



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

NOVEMBER 9, 2025
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Guide My Feet

African American Spiritual

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Rev. Katherine Chilcote
North Presbyterian Church

INTROIT

God Is Our Shelter and Strength

Though the mountains tremble in the heart of the sea, we will not fear, we will not fear.
Though the nations stumble and the governments decree, we will not fear, we will not fear.
There's a river flowing through the mighty heart of God, we will not fear, we will not fear.
Holy One is with us, yes, the Holy One is here, we will not fear, we will not fear.

God is our shelter and strength,
God is our hope in any trouble.
God is our shelter and strength,
God is our help in any trial.

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

We call on God, who is as near as our next breath.

We gather to meet God, who has promised to bless us.

God is great and greatly to be praised.

Through many generations, God has acted among us.

Meditate on the wondrous works of our Creator.

Marvel at the glorious splendor of God's majesty.

God is the Savior of all who seek refuge.

God hears our cries and fulfills our deepest desires.

Remember God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

Make a joyful noise and break forth in song.

Our mouths will speak the praise of God.

Let all flesh bless God's holy name.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

Give ear to our prayers, gracious God, and attend to our cries.

**We call on you, knowing that you will answer
and make your way known to us.**

We seek to follow the path you show us.

We take courage, knowing that you are kind and just in all you do.

When we need assurance, you gather us in the shadow of your wing.

As we mature in faith, you give us wings to fly on our own.

Meet each one of us in our particular need this hour.

Amen.

* HYMN #49

The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI

1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a-bove,
2 Your spir-it still flows free, high surg-ing where it will.
3 Your good-ly land we seek, with peace and plen-ty blest,
4 You have e-ter-nal life im-plant-ed in the soul;

the An - cient of E - ter - nal Days, the God of love!
In proph-et's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
a land of sa - cred lib - er - ty and Sab - bath rest.
your love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.

The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con-fessed,
Es - tab-lished is your law, and change-less it shall stand,
There milk and hon - ey flow, and oil and wine a - bound,
We praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name:

we bow be - fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.
deep writ up - on the hu - man heart by your strong hand.
and trees of life for - ev - er grow with mer - cy crowned.
the first, the last, be - yond all thought, and still the same!

Shaped by its traditional Jewish tune, this selection of English stanzas conveys the essence of the *Yigdal*, a canticle based on a medieval Hebrew statement of faith about the nature of God and often used in synagogue worship, alternately chanted by cantor and congregation.

TEXT: Moses Maimonides, 12th cent.; vers. Daniel ben Judah Dayan, 1404; stanzas 1, 3, trans. Thomas Olivers, c.1770, alt.; LEONI
stanzas 2, 4, trans. Max Landsberg, Newton M. Mann, and William C. Gannett, 1884, 1910, alt. 6.6.8.4.D
MUSIC: Jewish melody, 17th cent.; adapt. Meyer Lyon and Thomas Olivers, 1770

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Ted Sawicki

God invites sinners to reclaim their former glory.
All who have stumbled and fallen are welcomed and lifted up,
those who exalt themselves as if they were gods are brought to their knees.
God will listen when we repent
and will answer when we sincerely desire to change.
Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
followed by time for silent personal confession.
Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All-knowing God,
we are reluctant to identify weakness or wickedness in ourselves.
We do not recognize violent behavior or lawless rebellion
as a personal problem.
We would not think of elevating ourselves to take your place.
Yet we find ourselves viewing the world
from the narrow perspective of our own self- interest.
Our anger at others spills over into our words and deeds.
We ignore you in our decision making
and fail to give thanks to you in our daily living.
Without your forgiveness and transforming love,
there is little hope for us.
Hear us and save us, we pray.**

(moment of silent confession)

* Kyrie #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

God judges with righteousness and equity.
God will strengthen us in good work and word.
By the kindness of our Creator,
we are saved from self-centered rebellion
and equipped for abundant living.
We are called to join the chorus that praises God,
proclaims good news, and invites others to share God's grace.

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.

Great treasures have come to us from God's hand.

The air we breathe, the lives we treasure,
the love we have known are all gifts from our Creator.

We are privileged to say thank you
as we dedicate a portion of our resources
for the ministry and mission of the church.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

We Thank You Lord

Joseph Martin

For all the gifts that fill our days, for caring friends, for love's embrace,
for all the ways you show us grace, We thank you, Lord.
For all the joy that we have known, for simple things, for loving homes,
for the ways your love is shown, we thank you Lord.
For sun and moon and endless sky, the dance of stars that warm the night,
the sound of rain, a lullaby, the music of a baby's cry.
For all the gifts that warm our lives, we thank you Lord.
For all the gifts that fill our days, for caring friends, for love's embrace,
for all the ways you show us grace, we thank you Lord.

