



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

JUNE 1, 2025
ASCENSION SUNDAY WITH COMMUNION
10 AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Prelude on "*Malabar*"

Leo Sowerby

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT

Festival Alleluia

James Chepponis

Alleluia! Your words, O Lord, give joy to my heart; your teaching is light to my eyes.
Alleluia!

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Clap your hands, all you people of God.

Sing praises to our Ruler, sing praises.

God reigns among us and far beyond us.

We celebrate the immeasurable greatness of God.

We are called to be witnessing people.

Testify then to God's loving purpose in Jesus Christ.

Christ is head over all things for the church.

We celebrate Christ's resurrection and ascension.

Worship with eager anticipation of empowerment.

Give thanks for the promised coming of the Holy Spirit.

This is a day for revelation and renewal.

We await the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Most high God, Ruler of all worlds,

Mother and Father of glory,

we seek to know you more fully in this time of worship.

Reveal yourself to us here.

Grant us knowledge beyond words,

a presence that transcends description,

a hope that empowers faithful service.

With your praise on our lips,

we reach out with longing hearts to know the power of the spirit

which you have promised to the church of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

* HYMN #267

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

MADRID

1 Come, Chris - tians, join to sing: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
2 Come, lift your hearts on high: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
3 Praise yet our Christ a - gain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Loud praise to Christ our King: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Let prais - es fill the sky: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Life shall not end the strain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - joice;
 He is our guide and friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;
 On heav - en's bliss - ful shore his good - ness we'll a - dore,

praise is his gra - cious choice: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 his love shall nev - er end: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 sing - ing for - ev - er - more: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Like many other hymns of praise, this text was originally addressed to children but has been embraced by adults as well. Although the tune's repetitive elements suggest folk origins (possibly with alternating groups of singers), no specific source has been identified.

TEXT: Christian Henry Bateman, 1843
 MUSIC: Spanish folk melody; arr. Benjamin Carr, 1824; harm. David Evans, 1927
 Music Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press

MADRID
 6.6.6.6.D

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Jayne Zborowsky

Our worship celebrates God's rule over all creation.

We are a part of that creation.

We can choose whether or not to acknowledge God's sovereignty
 in our individual lives and in the church.

Do our deeds reflect the immeasurable greatness of God's power?

Do they mark us as disciples of Jesus Christ?

Join me in admitting the shallowness of our commitment.

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, you are judge over all things.
That strikes terror within us when we realize how poorly our church
has lived as the body of Christ in the world.
We have been more interested in institutional survival
than in proclamation of the gospel,
more attentive to numbers than to individuals,
more eager to speak than to listen.
What is true for all of us together is also true for most of us individually.
We do not seek or accept your daily guidance.
Our witness to Jesus Christ is a pale reflection
of the joy expressed by the early disciples.
Forgive our pretenses.**

(moment of silent confession)

* KYRIE ELEISON

John Merbecke

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

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Repentance opens the way for forgiveness.
God is restoring all who are truly penitent.
Drink from the streams of living water.
Receive the power of the Holy Spirit,
that you may forgive as you have been forgiven.

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 #581

Glory Be to the Father

GREATOREX

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, Amen.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.

There are times when it is appropriate to stand gazing into the heavens.

There are seasons for withdrawing to pray.

But there are also times to get to work.

As we offer ourselves in the service of Jesus Christ,

we return our tithes and extra gifts

to extend ministry beyond the limits of our own reach.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins,

Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy, to our Lord, the Lord, almighty God,

Who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell there-in, rejoice on earth,

Ye saints below, for Christ is coming, is coming soon.

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;

They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all!

* DOXOLOGY #609

Praise God, from Whom All Blessing Flow

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!

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Jayne Zborowsky

Let us join our voices in prayer:

For the life you have offered,

for the vision you have granted,

for the ministry of Jesus Christ that empowers our witness,

we give thanks.

May these offerings of gratitude

extend the positive influence of Christ's church

into parts of the world that have not experienced good news.

By the act of giving, may our own commitment be deepened.

Amen.

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE

All Things Come of Thee

Herbert C. Peabody

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

Let us pray together:

**By the power of the Holy Spirit
open our minds to the Word, your Son,
who comes to us as one of us
and ascends to the heavens to remain with us.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11 (Inclusive Bible)

In my early account, Theophilus, I dealt with everything that Jesus had done and taught, from the beginning until the day when he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

After the Passion, Jesus appeared alive to the apostles—confirmed through many convincing proofs—over the course of forty days, and spoke to them about the reign of God. On one occasion, Jesus told them not to leave Jerusalem.

