



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

AUGUST 31, 2025
TWELVETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE *Rhosymedre* from Three Preludes found on Welsh hymn tunes
R. Vaughan Williams

WELCOME Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT *O Lord, Increase My Faith* David Schelat

O Lord, increase my faith, strengthen me and confirm me in Thy true faith.
Endue me with wisdom, with charity and patience. In all my adversity, teach me to say
Amen.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing to God, our strength; cry out to God, our helper.

Rejoice, and do not fear to appear before our God.

It is God who led our ancestors through hard times.

It is God who leads us through difficult days.

God will not leave us or forsake us.

God welcomes us to the banquet of life.

God fills our mouths with good things.

God offers us fountains of living water.

Listen now to the voice of God and submit to God's will.

Hear the Word of God and turn away from worthless things.

We will delight in the commandments of our God.

We will share eagerly in the work God gives us to do.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

Gracious God, our helper,

we seek the assurance of your presence in this time of worship.

We have come to listen and to receive your counsel.

Melt our stubborn hearts to remove the barriers

that keep us from seeing your glory and doing your will.

Challenge all that is worthless and unprofitable in our lives,

that we may become worthy imitators of Jesus Christ,

in whose name we pray.

Amen.

* HYMN

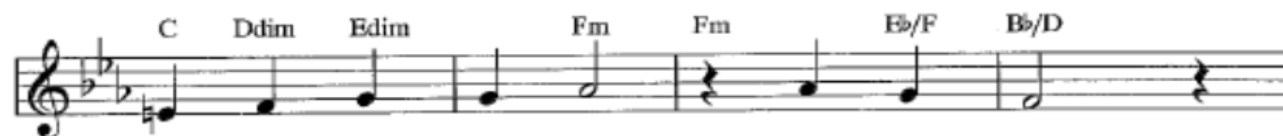
Lord, You Are Welcome

The musical notation is for the hymn 'Lord, You Are Welcome'. It is written on a single staff in 3/4 time, with a tempo marking of quarter note = 84. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody consists of a series of quarter notes: C, D-dim, E-dim, Fm, E-b, B-b sus, and B-b. Below the staff, there are four lines of lyrics, each corresponding to a measure of the music. The lyrics are: 1. Lord, you are wel - come in this place. 2. Send your a - noint - ing in this place. 3. Move by your Spir - it in this place. 4. Heal and de - liv - er in this place.

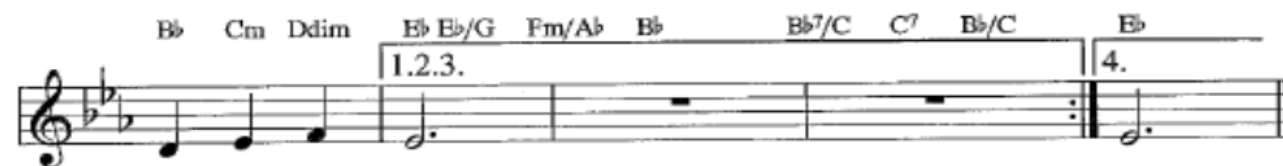
1. Lord, you are wel - come in this place.
2. Send your a - noint - ing in this place.
3. Move by your Spir - it in this place.
4. Heal and de - liv - er in this place.



Lord, you are wel - come in this place.
 Send you a - noint - ing in this place.
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Lord, you are wel - come in this place.
 Send your a - noint - ing in this place.
 Move by your Spir - it in this place.
 Heal and de - liv - er in this place.



Show us your way.
 Show us your way.
 Show us your way.
 Show us your way.

Words and Music: Kurt Lykes
 Music Arrangement: Cynthia Wilson
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* CALL TO CONFESSION

Don Urban

When we are not in daily communion with God,
 false gods rush in to claim our loyalty.
 We chase after things that do not profit.
 We become cracked cisterns that can hold no water.
 Only God can fill our emptiness.
 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, we are desolate and frightened,
for there are evil tidings all around us
and we do not know you well enough to count on your help.
We cannot hear your voice or sense your presence.
There is a void within us that things cannot satisfy.
We have reached for honors and recognition,
but they provide no lasting fulfillment.
Forgive our mistaken priorities and draw us to you,
the source of living water.**

(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

Happy are those who revere God, who delight in God's commandments.
It is well with those who deal generously with others,
conduct their affairs with justice and care for the poor.
When we listen to God,
the enemies within and around us are subdued
and we can walk with confidence into each new day.

