



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

AUGUST 17, 2025
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Organ Concerto in C Major

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

Now let us all praise God and sing our great Redeemer's praise;
that we may all with one accord our joyful voices raise. Sing Alleluia!
All ye servant of the Lord, praise Him forever, sing Jehovah's mighty power,
praise Him forever. Sing of His righteousness, praise Him forever.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Return, beloved of God, to the fold.

God welcomes you to this hour of prayer.

God calls us by name and awaits our coming.

God summons us out of hiding.

God is like a shepherd, caring for her flocks.

God is like a gardener, carefully tending his vines.

Surely God has provided richly for us.

Our lives are sustained by God's good gifts.

Worship the one who longs for our coming.

Sing praise to the one who expects our faithfulness.

We call on God, who gives us life.

May God's face shine on us to save us.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

Surrounded by a rich heritage of faith,

we seek to know you, God, in this time of worship.

Thankful for our spiritual ancestors,

we return to our roots to find our true identity.

We lay aside all that weighs us down and fills us with doubts

so we can give attention to your call and your message.

Meet us here, we pray.

Amen.

* HYMN #817

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

DUNLAP'S CREEK

1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
4 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
may our faith a - bound to call on you when
realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you

none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
we re - joice and cry, "My Lord and God!"
you are near and seek where you are found.
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The opening line here is essentially a quotation of 2 Corinthians 5:7, but that affirmation is fleshed out by references to the appearance of the risen Christ to Thomas (John 20:19–29). The shape note tune, named for a stream in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, adds resolution to the words.

TEXT: Henry Alford, 1844, alt.

MUSIC: Samuel McFarland, c. 1814; harm. Richard Proulx, 1986

Music Harm. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

DUNLAP'S CREEK

CM

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Michelle Baron

Sometimes we deceive ourselves with pious pretense;
but God is not fooled.
Sometimes we are led astray
by the lies and empty promises of the marketplace,
but God does not change the rules to accommodate our whims.
We busy ourselves with our own agendas,
but God continues to have a better plan for us.
Stop now to evaluate your relationship with 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

**O God, after all you have done for us,
we have failed to bear fruit for you.
We have turned away from your Word
and have forgotten to call on your name.
People who are weak, lonely, and destitute
receive little help from our hands
because we are preoccupied with our own concerns.
Lift us from the shadows of our own deceptions
and let your face shine on us so we may walk once more in your truth.**
(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

Courtney Knapp

When we are penitent,
God restores us to our rightful identity as children of the Most High.
God lights a fire within us so we can change our world for the better.
In the name of Jesus Christ, who endured the cross for us,
we dare to come out of hiding to speak up for justice and peace.
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.

We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses,
people of generations before us
who have given their all in faithfulness to God.

Much is required of those who make a faith commitment.

Much is required of us.

We give, however, not out of fear or a sense of duty
but because it is a joyful opportunity
to express thanks for all we have received.

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

Michelle Baron

Let us join our voices in prayer:

Gracious God, whose creative energy

has filled all heaven and earth

with good things for us to enjoy and share,

we would honor you with our offerings.

May the programs we initiate and the outreach we support

bear fruits of justice and peace.

We look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith,

as our model in facing all circumstances and giving ourselves for others.

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

**Holy God, your Word is like fire.
By the power of your Spirit,
illumine our sight and enflame our hearts,
that we may live lives more faithful to your will.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Epistle

Hebrews 11:29-12:2 (Inclusive Bible)

By faith the people passed through the Sea of Reeds as though on dry land. When the Egyptians tried the same, they drowned. By faith, the walls of Jericho fell after being encircled for seven days. By faith, Rahab the prostitute didn't perish with those who were disobedient, after she welcomed the spies in peace.

What more can I say? There is no time for me to give an account of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, or David, Samuel and the prophets. These were those who through faith conquered nations, did what was just and earned the promises. They shut the jaws of lions, put out raging fires, and emerged unscathed from battle. They were weak people who were given strength, became brave in battle and put foreign invaders to flight. Some came back from the dead to their spouses by resurrection. Others submitted to torture, refusing release so that they could rise again to a better life. Still others endured mockery, scourgings—even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, sawed in half, even beheaded. They were homeless, dressed in the skins of sheep and goats; they were penniless and given nothing but ill treatment—the world wasn't worthy of them!—and they wandered in deserts and slept on mountains and in caves and ravines.

