



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

AUGUST 10, 2025
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

Minute for Mission:

Lisa Dellafiora
Advancement Director, NAMI Greater Cleveland/NAMIWalks

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

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.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Gather before God, people of the covenant.

Listen for God's Word, O faithful ones.

God has summoned us to this place.

We believe God will speak to us here.

Come to honor God and give thanks.

Seek to learn and follow in God's way.

We come as willing and obedient servants.

Let your steadfast love, O God, be upon us.

God calls us as workers for justice.

God sends us out as advocates for the dispossessed.

We are here to be equipped for ministry.

We expect to be empowered for our service.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**For the rich heritage we have received from your hand,
 we are grateful, O God.**

You have fashioned our hearts and observed our deeds.

Now we come together, awaiting further instructions from your Word.

Teach us here what we need to know

in order to live faithfully in this troubled world.

Lead us beyond the routines of worship

to a genuine, life-changing encounter with you.

Amen.

* HYMN #716

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

BEACH SPRING



1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
 2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of
 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your

(D) F (Bm) Dm

end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly
 Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es
 grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to

(G) B \flat (D) F (A) C

cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn
 joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly
 spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in

(Bm) Dm (F \sharp m) Am (Bm) Dm (G) B \flat (A) C (D) F

to you, of - fer - ing up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall
 la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,
 shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,

(Bm) Dm (G) B \flat (D) F

rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
 make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
 and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Brad Oglesby

Is this another solemn assembly of people
 who are quite content with ourselves and unable to confront our hidden sin?
 Do we live in self-protective rebellion against God's call
 to rescue the oppressed and devote ourselves to seeking justice for all?
 Have we become a burden to God?
 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 confess that we have shaped our own standards and values
rather than seeking to know your will.
We turn from faith in you and rebel against the agenda of your realm.
Our hearts focus on the things we can accumulate
more than on your mission in which we can share.
Lead us, O God, into acts of compassion,
that our attitudes may be reshaped
and a right relationship with you restored.
(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

Wash yourselves until you are clean.
Seek justice, rescue the oppressed, turn from evil to do good.
As you share in God's agenda,
your sins of scarlet become as pure as new-fallen snow.
God is pleased to welcome you into the realm
where all are blessed and where true treasures can be found.
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.

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

When you invest generously in the work to which God calls us,
your whole life is drawn into fulfilling relationships with God
and with the people you are helping.

Do not be afraid to share.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

All My Trials

Bahamian Spiritual

arr. Norman Luboff

If religion was a thing that money could buy the rich would live and the poor would die.

All my trials, Lord, soon be over.

Too late my brothers! Too late but never mind. All my trials, Lord, soon be over.

Now, hush, little baby, don't you cry. You know that man is born to die.

All my trials, Lord, soon be over.

* 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

Brad Oglesby

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**Thank you, God, for welcoming us into your caring realm,
where we claim the needs of others as our concern.**

We are finding a homeland in your service and we are grateful.

**Above all, may our offerings be an outpouring of thanksgiving
for a God who does not forget us.**

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 Hope,
by faith we know that you created the world,
and that what is seen is made by things that are not visible.
Open our eyes to your presence among us
that we might hear your word with clarity
and a sureness of hope,
as we follow you in all righteousness.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Tanach

Isaiah 1:1,10-20 (Inclusive Bible)

The vision of Isaiah Ben-Amoz concerning Judah and Jerusalem during the reign of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, rulers of Judah.

Hear the word of YHWH,

you rulers of "Sodom"!

Listen to the command of YHWH,

you people of "Gomorraah":

These interminable sacrifices of yours: what are they to me?

says YHWH.

I am fed up with burnt offerings of rams

and the fat of calves!

The blood of bulls, lambs, and goats nauseates me.

When you came to present yourself before me,

who asked you to trample over my courts?

Don't bring any more of your useless offerings to me—

their incense fills me with loathing.

New moons, Sabbaths, assemblies—

I cannot endure another festival of injustice!

Your new moons and your pilgrimages

I despise with my soul.

They are wearisome to me;

I am tired of bearing them.

When you open up your hands in prayer,

I turn my eyes away from you.

You may heap prayer upon prayer,

but I won't hear them—

your hands are covered with blood!



Wash! Clean yourselves!
Get your injustice out of my sight!
Cease to do evil
and learn to do good!
Search for justice
and help the oppressed!
Protect those who are orphaned
and plead the case of those who are widowed!
“Come now! Let’s look at the choices before you,”
says YHWH.
“Though your sins are like scarlet,
they can be white as snow.
Though they are red as crimson,
they can be like fleece.
If you are willing to obey,
you will eat the best that the land has to offer—
but if you persist in rebellion
the sword will consume you instead!”
The mouth of YHWH has spoken.

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

With God’s help we are listening

Gospel

Luke 12:32-40 (Inclusive Bible)

“Fear not, little flock, for it has pleased your Abba God to give you the kingdom. Sell what you own and give the money to poorer people. Make purses for yourselves that don’t wear out—treasures that won’t fail you in heaven, that thieves can’t steal and moths can’t destroy. For wherever your treasure is, that’s where your heart will be.”