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.

Through our offering, we extend to the world God's banquet invitation.

As we reach out to people who have not known our advantages,
we are blessed.

Let us not neglect to do good and to share generously what we have,
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Thou art God

Lionel Bourne

Thou art the peace of all things calm,
Thou art the place to hide from harm,
Thou art the light that shines in dark,
Thou art the heart's eternal spark,
Thou art the door that's open wide,
Thou art the guest who waits inside,
Thou art the stranger at the door,
Thou art the calling of the poor.
Thou art my Savior this very day.

* 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

Don Urban

Let us join our voices in prayer:

In joyous thanksgiving for the banquet of life,

we invite those who live in poverty to share our wealth.

**We give up some of our luxuries for the sake of brothers and sisters
who lack food, shelter, or medical care.**

We reach out to help, expecting no reward

but the satisfaction of sharing what you have so richly entrusted to us.

We dedicate our time and abilities along with these fruits of our labor.

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

**God of Wisdom,
open us to the work of your Spirit,
that we may hear
and faithfully respond
to your holy Word.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Epistle

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 (Inclusive Bible)

Continue to love each other as sisters and brothers. Don't neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some people have entertained angels without knowing it.

Keep in mind those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them. And be mindful of those who are being treated badly, since you know what they are enduring.

Let marriage be honored by everyone, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge covenant breakers and adulterers.

Put the love of money out of your lives and be content with what you have, for God has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you."

Thus we may say with confidence, "God is my Helper, and I will not be afraid; what can mere humans do to me?"

Remember your leaders, who preached the Word of God to you, and as you reflect on the outcomes of their lives, imitate their faith. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Through Jesus let us continually offer God a sacrifice of praise—that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge God's Name.

Keep doing good works and sharing your resources.

These are the sacrifices that please God.

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

With God's help we are listening.

One Sabbath, when Jesus came to eat a meal in the house of one of the leading Pharisees, the guests watched him closely.

Jesus went on to address a parable to the guests, noticing how they were trying to get a place of honor at the table.

“When you’re invited to a wedding party, don’t sit in the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished has been invited. Otherwise the hosts might come and say to you, ‘Make room for this person,’ and you would have to proceed shamefacedly to the lowest place. What you should do is go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your hosts approach you they’ll say, ‘My friend, come up higher.’ This will win you the esteem of the other guests. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” Then Jesus said to the host, “Whenever you give a lunch or dinner, don’t invite your friends or colleagues or relatives or wealthy neighbors. They might invite you in return and thus repay you. No, when you have a reception, invite those who are poor or have physical infirmities or are blind. You should be pleased that they can’t repay you, for you’ll be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

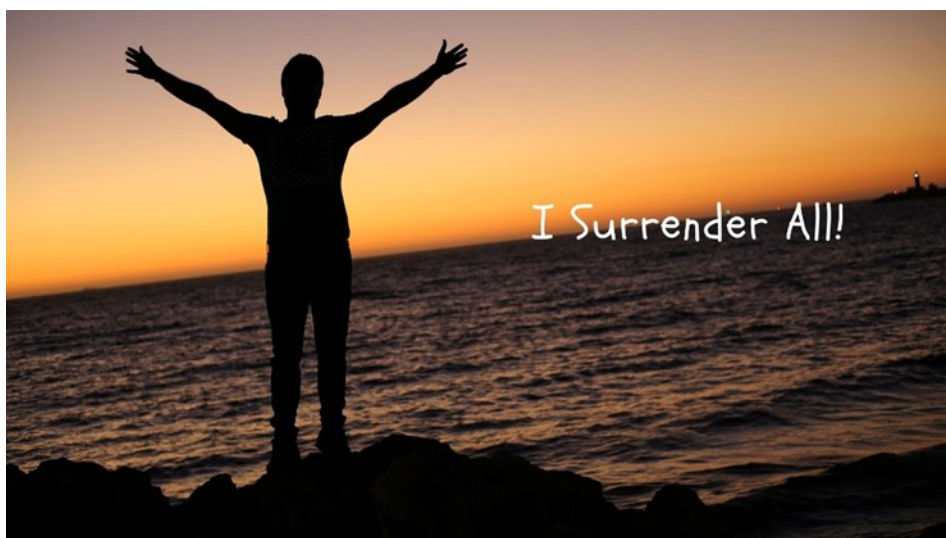
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“I Surrender All”



