

# THE OLD STONE CHURCH

NOVEMBER 16, 2025  
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
**10AM Sanctuary Worship**

## WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE *O Day of Peace* Carl Daw and C. Hubert Parry

WELCOME Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT *We Praise Thee, O God* Donald Moore

We praise you, O God; we acknowledge you to be the Lord.  
All the earth doth worship you, the Father everlasting.  
Amen

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

God is ready to answer us, even before we call.  
God is eager to listen, though we are not ready to speak.

**The hills sing together before God's presence.**

**All of nature proclaims God's glory.**

If the seas join in praise, how much more should we.

If hills are alive with song, let us, too, awake to sing.

**Make a joyful noise to God, all people of the earth!**

**Break forth into joyous song!**

Be glad! Rejoice in all that God is creating.

Welcome the new heaven and earth God has planned.

**We worship God with great joy and delight.**

**We welcome God's healing touch in our midst.**

\* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**God of hosts, our strength and our salvation,**

**there are no words large enough to praise you.**

**No response by us can match the love you have shown us.**

**Gather us now in your warm embrace,**

**that our faith may be renewed**

**and our work empowered to the honor and glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

\* HYMN #688

*Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart*

MORECAMBE

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;  
2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,  
3 Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King;  
4 Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh.  
5 Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love,

wean it from earth; through all its puls - es move;  
no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,  
all, all thine own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?  
Teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,  
one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;



stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,  
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - pening skies;  
 I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.  
 to check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh.  
 the bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove,  
 and make me love thee as I ought to love.  
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.  
 O let me seek thee, and O let me find!  
 Teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.  
 my heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.

\* CALL TO CONFESSION

Mary Eifert

We come to renew our relationship with God,  
 knowing we are often led astray by our busyness,  
 our greed, and our hope for gain without effort.  
 Sometimes arrogant, often putting our trust in things,  
 we neglect the spiritual dimension of our lives.  
 Let us confess the emptiness we often feel.  
 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, our salvation,**  
**we confess that we have tried to live apart from you.**  
**Our daily habits deny your reality.**  
**We toil without seeking your will.**  
**We work without giving our best.**  
**We compete with brothers and sisters without valuing them**  
**as your children or relating to them as our kin.**  
**We follow fads and false leaders while neglecting our faith.**  
**Forgive our misplaced trust,**  
**our hesitation to take the risks of caring witness,**  
**and our failure to empathize with others.**  
**Restore our connections with all from whom we are alienated.**  
*(moment of silent confession)*

\* KYRIE ELEISON #551

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

\* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Those who revere God's name  
will find healing when they come to God in heartfelt prayer.  
Those who model themselves after the saints will grow in love and trust.  
Be glad and rejoice in what God is creating among us.  
God grants forgiveness  
along with wisdom and strength to face life's challenges.

**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 #582

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.  
Amen.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.  
We have the opportunity to give thanks through our offering of ourselves  
and our possessions to the work God calls us to do.  
We cannot repay God for our lives, our minds,  
the beauty of earth and sky, the abundance of resources that we enjoy.  
But we can respond with acts of gratitude and kindness,  
with generosity and thanksgiving.  
The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM     *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*     Maurice Bevan

There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in his justice which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven;  
there is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement given.

For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind,  
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
But we make his love too narrow by false limits of our own;  
and we magnify his strictness with a zeal he would not own.

There is plentiful redemption through the blood that has been shed;  
there is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.  
There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this;  
there is room for fresh creations in that upper home of bliss.

If our love were but more simple, we should take him at his word;  
and our lives would be all gladness in the joy of Christ our Lord.

\* DOXOLOGY #606

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise, God, from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.**

\* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Mary Eifert

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**We rejoice, O God,  
in the new world you are creating around us and within us.  
We give thanks for the joy we find in the church  
as we draw water from the wells of salvation.  
It is our intention to share the joy,  
to proclaim your Word among all nations,  
to work quietly and enthusiastically for a world  
where your love reigns.  
To these ends, we dedicate our offerings.  
Amen.**

\* OFFERTORY RESPONSE

*All Things Come of Thee*

Ira B. Wilson

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 the earthquake and the silence,  
quiet in us any voice but your own,  
that by the power of the Holy Spirit we might hear,  
and in hearing we might believe,  
and in believing we might act,  
for the world You so deeply love.  
Amen.**

## THE READINGS

Tanach

Isaiah 65:17-25 (Inclusive Bible)

For I am about to create a new heaven and a new earth! The things of the past will not be remembered or come to mind! Be glad and rejoice forever and ever in what I create, because I now create Jerusalem to be a joy and its people to be a delight! I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress. No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or old people who do not live out their days. They die as mere youths who reach but a hundred years, and those who fall short of a hundred will be thought accursed.

