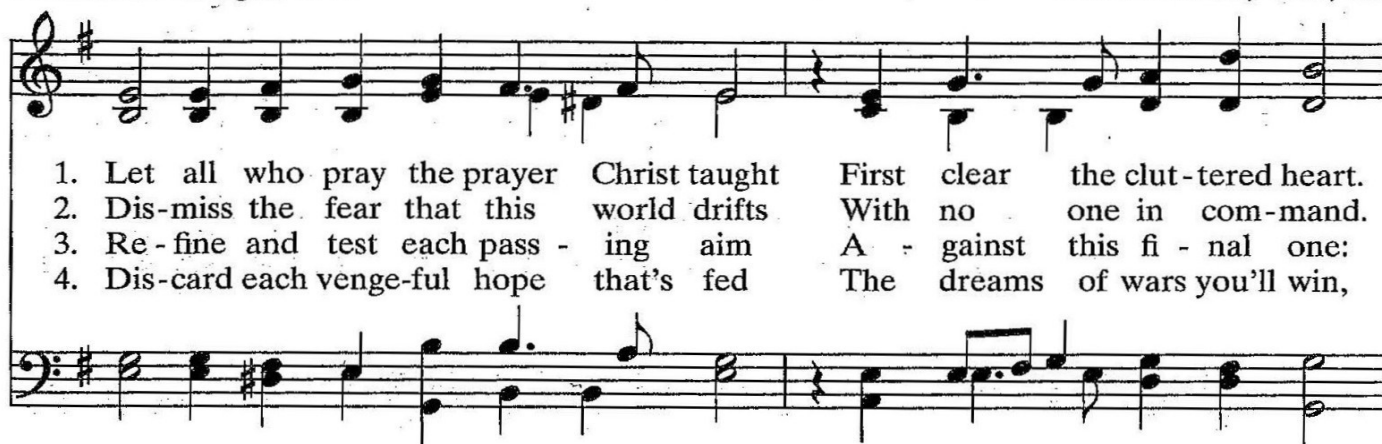
“How Long Do I Pray?”



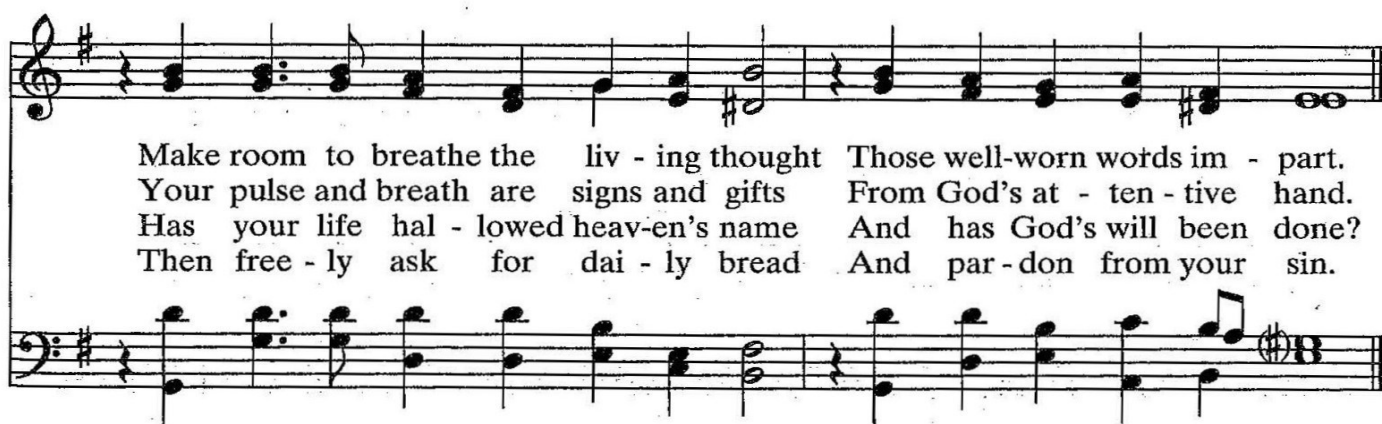
Let All Who Pray the Prayer Christ Taught

Thomas H. Troeger, 1985

Este's *Psalmes*, 1592; alt.



1. Let all who pray the prayer Christ taught First clear the cluttered heart.
 2. Dis-miss the fear that this world drifts With no one in command.
 3. Re-fine and test each passing aim A - gainst this final one:
 4. Dis-card each venge-ful hope that's fed The dreams of wars you'll win,



Make room to breathe the liv - ing thought Those well-worn words im - part.
 Your pulse and breath are signs and gifts From God's at - ten - tive hand.
 Has your life hal - lowed heav-en's name And has God's will been done?
 Then free - ly ask for dai - ly bread And par - don from your sin.

5. Examine how temptation breeds
 Inside the mind's dark maze,
 Acknowledging that your life needs
 Deliverance from its ways.

6. By faithful discipline prepare
 An inward holy space
 That when you offer Jesus' prayer
 Your heart may fill with grace.

Text: From New Songs of Praise Book 2; © 1986, Oxford University Press. By permission.

* 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.**

Refrain



Ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing in my




heart I will pray. Yes, ev - ery time I feel the



Spir - it mov - ing in my heart I will pray. *Fine*



1 Up - on the moun - tain, when my Lord spoke, out of God's
2 Jor - dan Riv - er, chil - ly and cold, it chills the



mouth came fire and smoke. Looked all a - round me, it looked so
bod - y but not the soul. There is but one train up - on this



fine, till I asked my Lord if all was mine.
track. It runs to heav - en and then right back. *to Refrain*

Like many African American spirituals, this one mixes the language of biblical narrative with veiled but effective allusions to the hope of escape from slavery, either by crossing rivers into free states or by participating in organized efforts like the Underground Railroad.

TEXT: African American spiritual

MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Joseph T. Jones, 20th cent.; adapt. Melva Wilson Costen, 1989

Music Adapt. © 1990 Melva Wilson Costen

PENTECOST

Irregular

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Reenter your world as children of the living God.

Greet your neighbors as God's valued creation.

God sends us out as bearers of peace.

We will honor God's Word above everything.

With steadfast love and faithfulness, God strengthens you.

You will receive what you need for each day.

We will not hesitate to search and ask.

We will be persistent in prayer.

God will answer you and give you what is good.

Doors will be opened and good gifts will be received.

We rejoice in the opportunities God gives us.

May the glory of God be recognized among us!

May you be filled with God's blessings.

And carry them with you as you depart from here.

May you discover the places in the world where these blessings are needed.

And have the courage to share them.

Amen.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Sevenfold Amen

John Stainer

POSTLUDE

Toccata in G Minor (P468)

Johann Pachelbel

*"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:

Scott, Luke, Scheem Hempstead, Kim Bischel, David Damm, JoAnn Hood,
Timothy Truitt, Eileen Kelly, Victor Rodriguez, Fred Heider,
Judy and Frank Macuga, Shelley Wheeler

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 First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

Online Giving:

oldstonechurch.org/giving/

Mobile Giving:

Text the keyword “oldstonecle” to 73256

Mail to:

The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland
Attn: Financial Office
91 Public Square
Cleveland, OH 44113

Scan the QR Code with your phone.



Checks should be made payable to “The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland.”

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

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

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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*

Noah Whitaker, *tenor*

Morgan Potts, *alto*

Christopher Clark, *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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