“Be dressed and ready, and keep your lamps lit. Be like the household staff awaiting the owner’s return from the wedding, so that when the owner arrives and knocks, you’ll open the door without delay. It will go well with those staff members whom the owner finds wide awake upon returning. I tell you the absolute truth, the owner will put on an apron, seat them at table and proceed to wait on them. Should the owner happen to come at midnight, or before sunrise, and find them prepared, it will go well with them.”

“Understand this: No home owner who knew when a thief was coming would have let the thief break in! So be on guard—the Promised One will come when least expected.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“The Light of Justice, Equity and Inclusion”

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 Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it,
 1 I am weak, but thou art strong; Je - sus,
 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I
 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for

Je - sus, is my plea, dai - ly walk - ing close to
 keep me from all wrong; I'll be sat - is - fied as
 fal - ter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my bur - den
 me will be no more; guide me gent - ly, safe - ly

thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.
 long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. Ref.
 shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. Ref.
 o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore. Ref.

The chromatic musical style of this anonymous short hymn suggests that it probably dates from the early 20th century. It also seems to owe much of its popularity to radio broadcasts and recordings as well as to evangelistic meetings and singing conventions of that era.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Enter your everyday world dressed for action.

Let your lamps of faith light up the world.

We are ready to meet God at home and at work.

We are ready to serve wherever we are.

God, whose Word prepared vast worlds beyond our knowing,
welcomes us as covenant partners in this world.

Direct our steps, O God, and we will obey.

We respond to your promises in faith and trust.

Work for justice and peace where you live.

Let your prayers embrace those in need.

God is our assurance and our peace.

God is the light along our way.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Sevenfold Amen

John Stainer

POSTLUDE

*“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:

Eleanor Cicerchi, Mark Corey, Bruce Baunach, Kenny Medvetz, Kate Kalas, Elliot,
Scott, Luke, Scheem Hempstead, Kim Bischel, David Damm, JoAnn Hood,
Timothy Truitt, Eileen Kelly, Victor Rodriguez, Fred Heider,
Judy and Frank Macuga, Shelley Wheeler, the Bonner family, the Bittner family,
the Jackson-Dix family

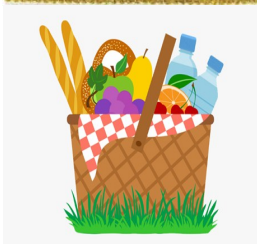
We pray for those struggling with illness, convalescing, homebound or in need.

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 ANNUAL PICNIC

*Sunday, August 17, 2025, 2:30–5:30PM

*North Olmsted Community Cabin

28114 Lorain Road North Olmsted, Oh 44070

*Bring a Side Dish or Dessert

@ Old Stone Church

Sunday August 10

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

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

12:00PM Lori (Larry) Lippert Memorial Service/Sanctuary

Tuesday August 12

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

Wednesday August 13

11AM-2PM Open Doors/Sanctuary

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday August 14

2:00PM Worship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Sunday August 17

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

1:40PM Guardians/Braves/Progressive Field

2:30PM OSC Annual Picnic/North Olmsted Community Cabin

Tuesday August 19

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

Wednesday August 20

11AM-2PM Open Doors/Sanctuary

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday August 21

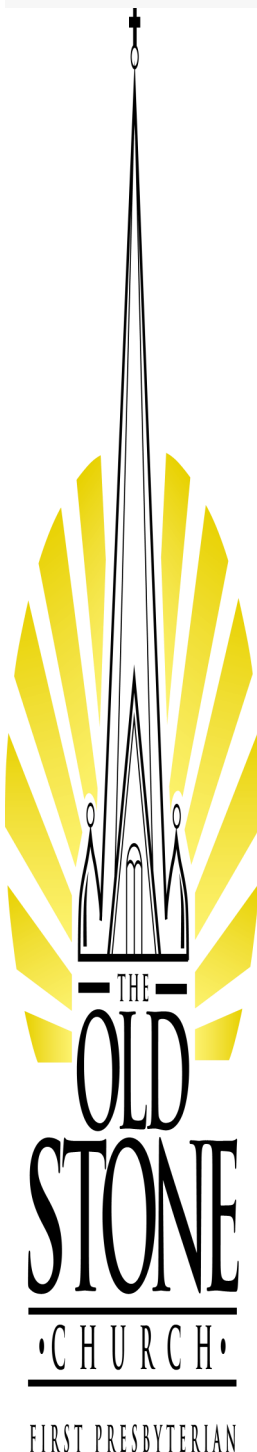
7:00PM FPS Directors Meeting/Conference Room/First Floor

Sunday August 24

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

1:00PM Harry Hatters Memorial Service/Sanctuary



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

The Old Stone Singers

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Reese Henrick, *alto*

Noah Whitaker, *tenor*

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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