



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST WITH COMMUNION
10 AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE *Allegretto* from Sonata for Clarinet Camille Saint-Saëns

WELCOME Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT *O Holy Spirit, Lord Of Grace* Christopher Tye

Eternal Fount Of Love,
Inflame, We Pray, Our Inmost Hearts With Fire From Heaven Above.
As Thou In Bond Of Love Dost Join The Father And The Son,
So Fill Us All With Mutual Love, And Knit Our Hearts In One.

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Hear the choices God sets before us:
life and prosperity or death and adversity.

O God, you have searched us and known us.

You know our thoughts and every move we make.

Listen to the ordinances of our God;
love God and walk in the way God commands.

O God, we will listen for your words.

We will seek to walk on the paths you intend.

Happy are those who delight in God's law;
blessed are all who meditate on God's Word.

Wonderful are all your works, O God.

We are your creation; we are in your hands.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

**Like a skilled potter, O God,
you have shaped each one of us as a unique design.
You know us better than we know ourselves.
You value us more highly than we can imagine.
You weep when we are marred or broken
through our own misdeeds or the world's cruelty.
We gather now to assemble our prayers for one another
and all the world's people in a chorus of devotion.
Hear us, gracious God.
Amen.**

* HYMN #695

Change My Heart, O God
(sung twice)

CHANGE MY HEART

Refrain / Estribillo / 후렴

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a clear refrain structure. The lyrics are provided in English, Spanish, and Korean.

Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.
Cám - bia - me, Se - ñor, con tu gran po - der.
항 상 진 실 케 내 맘 바 꾸 사

Fine

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.
Haz - me co - mo tú, tu yo quie - ro ser.
 주 님 의 모 습 닻 게 하 소 서

You are the Pot - ter; I am the clay.
Tú el al - fa - re - ro, yo el ba - rro soy.
 주 는 토 기 장 이 나 는 진 흙

Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.
Só - lo a tu i - ma - gen, quie - ro siem - pre ser.
 날 빛 으 소 서 기 도 하 오 니

to Refrain / al Estribillo / 후렴

The central image of the potter and the clay in this text comes from Isaiah 64:8 (and there is a similar reference in Jeremiah 18:1-6), while the petition for a changed heart is similar to Psalm 51:10. Such readiness to do God's will is a significant feature of the spiritual life.

TEXT: English and Spanish, Eddie Espinosa, 1982;
 Korean trans., The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee, 2001
 MUSIC: Eddie Espinosa, 1982
 Text and Music © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing (admin. in North America Music Services)

CHANGE MY HEART
 Irregular

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Mary Musson

Come, all who have plugged your ears or averted your eyes
 when God's commands intrude on your idolatry.
 God calls individuals and nations to account.
 God expects our complete devotion and faithful obedience.
 How will we respond?
 Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
 followed by time for silent personal confession.
 Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Awesome God,
we confess that we have become slaves to our own narrow self-interest.
We pay more attention to our possessions than to you.
We try to hide from your all-seeing eye,
for we are guilty of devotion to false gods.
We are attracted to wicked advice and sinful pursuits
that direct our steps away from you.
We act without thinking or planning or consulting with you.
O God, show us the way to a better life.**

(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

Grace to you and peace from God our Parent.
Refresh your hearts in Jesus Christ our Savior,
who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
Receive the living water God offers
to all who come in true repentance and searching faith.
The Holy Spirit will never leave us or forsake us.
Our helper is ever available and eager to respond to our prayers.
Come, there is a place at God's banquet table for you.

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.

When we perceive all the good we may do for Jesus Christ,
we are eager to share.

Jesus welcomes into discipleship
those willing to give up all their possessions.

What we give today is a symbol of our fuller devotion
of all we have and all we are toward the realization of God's reign among us.
The offering will now be received.

OFFERTORY

Many gifts, One Spirit

Allen Pote

Many gifts, one spirit, many songs, one voice.
Many reasons, one promise, many questions, one choice.
O, God, we pray for unity, give guidance from above.
In our differences unite us in the circle of your love.
O, God, remind us we are not alone.
Though we move on different pathways,
we are walking to your throne.

Help us learn to love each other, show us ways to understand.
We are members of one family, growing strong by joining hands.
O, God, remind us we are not alone.
Though we move on different pathways,
we are walking to your throne.
Take our many ways of working, blend the colors of each soul
into the beauty of a rainbow.
Give us life, Lord, make us whole.

