



# THE OLD STONE CHURCH

AUGUST 24, 2025  
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
**10AM Sanctuary Worship**

## WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

*Prelude and Fugue in Bb major*

J.S Bach

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

\* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

## INTROIT

## *God Is Our Hope and Strength*

God is our hope and strength, a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,  
and the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Assemble before God, our rock and refuge.

Come together to listen for the voice of our Creator.

**The Word of God shakes the foundation of the earth.**

**We expect to be changed by God's message to us.**

God rescues us from cruelty and injustice.

In steadfast love, God delivers us from our enemies.

**We remember the rich heritage we have received.**

**We give thanks for God's grace and mercy.**

This is God's holy day, a time to lay aside narrow interests.

How will we honor God in word and deed?

**We will delight in the Word and works of our God.**

**We will join together in praise and good works.**

### \* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**We are known by you, gracious God, better than we know ourselves.**

**You have given us life and you have renewed our spirits.**

**You have carried us to the heights,**

**and you have dwelled with us in life's depths.**

**You are our hope and our trust.**

**Touch us here, for you are far beyond our reach.**

**Dwell with us here to lift our aspirations**

**and inspire confidence among us.**

**Amen.**

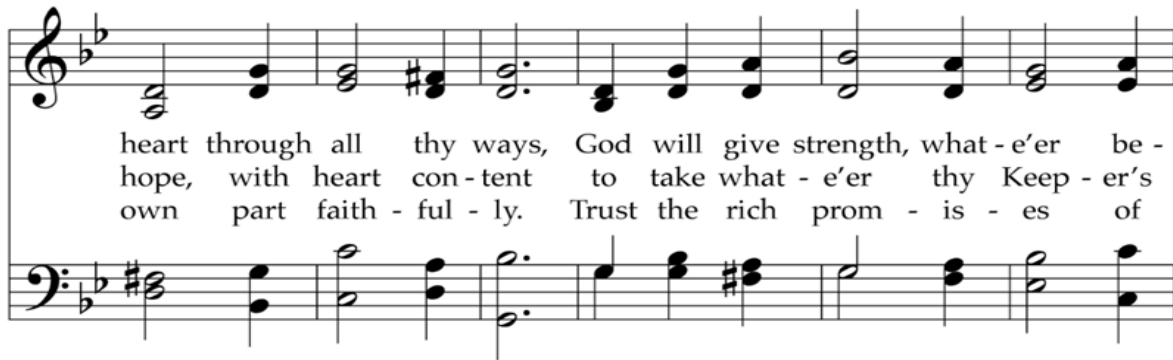
### \* HYMN #816

*If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee*

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves, a treble staff on top and a bass staff on the bottom, both in 3/4 time. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. Below the staves, there are three lines of lyrics, each corresponding to a different voice part or instrumental setting. The lyrics are: 1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee, with hope - ful; 2 On - ly be still, and wait God's lei - sure in cheer - ful; 3 Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways, but do thine.

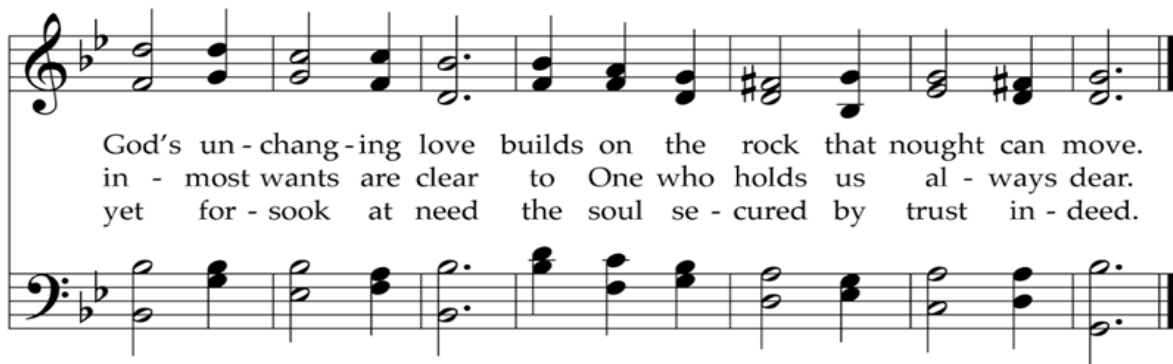
1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee, with hope - ful  
2 On - ly be still, and wait God's lei - sure in cheer - ful  
3 Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways, but do thine



heart through all thy ways, God will give strength, what - e'er be -  
 hope, with heart con - tent to take what - e'er thy Keep - er's  
 own part faith - ful - ly. Trust the rich prom - is - es of



tide thee, to bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in  
 plea - sure and all - dis - cern - ing love hath sent. No doubt our  
 grace; so shall they be ful - filled in thee. God nev - er



God's un - chang - ing love builds on the rock that nought can move.  
 in - most wants are clear to One who holds us al - ways dear.  
 yet for - sook at need the soul se - cured by trust in - deed.