At last they will live in the houses they build, and eat the fruit of the vineyard they plant. They will not build for another to inhabit; they will not plant for another to eat. For the days of my people will be like the days of a tree, and my chosen ones will enjoy the fruit of their labors. They will not labor in vain or bear children doomed to die; for they are a people blessed by God. Even before they call upon me, I will answer; and while they speak, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb will feed side by side; the lion will eat straw like an ox. Serpents will be content to crawl on the ground; they will not injure or destroy in all my holy mountain," says YHWH.

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

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

Some disciples were speaking of how the Temple was adorned with precious stones and votive offerings. Jesus said, “You see all these things? the day will come when one stone won’t be left on top of another—everything will be torn down.”

They asked, “When will this happen, Rabbi? And what will be the sign that it’s about to happen?”

Jesus said, “Take care not to be misled. Many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the One’ and ‘The time is at hand.’ Don’t follow them. And don’t be perturbed when you hear of wars and insurrections. These things must happen first, but the end doesn’t follow immediately.”

Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and empire against empire. There will be great earthquakes, plagues and famines in various places—and in the sky there will be frightening omens and great signs. But before any of this, they’ll arrest you and persecute you, bringing you before synagogues and sending you to prison, bringing you to trial before rulers and governors. And it will all be because of my name—this will be your opportunity to give your testimony. So make up your minds not to worry about your defense beforehand, for I’ll give you the words, and a wisdom that none of your adversaries can take exception to or contradict.

You’ll be betrayed even by your own parents, brothers, sisters, relatives and friends, and some of you will be put to death. Everyone will hate you because of me, yet not a hair of your head will be harmed.

By patient endurance, you’ll save your lives.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

“The Curious Gospel of Unity ”

Rev. Dr. Asa Lee





## THE APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand  
of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge  
the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

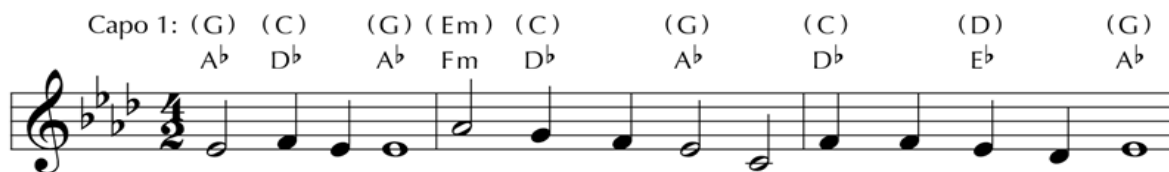
## LIGHTING OF CANDLES, PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

We ask all these things in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray...

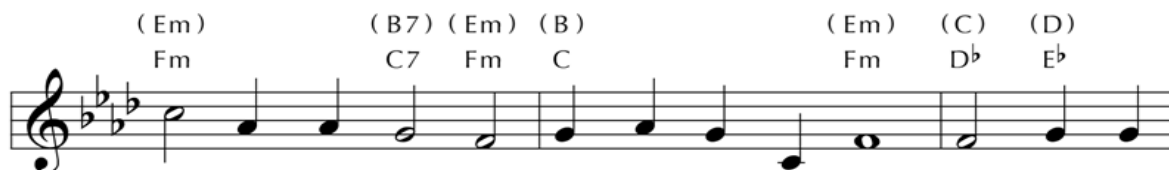
**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.  
Amen.**



Cantor sings verse 1, Congregation joins on verses 2-4



1 Come, la-bor on. Who dares stand i - dle on the har - vest plain  
 2 Come, la-bor on. Claim the high call - ing an - gels can - not share;  
 3 Come, la-bor on. Cast off all gloom - y doubt and faith - less fear!  
 4 Come, la-bor on. No time for rest, till glows the west - ern sky,



while all a - round us waves the gold - en grain? And to each  
 to young and old the gos - pel glad - ness bear. Re - deem the  
 No arm so weak but may do ser - vice here. Though fee - ble  
 till the long shad - ows o'er our path - way lie, and a glad



ser - vant does the Mas - ter say, "Go work to - day."  
 time; its hours too swift - ly fly. The night draws nigh.  
 a - gents, may we all ful - fill God's righ - teous will.  
 sound comes with the set - ting sun, "Well done, well done!"

## \* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Take with you the assurance of healing and wholeness.

God's steadfast love and faithfulness accompany you.

**We will sing of the victories God makes possible in us.**

**We will praise God for comfort and guidance.**

Life in God's realm is a gift freely given to us.

It is also a way of relating that we are to share.

**We want others to come to know God through us.**

**We want to live in ways that make God's love known.**

God will give you the words and wisdom you need.

By your endurance, you will gain your souls.