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 Lord, speak to me that I may speak in liv - ing
 2 O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the wan - dering
 3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the pre - cious
 4 O fill me with your full - ness, Lord, un - til my
 5 O use me, Lord, use e - ven me, just as you

ech - oes of your tone. As you have sought, so
 and the wa - vering feet. O feed me, Lord, that
 truths which you im - part. And wing my words that
 ver - y heart o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and
 will, and when, and where un - til your bless - ed

let me seek your err - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
 I may feed your hun - gering ones with man - na sweet.
 they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y a heart.
 glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.
 face I see, your rest, your joy, your glo - ry share.

Two great truths inform this text: first, that the testimony of experience is powerful and persuasive; and second, that no one should venture to minister on one's own strength rather than God's. The tune reflects a 19th-century practice of adapting piano pieces as hymn tunes.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Go forth as humble servants of Almighty God.
Those who humble themselves will be exalted.

We have no right to boast before God or others.

We are simply privileged to share God's bounty.

When you give a banquet, invite those who cannot repay.
Give honor to persons not usually recognized.

God has created us as sisters and brothers to all.

Everyone is a child of God, deserving of our attention.

God, who blesses your worship, will bless your service.

God will feed you with spiritual food that satisfies.

How good it is to walk in the ways God leads us.

How satisfying to drink from the fountain of living water.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Sevenfold Amen

John Stainer

POSTLUDE

Build on the Rock

arr. Michael Hassell

*“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:

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

We pray for the repose of the soul of Fred Heider
may his 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.

@ The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

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

6:00PM Welcome and Fellowship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

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/Huntington Bank Field

Tuesday September 9

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

Wednesday September 10

11AM-2PM Open Doors/Sanctuary

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Sunday September 14

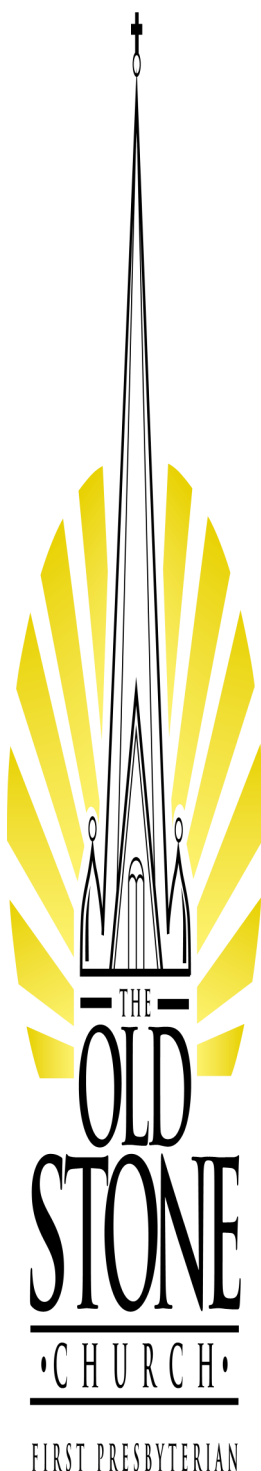
10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

11:30AM MUW Committee Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

12:00PM Fred Heider Memorial Service/Sanctuary/Reception Following

1:40PM Guardians/White Sox/Progressive Field



Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:61 Online:226

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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: Evan M. Collins

The Old Stone Singers

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*

Noah Whitaker, *tenor*

Morgan Potts, *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
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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