This hymn is a testimony of experience. The original seven-stanza German text (based on Psalm 55:22) and its tune were created by the author/composer at the age of twenty in thanksgiving for finding employment many weeks after being left almost penniless following a robbery.

TEXT: Georg Neumark, 1641; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1855, 1863, alt.  
 MUSIC: Georg Neumark, 1641

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT  
 9.8.9.8.8.8

## \* CALL TO CONFESSION

Pete Maffia

How often do our habits and traditions  
 get in the way of God's mercy and abounding love?  
 Are we more eager to enforce the law than to help people?  
 Are we full of excuses when we are called to serve?  
 God is waiting for our answers.  
 Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,  
 followed by time for silent personal confession.  
 Thus, we pray:

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We bow in awe before you, powerful God.  
We have forgotten that you are in charge of the earth.  
We have neglected the brothers and sisters you have called us to love.  
We want them to conform to our way of doing things  
rather than reaching out to them where they are.  
We would rather ignore them than feel obligated to help.  
Sometimes we would rather continue our own crippled existence  
than call on you for help.  
O God, we need your mercy.**

*(moment of silent confession)*

\* KYRIE ELEISON #575

*Cantor:*

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Congregation:*

**Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

\* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God forgives, heals, and redeems.  
Stand straight and tall in your own mind,  
for God reclaims you and grants you freedom  
to become all you are meant to be.  
God crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.  
God appoints you to speak and act  
as representatives of the heavenly realm, as prophets of the new covenant.

**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 #583

*Cantor:*

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest! Glory to God, glory to God,  
alleluia, alleluia.

*Congregation:*

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest! Glory to God, glory to God,  
alleluia, alleluia.**

## OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.  
Our gifts speak where we cannot go.  
They witness to people we will never meet.  
They praise God who has provided for us every day of our lives.  
Let us give thanks through our offerings.  
The offering will now be received.

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Be Still and Know*

Ruth Elaine Schram

God is our refuge; God is our strength; a help when our troubled hearts are in need.  
God is our refuge; God is our strength; so we will not be afraid.  
Be still and know that I am God, though the mountains may fall to the heart of the sea;  
though the earth may give way, though its waters may pour,  
its mountains may quake, be still and know.  
Nations may falter, kingdoms may fall, but Almighty God is our fortress.  
Come. See the works of the Lord!

### \* DOXOLOGY #609

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, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

### \* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pete Maffia

Let us join our voices in prayer:  
**O God, we cannot forget all your benefits.  
Accept our offerings as expressions of praise and acts of true worship.  
We pour out our thanks for all you have given us and for all you do for us. We are grateful for the opportunities you grant us to help others.  
May healing come to all who suffer  
and freedom be granted to those weighed down  
and bent over with heavy burdens.  
Use us and our gifts to bring the changes for good  
that you intend for our world.  
Amen.**

### \* OFFERTORY RESPONSE

*I Will Always Give Thanks*

Eric Thiman

I will always give thanks, give thanks unto the Lord;  
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Almighty God,  
you know us better than we know ourselves.  
By your word, give us wisdom,  
by your Spirit, grant us healing,  
and set us free to serve you with love.  
We ask this in the name of the One who heals in your name,  
Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

### THE READINGS

Tanach

Psalm 71:1-6 (Inclusive Bible)

**In you, YHWH, I take shelter—  
let me never be disappointed.  
In your justice, rescue me, deliver me,  
turn your ear to me and save me!  
Be mine, O mountain of strength!  
Send your decree—deliver me,  
for you are my rock, my fortress!  
O God, rescue me from the hands of the violent,  
from the clutches of the thief and outlaw!**

**For you alone are my hope, YHWH my sovereign—  
I have trusted you since my youth.  
I have relied on you from the womb;  
you sustained me from my mother's breast;  
to you I give constant praise.**

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

**With God's help we are listening.**



One Sabbath, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues. There was a woman there who for eighteen years had a sickness caused by a spirit. She was bent double, quite incapable of standing up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are free of your infirmity." He laid his hands on her, and immediately she stood up straight and began thanking God. The head of the synagogue, indignant that Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the congregation, "There are six days for working. Come on those days to be healed, not on the Sabbath." Jesus said in reply, "You hypocrites! Which of you doesn't let your ox or your donkey out of the stall on the Sabbath to water it? This daughter of Sarah and Abraham has been in bondage of Satan for eighteen years. Shouldn't she have been released from her shackles on the Sabbath?" At these words, Jesus' opponents were humiliated; meanwhile, everyone else rejoiced at the marvels Jesus was accomplishing.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams  
"God is our Hope and Trust"



## 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* D Em7 G A D Bm Bm7 G A

Heal - er of our ev - ery ill, light of each to - mor - row,

F#m7 Bm Em7 F#7 G Em A D *Fine*

give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.