* 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

Mary Musson

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**Loving God, there is no way we can settle accounts with you.
We have no way to repay you for all we have received from your hands.
Yet we want to give our best to the work you call us to do
through this community of seekers.
We enter, with renewed commitment and confidence,
the costly venture of spreading love through your 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

Let us pray together:

**Holy and merciful God,
we have come to hear your word.
Help us bear it.
Break down in us all that resists your will
and plant in us a willingness to turn,
for we would live; we would be your disciples.
By your Spirit, come to us, now,
in ancient texts, in everyday visions,
in the need of our neighbor;
we pray in the name of Jesus, our light.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Tanach

Jeremiah 18:1-11 (Inclusive Bible)

This word came to Jeremiah from YHWH: "Get up and make your way down to the potter's house. I will give you my message there."

So I went down to the potter's house, and there the potter was working at the wheel. Whenever the object of clay that the potter was making turned out badly, the potter tried again, making of the clay another object, of whatever sort the potter pleased.

Then the word of YHWH came to me: "House of Israel, can I not do to you what this potter does?—it is YHWH who speaks. Indeed, like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, house of Israel. At any moment I may announce that a nation or a dominion is to be uprooted, pulled down or destroyed. But if the nation I threatened abandons its depraved ways, I will change my mind and not inflict on it the disaster I planned. At another moment I may announce that I will build up a nation or establish one. But if it does something displeasing to me, refusing to listen to my voice, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it.

Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: 'Thus says YHWH: Beware! I am preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. Turn from your evil life, each one of you, give up your evil ways, amend your conduct.'"

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

With God's help we are listening.

Large crowds followed Jesus. He turned to them and said, “If any of you come to me without turning your back on your mother and your father, your loved ones, your sisters and brothers, indeed your very self, you can’t be my follower. Anyone who doesn’t take up their cross and follow me can’t be my disciple.

If one of you were going to build a tower, wouldn’t you first sit down and calculate the outlay to see if you have enough money to complete the project? You’d do that for fear of laying the foundation and then not being able to complete the work—because anyone who saw it would jeer at you and say, ‘You started a building and couldn’t finish it.’

Or if the leaders of one country were going to declare war on another country, wouldn’t they first sit down and consider whether, with an army of ten thousand, they could win against an enemy coming against them with twenty thousand? If they couldn’t, they’d send a delegation while the enemy is still at a distance, asking for terms of peace.

So count the cost. You can’t be my disciple if you don’t say goodbye to all of your possessions.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“Thrown on the Potter’s Wheel”



WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND FAITH

* HYMN #515

I Come with Joy

DOVE OF PEACE



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris-tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call, in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com-mu - nion bread, in Christ's com-mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text affirms that Christian unity is not achievement but gift, one renewed each time we gather for the Lord's Supper. Each of us enters as an "I" and leaves as part of "we." The unadorned language of this text is well matched to the simple shape note tune that sets it here.

TEXT: Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1993
 MUSIC: American folk melody; arr. Austin C. Lovelace, 1977
 Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company
 Music Arr. © 1977 Hope Publishing Company

DOVE OF PEACE
 8.6.8.6.6

* INVITATION TO THE MEAL

This is the joyful feast of the People of God.
Men and women, youth and children,
come from the east and the west,
the north and the south,
and gather about Christ's table.
This table is for all who wish to know the presence of Christ
and to share in the community of God's people.
It is not my table.
It is not the Old Stone Church's table.
It is the table of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
And all are welcome.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It would be foolish to ever imply
that living faithfully as a disciple of Christ is an easy task.
It does not come naturally
to lay aside all that we ever thought we wanted
to follow a leader toward an unknown and unknowable future –
one that can hold great rewards, yes,
but also numerous perils.
For all who hear the gospel call today
and come to the Table of the Lord with heavy burdens,
with broken hearts, with unfulfilled dreams or expectations,
listen again to the promise of the Lord:
“I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
Let us entrust our futures, even to the end of our days,
to the One who is most able to guide us through them,
toward a rich inheritance of joy and fullness.

Christ has called us in faith to receive the gift of life.

But it comes at a cost – a cost we may not have counted.

Yet in his own life, Christ did weigh the cost of life for us,
and counted it worthy of his own life.

Our inheritance comes as a gift from God alone.

Our future is secure in God's hands.

Let us now weigh the value of this free gift,
and rejoice in this inheritance
as we remember that night on which our Lord was betrayed.

Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

We pray for all in need of healing,
whether it be in body, mind, or spirit...

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

We pray for the repose of the soul of Martha Simons,
may her memory be a blessing.

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray as our Savior has taught us:

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.

(Please be seated)

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In this meal,
we remember the life, death, and resurrection
of the One who still takes on flesh among us today.

On the night he would be arrested,
Jesus gathered his friends and companions.
In the midst of a tense and dangerous time,
they found each other at table,
connecting over the story of God-enfleshed among them.

And as they did so, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to God,
broke the bread and shared it with his disciples saying,

Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melek ha'olam
hamotzi lekhem min ha'aretz.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
who brings forth bread from the earth.

