

THE OLD STONE CHURCH

NOVEMBER 23, 2025
REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

The Lord Reigns
Albert Donze, *soloist*

Eugene Butler

WELCOME

Pastor Denise Clark-Jones

INTROIT

Let Us Make A Joyful Noise

Douglas Wagner

Let us make a joyful noise unto the Lord. Let us make a joyful noise.
Praise, O praise the Lord! And make a joyful noise evermore!

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Bless God, all people of faith and hope.

God has looked on us with great favor.

God is our refuge and strength in times of trouble.

God is our guide and inspiration when things go well.

God gives light to those who live in the shadow.

God offers stillness amid the turbulence of our times.

We live in covenant with God, who gives us the best.

We are eager to give our best to God in return.

By the tender mercy of our God, we meet for worship.

God has brought the dawn of a new day for our use.

Praise God for signs and wonders all around us.

Praise God for peace and reconciliation.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**We worship you with gladness, O God our shepherd,
for you have gathered us as your beloved flock.**

**You have sent a mighty Savior,
who has demonstrated among us the power of love.**

**Send your Spirit now to remind us of your gifts
and to strengthen us for our tasks.**

**May we show our loyalty to Christ by the way we live every day.
Amen.**

* HYMN #321

The Church's One Foundation

AURELIA

1 The chur-ch's one foun-da-tion is Je-sus Christ her Lord.
2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
4 Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has un - ion with God, the Three in One,

(verses 1,2 and 5)

She is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
by schis - ms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more:
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won:

From heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride.
One ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we,

With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

This hymn was one of twelve written by an English curate to affirm the articles of the Apostles' Creed with biblical allusions such as 1 Corinthians 3:11 here. Though not created for this text, the tune was joined to it in 1868, and the two have been inseparable ever since.

TEXT: Samuel John Stone, 1866, alt.
MUSIC: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864

AURELIA
7.6.7.6.D

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Daniel May, Jr.

Come, all who dwell in the shadow of death,
whose ways are not God's ways,
whose works scatter and destroy rather than gather and build up.
God summons us to a time of repentance and reconciliation.
Let us admit our unfaithfulness that we might be restored to the flock.
Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
followed by time for silent personal confession.
Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Many times, you have rescued us, O God.
Yet we continue to wander away from your vision for us.
We claim to be followers of Jesus,
but we do not speak up when he is mocked.
We do not respond when he summons us
from the perilous byways we have chosen.
Our words and deeds deny the faith we proclaim.
God of all nations,
deliver us from misplaced loyalties and unacknowledged sin.
Forgive our foolish ways.**

(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

Jesus Christ has claimed for us
God's forgiveness and restoration to full partnership.
Christ's promises are for today as well as for unknown tomorrows.
We have been rescued from enemy hands,
that we might serve God without fear.
We are citizens of God's realm,
where Jesus reigns in the triumphant power of love.
Give joyful thanks to God,
who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints.
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.

The knowledge of salvation is meant to be shared,
and we are a people called to extend this good news in every way we can.

When we give our money, we give a part of ourselves,
for we have traded our labor, our time, and our talent
for what we now give away.

All we possess belongs to God,
to whose purposes we now dedicate our gifts and ourselves.
The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Non Nobis Domine

Rosephanye Powell

Non nobis Domine
Sed nomini
Tu o da gloriam

Not unto us, O Lord
But to Your name
May all the glory be

* 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

Daniel May, Jr.

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**For the saving faithfulness of Jesus Christ, we give thanks.
For the church that seeks to extend Christ's ministry,
we are humbly grateful.
All things we have are gifts from you, O God,
so we dedicate more than our money.
We reinvest ourselves in patient, joyful response to your promises.
Hear our prayers and empower our ministry.
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

**Holy God,
through the generations you have spoken to us.
You have sent voices crying out in the wilderness.
You have sent the words of an overjoyed new father
and an expectant mother.
You have sent the assurance of a condemned man on a cross.
Quiet in us any voice but your own
that, by the power of your Spirit,
we might hear the words you speak to us today.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Tanach

Jeremiah 23:1-6 (Inclusive Bible)

Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture! declares YHWH. Thus says YHWH, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who are tending my people: You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I am about to attend to you for the evil of your deeds, declares YHWH. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have dispersed them, and will bring them back to their pasture, and they will be fruitful and multiply. I will also raise up shepherds who will look after them and pasture them. They will no longer be afraid or terrified nor will any be missing, declares YHWH.

Behold, the days are coming, declares YHWH, when I will raise up for the house of David a righteous branch, who will reign as a true ruler and act wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. This is the Name on which they will call: "YHWH Our Justice."

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

With God's help we are listening.