Bm F#m G F

1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your peace and

2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is still un -

3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - ery sis - ter, ev - ery

4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your way of

Em D/F# G Bm A G A *to Refrain*

glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.

fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.

broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.

heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

As soon becomes apparent, this sung prayer is not limited to personal physical healing. It deals with the larger and intangible gifts of peace and hope to vanquish fear and sorrow, and it is cast in the plural because it is concerned with the healing of a wounded community.

\* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

God promises to reign among us and guide us.  
God's rule in our midst will not be shaken.

**We will approach God with reverence and awe.**

**We will worship God in our daily pursuits.**

God's freeing, uplifting presence is ever with us.

God's transforming power is working among us.

**We rejoice at the wonderful things God is doing.**

**We are eager to join in good works for God.**

The Word of God empowers us to speak and act.

God is sending us to people who need our help.

**We will not be afraid to speak of God's love.**

**We will dare to act as God directs.**

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

*Fivefold Amen*

Kurt Kaiser

POSTLUDE

*Poco Vivace*

Herman Shroeder

*"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:**

Edward Nicholson, Andre Cummings, Terrance Byrd, Victoria Walker,  
George Williams, Emmanuel, Antoinette, Libby, David Damm, Joanne,  
Courtney Knapp, Brad Oglesby, Fred Heider, Eleanor Cicerchi,  
Mark Corey, Bruce Baunach, JoAnn Hood, Judy and Frank Macuga,  
Timothy Truitt, Victor Rodriguez,  
Paul Belatone and 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.

## **@ The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland**

### **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

### **Tuesday September 2**

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

### **Wednesday September 3**

**11AM-2PM** Open Doors/Sanctuary

**12:15PM** Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

### **Friday September 5**

**3:00PM** Corrigan/Barrios Wedding Rehearsal/Sanctuary

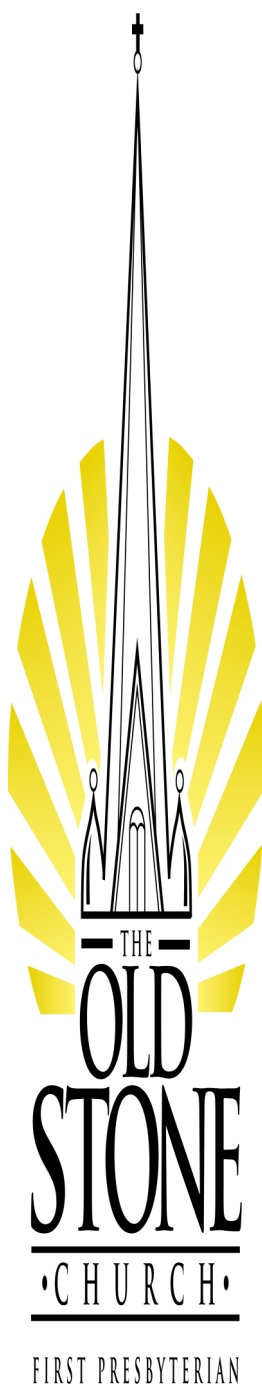
### **Saturday September 6**

**3:30PM** Corrigan/Barrios Wedding/Sanctuary

### **Sunday September 7**

**10:00AM** Worship with Communion/Sanctuary

**1:00PM** Browns/Bengals



**Last Sunday Attendance** In-Person:60 Online:250

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

Online Giving:

[oldstonechurch.org/giving/](http://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**

*LOVING CHRIST, SERVING CITY—SPIRITUALLY, SOCIALLY, CULTURALLY—SINCE 1820*

91 Public Square, Cleveland, Ohio 44113-2058

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

**Website:** [www.OldStoneChurch.org](http://www.OldStoneChurch.org) **E-Mail:** [info@OldStoneChurch.org](mailto:info@OldStoneChurch.org)

Music copied under ccli#1638695  
onelicense#A-742406

**Senior Pastor:** Rev. Stephen C. Blonder Adams

**Parish Associate:** Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

**Minister of Music:** Evan M. Collins

### **The Old Stone Singers**

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Ian Atwood, *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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