**Praise God with trumpet, lyre, and horn.**

**Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.**

## \* CHORAL RESPONSE

Fourfold Amen

John Stainer

## POSTLUDE

Allegretto

Herman Shroeder



**Today The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland-Old Stone Church welcomes to the pulpit Rev. Dr. Asa Lee.**

Rev. Dr. Lee currently serves as the President of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He comes to the presidency after seven years of service as Wesley Theological Seminary as Vice President for Campus Administration and Associate Dean for Community Life. He has served on the faculties of Northern Virginia Community College and Wesley Theological Seminary and is often a guest lecturer at workshops and seminars dealing with Christianity in the 21st century; religious difference, Christian formation, preaching, theology in the African American context, and issues affecting church leadership. Under his leadership Pittsburgh Seminary has expanded its relationships with the neighborhoods of Pittsburgh, innovated its degree offerings through hybrid and online offerings, and engaged in significant grant activity to innovate theological education in the 21st century.

Lee is a graduate of Hampton University (B.A. in music education magna cum laude), Wesley Theological Seminary (M.Div. cum laude), and Virginia Theological Seminary (D.Min. in educational leadership). Lee is married to the Rev. Chenda Innis Lee, an ordained United Methodist elder. Together, they have four daughters and reside in the East End of the city of Pittsburgh.

*The flower on the Communion Table is in honor of Dianne Young's birthday.*

*"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:**

Anette Fedarico, Rev. James Butler, John McAuley, Henry Madinger,  
Bart Alcorn, Gail Harris, Fletcher Hattis, Phyllis Adams, Addie Singleton,  
Tyler and Sam, Jean Rundlett, Gail, Debbie Carrick,  
Charles Rabb, Renita Jackson-Dix, Eileen Kelly, Tony and Annie Carlos,  
Courtney Knapp, Mark Corey, Bruce Baunach, JoAnn Hood,  
Judy and Frank Macuga, 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.



## **WinterLandCLE2025 Saturday November 29, 2025**

Join a Carol Sing @ Old Stone Church from 5-6PM in the sanctuary!

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

#### **Sunday November 16**

**10:00AM** Worship/Sanctuary

**11:30AM** Communion/Chapel

**4:25PM** Browns/Ravens/Huntington Bank Field

#### **Tuesday November 18**

**12:15PM** Old Stone Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

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

#### **Wednesday November 19**

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

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

#### **Thursday November 20**

**7:00PM** FPS Directors Meeting/Conference Room

#### **Sunday November 23 Reign of Christ Sunday**

**10:00AM** Worship/Sanctuary

**10:00AM** Harvest Table

**11:30AM** Communion/Chapel

**11:30AM** Greening of the Sanctuary/Sanctuary

#### **Monday November 24**

**6:30PM** PWR Stated Meeting/ZOOM

#### **Tuesday November 25**

**12:15PM** Old Stone Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

**6:30PM** Stated Session Meeting/ZOOM

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

#### **Wednesday November 26**

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

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

#### **Thursday November 27 Thanksgiving Day**

**All Day/Building and Offices Closed**

#### **Friday November 28**

**All Day/Building and Offices Closed**

#### **Saturday November 29 Winterland/Public Square**

**4:00-7:00PM** Open Doors/Sanctuary

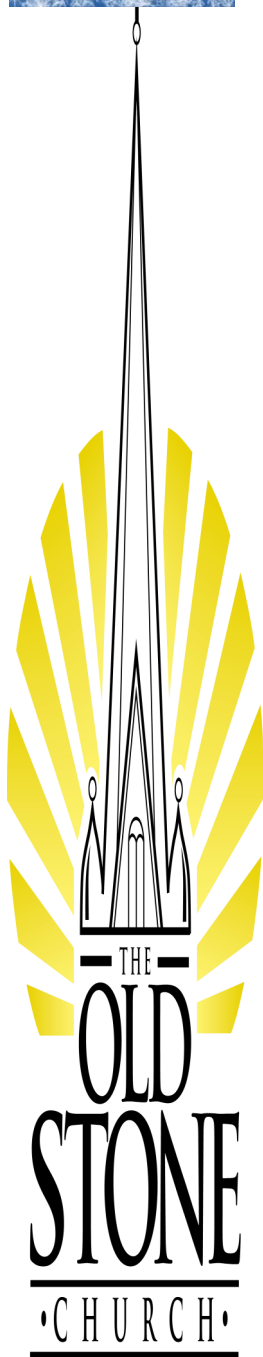
**5:00-6:00PM** Carol Sing/Sanctuary

#### **Sunday November 30 Advent 1**

**10:00AM** Worship/Sanctuary

**11:30AM** Communion/Chapel

**1:00PM** Browns/49ers/Huntington Bank Field



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

**Last Sunday Attendance** In-Person:87 Online:286

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**

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

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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*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Kaya Sparks, *soprano*

Stephen Brown, *tenor*

Noah Whitaker, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

Reese Henrick, *alto*

Morgan Potts, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Christopher Clark, *bass*

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

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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Your entry constitutes your consent to such photography, filming, livestreaming, and/or recording and to any use, in any media for The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland. Thank you.