When they had reached the place called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there—together with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, “Abba forgive them. They don’t know what they are doing.”

Then they divided his garments, rolling dice for them.

The people stood there watching. The rulers, however, jeered him and said, “He saved others; let him save himself— if he is really the Messiah of God, the Chosen One!”

The soldiers also mocked him. They served Jesus sour wine and said, “If you are really the King of the Jews, save yourself!”

There was an inscription above Jesus that read, “This is the King of the Jews.”

One of the criminals who were hung there beside him insulted Jesus too, saying, “Are you really the Messiah? Then save yourself—and us!” But the other answered the first with a rebuke; “Don’t you even fear God? We are only paying the price for what we have done, but this one has done nothing wrong!”

Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your glory.”

Jesus replied, “The truth is, today you’ll be with me in paradise.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

“No Kings but Christ”

Pastor Denise Clark-Jones



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.**

1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit in thank-ful praise to yield,
 3 For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the har - vest home;
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.

All is safe - ly gath - ered in, ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
 from each field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
 Gath - er thou thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,

God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
 give the an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy pres - ence to a - bide:

Come to God's own tem - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in God's gar - ner ev - er - more.
 come, with all thine an - gels, come; raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

Despite its familiar Thanksgiving associations, the real concern of this text is to recall the harvest imagery Jesus used to describe the fulfillment of God's sovereignty. The tune name commemorates the royal chapel where the composer was organist for forty-seven years.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Step out into the light that God will provide.

Receive the strength of Christ's glorious power.

God is our refuge and strength, our help in trouble.

Christ is our Savior, who welcomes us to God's realm.

Rejoice in the tender mercy of our God.

Give thanks for the one who demonstrated God's love.

God has looked favorably on us and redeemed us.

Christ has prepared the way for us to go.

Be still and know that God is God.

Let the good shepherd lead you day by day.

We will not fear or be dismayed.

We are being recreated in the church of Jesus Christ.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Fourfold Amen

John Stainer

POSTLUDE

Toccata in F major (Bux 157)

Dieterich Buxtehude

*“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:

Regina George, Traci, Bernie, Katherine McIntosh, Thelma Omsby, Kendalle Cobb,
Bart Alcorn, Gail Harris, Fletcher Hattis, Phyllis Adams, Addie Singleton,
Lewis, R. Johnson, Jean Rundlett, Gail, Debbie Carrick,
Barbara Yoost, Charles Rabb, Renita Jackson-Dix, Eileen Kelly, Tony and Annie Carlos,
Marlon Naylor, Courtney Knapp, Mark Corey, Bruce Baunach, JoAnn Hood,
Judy and Frank Macuga, the Jackson-Dix family, the Gollmer family

We pray for the repose of the soul of Trudy Gollmer
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.

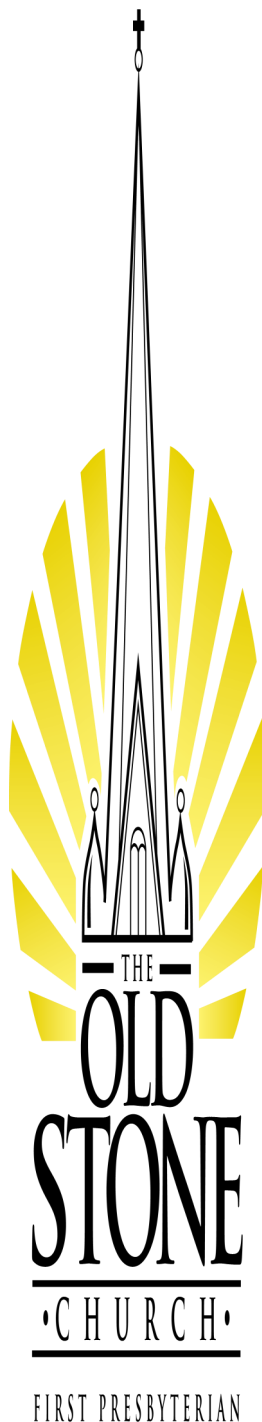


Please join us for Communion following the service this morning in the Chapel.

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

The  **FRONT STEPS** Giving Tree

Gift packages are due back Sunday December 7, 2025



@ First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

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

Tuesday December 2

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

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

Wednesday December 3

11AM-2PM Open Doors/Sanctuary

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

6:00PM Welcome & Fellowship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Sunday December 7 Advent II

10:00AM Worship with Communion/Sanctuary

1:00PM Messiah Program/Sanctuary

1:00PM Browns/Titans/Huntington Bank Field

Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:82 Online:253

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

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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

Minister of Music: Evan M. Collins

The Old Stone Singers

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Kaya Sparks, *soprano*

Stephen Brown, *tenor*

Sam Jungman, *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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