* DOXOLOGY #606 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* 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

Ted Sawicki

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**For the future glory of your church, we dedicate our gifts.
Toward the reign of love in our midst, we consecrate ourselves.
O God of all ages, show yourself to us in our time.
Work within us individually and among us as a community of faith,
so that we may experience resurrection
and carry your good news into our world.
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 wisdom,
by your Spirit may your Word be proclaimed,
that we may know good news in our hearts and minds
and bear witness to the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ
in word and deed.
Quiet in us any voice but your own,
that we might hear your Word to us today.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Epistle 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 (Inclusive Bible)

Concerning the coming of Jesus Christ and our being gathered to meet our Savior, we beg you, sisters and brothers, don't become easily agitated or disturbed by some prophecy, report or letter falsely attributed to us, which say that the day of our Savior has come. Let no one deceive you, in any way. It cannot happen until the Great Falling Away occurs, and the rebel, the Lost One, has appeared.

This is the Enemy, the one who claims to be so much greater than all that people call "God," greater than every object of worship—so much so that it enthrones itself in God's sanctuary and claims to be God. Surely you remember me telling you these things when I was with you?

But we ought to thank God always for you, sisters and brothers loved by Christ, because God chose you from the beginning—to be saved by the sanctifying Spirit and by believing in the truth.

God called you through our preaching of the Good News, so that you might gain the glory of our Savior Jesus Christ. Therefore, sisters and brothers, stand firm. Hold fast to the traditions you received from us, either by word of mouth or by letter. May our Savior Jesus Christ and our Abba God—who loved us and in mercy gave us eternal consolation and hope—console your hearts and strengthen them for every good work and word.

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

With God's help we are listening.

Some Sadducees—the ones who claim there is no resurrection—came forward to pose the question: “Teacher, Moses wrote that if a man’s brother dies leaving a wife and no child, the brother should marry the woman now widowed, to raise up children with her. Let’s say that there were seven brothers. The first one married and died childless. The second brother then married the woman, then the third and so on. All seven died without leaving her any children. Finally, the woman herself died. At the resurrection, who will her husband be? Remember, seven married her.” Jesus said to them, “The children of this age marry each other, but those judged worthy of a place in the age to come and of the resurrection from the dead don’t take husbands and wives. They can no longer die, like the angels—they are children of God, since they are children of the resurrection. That the dead rise again was even demonstrated by Moses when, in the passage about the bush, he called the Most High ‘the God of Sarah and Abraham, and the God of Rebecca and Isaac, and the God of Leah and Rachel and Jacob.’ God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. All are alive to God.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams
“One Wife for Seven Brothers”



RECEIVING AND BLESSING OF PLEDGE CARDS

ANTHEM

Thankful

Mark Hayes

PRAYER OVER THE PLEDGE CARDS

**Gracious and loving God,
giver of all that is good and true and beautiful and life-giving.
The pledges which we make are but tokens
of the awesome gifts that have been given to us
and they are pledged in thanksgiving for all we have received,
for all we have been inspired to be,
for all we are challenged to become, in this place.**

**May we see them as our offering to you, sacred, holy, yet earthy,
filled with possibilities.**

**May we hold this image in our hearts and minds
so as we watch our offerings each week come to your table,
we can see our very selves being part of this offering,
it is us on the table, living sacrifices to you.**

Amen.

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.