“Wait, rather, for what God has promised, of which you have heard me speak,” Jesus said. “John baptized with water, but within a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

While meeting together they asked, “Has the time come, Rabbi? Are you going to restore sovereignty to Israel?” Jesus replied, “It’s not for you to know times or dates that Abba God has decided. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; then you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth.” Having said this, Jesus was lifted up in a cloud before their eyes and taken from their sight. They were still gazing up into the heavens when two messengers dressed in white stood beside them. “You Galileans—why are you standing here looking up at the skies?” they asked. “Jesus, who has been taken from you— this same Jesus will return, in the same way you watched him go into heaven.”

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

With God’s help we are listening.

Then Jesus said to them, “Remember the words I spoke when I was still with you: everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the psalms had to be fulfilled.” Then Jesus opened their minds to the understanding of the scriptures, saying, “That is why the scriptures say the Messiah must suffer and rise from the dead on the third day. In the Messiah’s name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem. You are witnesses of all this. Take note: I am sending forth what Abba God has promised to you. Remain here in the city until you are clothed with the power from on high.”

Then Jesus took them to the outskirts of Bethany, and with upraised hands blessed the disciples. While blessing them, the savior left them and was carried up to heaven.

The disciples worshiped the risen Christ and returned to Jerusalem full of joy. They were found in the Temple constantly, speaking the praises of God.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“Ascension”



WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND FAITH

* HYMN #529

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

UNION SEMINARY

G Em Am C D G/B

1 Draw us in the Spir-it's teth-er, for when hum-bly
2 As dis-ci-ples used to gath-er in the name of
3 All our meals and all our liv-ing make as sac-ra-

Am Dsus D G C Am D G

in your name two or three are met to-geth-er,
Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv-er
ments of you, that by car-ing, help-ing, giv-ing,

Em D/F# G Am Dsus D G C Am

you are in the midst of them. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-
break the bread and bless the cup, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-
we may be dis-ci-ples true. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-

D G Em C G/B Am D G

lu-ia! Here we touch your gar-ment's hem.
lu-ia! so now bind our friend-ship up.
lu-ia! We will serve with faith a-new.

* INVITATION TO THE MEAL

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

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 our thanks and praise.

Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love,
you are beyond complete knowledge,
above perfect description.
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love,
you are creative and self-giving, generously moving
in all the near and distant corners of the universe.
Nothing exists that does not find its source in you.

Through fear-filled days and aching nights
when the powers of death have done their worst,
your love has never deserted us.
Even when we turn away from you, you are with us;
your presence never fails us,
your gifts of hope and new life transform us.

We praise you for Jesus Christ, risen to life,
eternal as your love.
With the women at the tomb,
we raise the strain of gladness.
Hallelujah! Life is stronger than death!
The day of resurrection has come,
scattering fear and gloom.
And so we rejoice with all your people of every time and place,
and with angels and archangels,
to proclaim the glory of your name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er, God of might, heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

It is Jesus, God incarnate, the Risen Christ,
who joins us together as a community of broken but hopeful believers:
loving what he loved,
living what he taught,
and striving to be his faithful servants
in our time and place.
In this meal we remember Jesus, his promises,
and the price he paid for who he was, what he said, and what he did.
(Please be seated)

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night before Jesus died, he took a loaf of bread,
gave thanks, broke it, and said,

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 and eat, whenever you do this, remember me.”

After supper, Jesus took the cup, and poured, 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.

“This is the new covenant, remember me.”

We do remember.

We remember his life of love, his friendship, his teaching,
his dying, and his rising to life again.

In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of our faith:

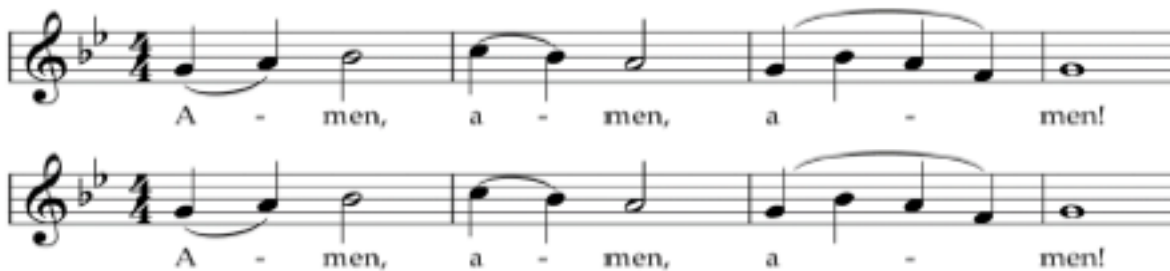


PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Mystery, God the Spirit,
we call on you to transform these familiar things,
as you continually transform the world around us.