“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he also took the cup,
gave thanks to God, and shared it with his disciples, saying,

Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melek ha'olam
borei p'ri hagafen.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
who creates the fruit of the vine.

“Drink from this, all of you; this is the cup of the new covenant.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

And so we pray, Come Holy Spirit, Breath of God, Renewer of life,
settle on these gifts and all who gather here,
that we might be transformed in our remembrance
of your radical love,
your eternal embrace,
and your grace that makes all things new.

For the sake of our shared lives,
the life of this land on which we live,
and the lives of those yet to come,
nourish us and renew our hope
that soon Christ may rise again among us.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Please partake of the elements as you receive them,
and then place the cup back into the tray.
You may then light a candle in petition of prayer
or in remembrance.
The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Starting from the back of the sanctuary
you are invited to come forward at this time.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Come To The Water

arr. Lynda Hasseler

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of abundance,
with this bread of life and cup of salvation
you have united us with Christ,
making us one with all your people.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue forever in the risen life
of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

F Dm Gm7 F Gm7 Fmaj7

1 God of still wait - ing, God of deep long - ing, God of the
 2 Spir - it of prom - ise, Spir - it of pur - pose, Spir - it of
 3 Word who comes to us, Word who lives with us, Word who dis -
 4 Word true and faith - ful, hope-bring - ing Spir - it, God of en -

Fmaj7 Gm F Gm Cm Dm Cm Gm Bbmaj7 Cm

heart's true rest: hold us in fath - om - less peace,
 cease - less prayer: bathe us in life full and free,
 turbs and heals: si - lence our chat - ter - ing fears,
 fold - ing love: come in your full - ness and grace;

E♭ F 1-3 4 Gm Dm Gm C Gm Dm Gm Fsus4 F

guard us with un - wan - ing love.
 kin - dle our won - der and hope.
 wak - en our un - con - scious faith.
 work through our lives for your praise.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

God welcomes your partnership in the gospel;
accept the cross of Christ and carry it.

We have considered the cost of discipleship.

We are willing and eager to pay the price.

God expects to hold first place in our lives.

We put everything we own on the line of faithfulness.

We want to be obedient to the law of love.

We want to show God's love in all we do.

We are held in the thoughts of God.

We are shaped and reshaped by the potter's hands.

We are finding new patterns of faithfulness.

We are discovering new reasons for joy.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Fourfold Amen

John Stainer

POSTLUDE

Largo

G. F. Handel

*“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:

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

We pray for the repose of the soul of Martha Simons,
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.



Wednesdays at 12:15 PM please join us in the Sanctuary for a Mid-Week Communion Service.

@ The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

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

Tuesday September 16

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

Wednesday September 17

11AM-2PM Open Doors/Sanctuary

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday September 18

2:00PM Worship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

7:00PM FPS Directors Meeting/Conference Room

Friday September 19

4:00PM Economos/Rigot Wedding Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Saturday September 20

1:00PM Economos/Rigot Wedding/Sanctuary

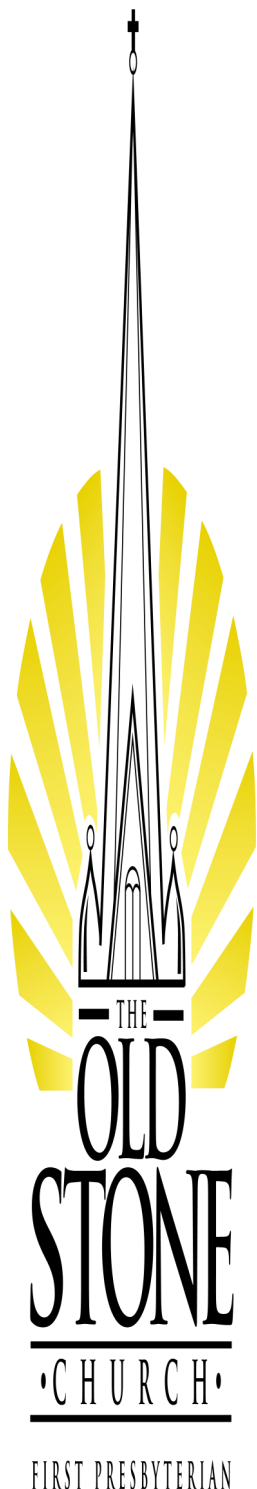
Sunday September 21 Homecoming Sunday

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

12:00PM New Member Retreat/Chapel/Gallery

1:00PM Browns/Packers/Huntington Bank Field



Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:62 Online:195

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

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

91 Public Square, Cleveland, Ohio 44113-2058

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

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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

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Ian Atwood, *tenor*

Reese Henrick, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Guest Clarinet: Hunter Duseau

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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