These are all heroes of our faith, but none of them received what was promised since God had provided something better for us, so that they would not be made perfect apart from us.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside everything that impedes us and the sin that so easily entangles us. Let us run with perseverance the race laid out for us. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection.

For the sake of the joy to come, Jesus endured the cross, heedless of its shame, and now sits at the right hand of God's throne.

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

With God's help we are listening.

“I’ve come to light a fire on the earth. How I wish the blaze were ignited already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! Do you think I’m here to bring peace on earth? I tell you, the opposite is true: I’ve come to bring division. From now on a household of five will be divided—three against two and two against three, father against son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

Jesus said again to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say that rain is coming—and so it does. When the wind blows from the south, you say it’s going to be hot—and it is. You hypocrites! If you can interpret the portents of earth and sky, why can’t you interpret the present time?”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams
“The Fire of the Spirit”



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 Take up your cross, the Sav - ior said, if
 2 Take up your cross; let not its weight fill
 3 Take up your cross; heed not the shame, and
 4 Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength, and

you would my dis - ci - ple be; take up your cross with
 your weak spir - it with a - larm; Christ's strength shall bear your
 let your fool - ish pride be still; the Lord for you ac -
 calm - ly ev - ery dan - ger brave: it guides you to a -

will - ing heart, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me.
 spir - it up and brace your heart and nerve your arm.
 cept - ed death up - on a cross, on Cal - vary's hill.
 bun - dant life and leads to vic - tory o'er the grave.

Written by a nineteen-year-old in Connecticut, this challenging text has been widely printed on both sides of the Atlantic. It is strengthened by its resolute repetition of the same four words at the beginning of each stanza and by the appropriately stark shape note tune.

TEXT: Charles William Everest, 1833, alt.
 MUSIC: Attr. Freeman Lewis, 1814; harm. John Leon Hooker, 1984
 Music Harm. © 1984 John Leon Hooker

BOURBON
 LM

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

God has planted and nurtured a splendid vineyard.

We are vines, expected to bear good fruit.

No longer will we be choked out by thorns and briars.

Deceit and lies will not overcome us.

God's Word is more powerful than fire or earthquake.

It is given to shake us from our complacency.

We are aware of the weak and needy among us.

We are determined to work for justice.

Let the one who knows God's Word speak faithfully.

May all who have heard the Word make response.

God will restore us in time of difficulty.

God will perfect and equip us for our service.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Sevenfold Amen

John Stainer

POSTLUDE

Toccata from Revelations

D. Pinkham

*“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:

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

We pray for the repose of the soul of Shelley Wheeler,
may her memory be a blessing.

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 TODAY!

*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

@ The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

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 PFS Directors Meeting/Conference Room/First Floor

Sunday August 24

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

1:00PM Harry Hatters Memorial Service/Sanctuary

Tuesday August 26

6:30PM Stated Session Meeting/ZOOM

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

Wednesday August 27

11AM-2PM Open Doors/Sanctuary

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Sunday August 31

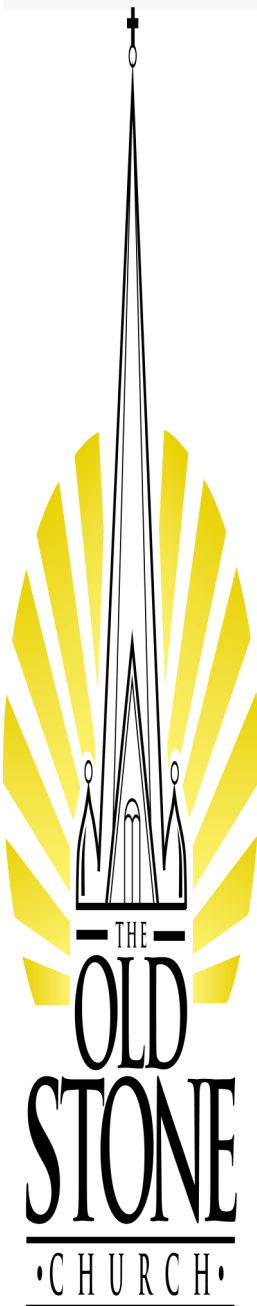
10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

1:40PM Guardians/Mariners/Progressive Field

Monday September 1/Labor Day

All Day Building and Offices Closed



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:67 Online:237

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.

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Senior Pastor: Rev. Stephen C. Blonder Adams

Parish Associate: Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

Guest Organist: Jason Lorenzon

The Old Stone Singers

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*

Stephen Brown, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *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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