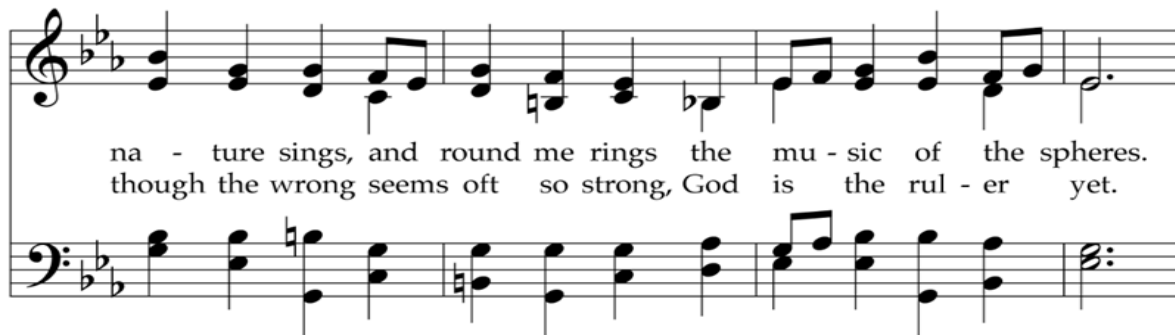
* HYMN #370

This Is My Father's World

TERRA BEATA



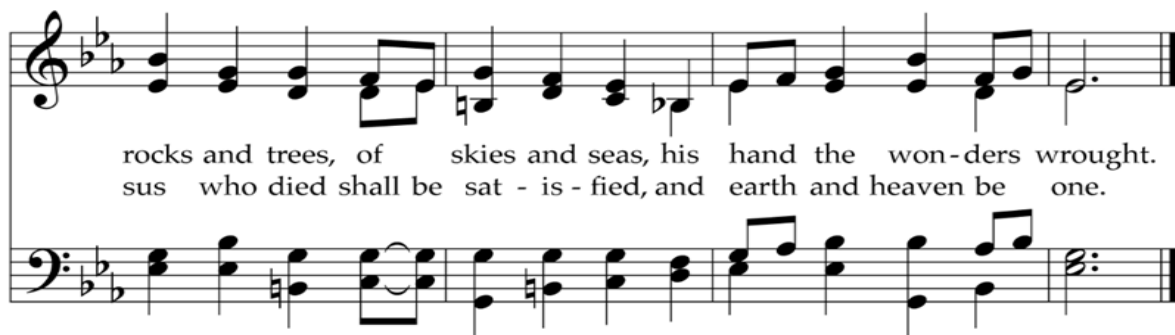
1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis - tening ears all
2 This is my Fa-ther's world. O, let me ne'er for - get that



na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
This is my Fa-ther's world. The bat - tle is not done: Je -



rocks and trees, of skies and seas, his hand the won - ders wrought.
sus who died shall be sat - is - fied, and earth and heaven be one.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

A kind and just God sends us out into the world.

We are bearers of truth beyond our understanding.

We have been comforted and strengthened this day.

We have good news to share with the world.

God watches over those who respond in love.

God fills us with hope and multiplies our good works.

We will praise God as long as we live.

We will witness to the resurrection day by day.

Take courage and sing a new song.

Work in new ways, for the Spirit abides in you.

We will break down barriers with joyous daring.

We will live with a spirit of adventure.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Fourfold Amen

John Stainer

POSTLUDE

Allegro Maestoso

Felix Mendelssohn

*“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, John Taggart, Jean Rundlett, Gail,
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.

@ First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

Sunday November 9 Consecration Sunday

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

11:15AM MUW Committee Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

11:30AM Deacons Meeting/Conference Room

12:30PM CIM *An Afternoon of Guitar*/Sanctuary

Tuesday November 11

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

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

Wednesday November 12

11AM-2PM Open Doors/Sanctuary

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

6:00PM Welcome and Fellowship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Thursday November 13

2:00PM Worship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

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

6:30PM Stated Session Meeting/ZOOM

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

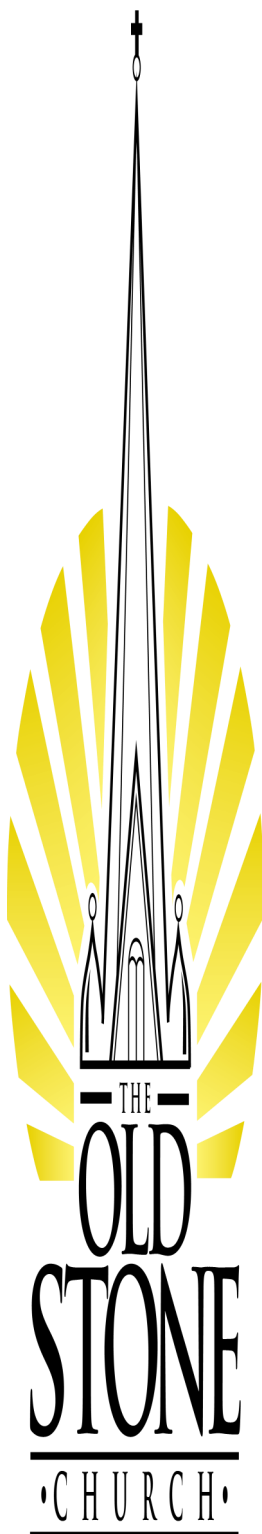
6:30PM PWR Stated Meeting/ZOOM

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



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:101 Online:249

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oldstonechurch.org/giving/

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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 **E-Mail:** 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

Community Voices

Nada Montgomery, *pianist*

The Old Stone Singers

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Kaya Sparks, *soprano*

Stephen Brown, *tenor*

Samuel Jungman, *tenor*

Noah Whitaker, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *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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