Bless this bread and this cup, the wheat and the grape,
the farmer and the harvest, the seed and the sower.
So that in the sharing of these simple elements in community,
we may taste and see your goodness.

Through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever;



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

JoAnn Hood, Mary Jane Sykora, Fred Heider, Judy and Frank Macuga,
Harry Hatters, Annie and Tony Carlos, Donna Sue Buchanan, Shelley Wheeler

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.**

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

The body of Christ,
the bread of life.
The lifeblood of Christ,
the cup of blessing.
The gifts of God for the people of God,
Thanks be to God!

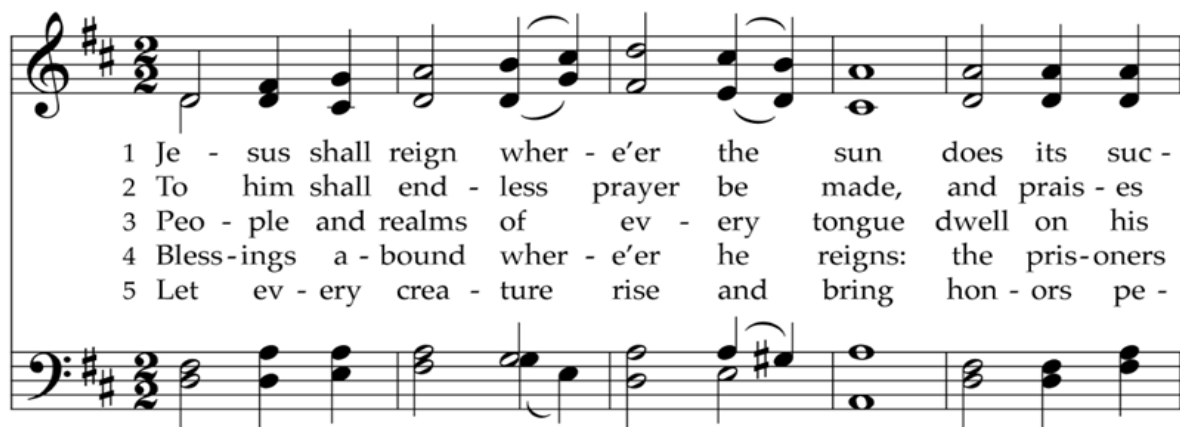
Please partake of the elements as you receive them,
and then place the cup back into the tray.
You may then light a candle in petition of prayer
or in remembrance.
Starting from the back of the sanctuary
you are invited to come forward at this time.

COMMUNION ANTHEM *And I Saw a New Heaven* Edgar L. Bainton

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth:
For the first heaven and the first earth were passed away and there was no more sea.
And I, John, saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven,
Prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying,
Behold the tabernacle of God is with men,
and he will dwell with them and they shall be his People,
and God himself shall be with them and be their God.
God shall wipe away all tears all tears from their eyes;
And there shall be no more death, neither shall there be any more pain,
for the former things are passed away.

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life.
We are fed by your love;
we are strengthened by your life.
We are sent forth into this world to live your way and share your joy.
We are now commissioned to:
feed as we have been fed,
forgive as we have been forgiven,
love as we have been loved.
Thanks be to God.
Amen.



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - oners
 5 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring hon - ors pe -



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 thron'g to crown his head; his name, like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song, and in - fant voic - es
 leap to loose their chains; the wea - ry find e -
 cu - liar to our King; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume, shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud A - men!

This hymn is a classic example of how Isaac Watts Christianized the Psalms, in this case Psalm 72:5–19, by turning their messianic language to New Testament equivalents. The tune was at first nameless and anonymous, but is now called by the address of the supposed composer.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Christ is alive; share the good news.

Revelation and wisdom are given to us; pass on the gifts.

We are witnesses to the difference Christ makes.

Daily life is changed; the earth is a better place.

Let your joy be spontaneous and genuine.

Clap your hands and shout your praise.

We will bless God together in the temple.

We will let our daily lives preach Christ's name.

You will receive power from the Holy Spirit.

The eyes of your hearts will be enlightened by hope.

We will not shrink from God's empowering spirit.

We will carry Christ's inclusiveness to all people.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

John Rutter

POSTLUDE

Toccata in D

Johann Pachelbel

A special welcome and thank you to Tom Clark-Jones
who is at the organ console this morning.

*“My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”
Psalm 73:26*

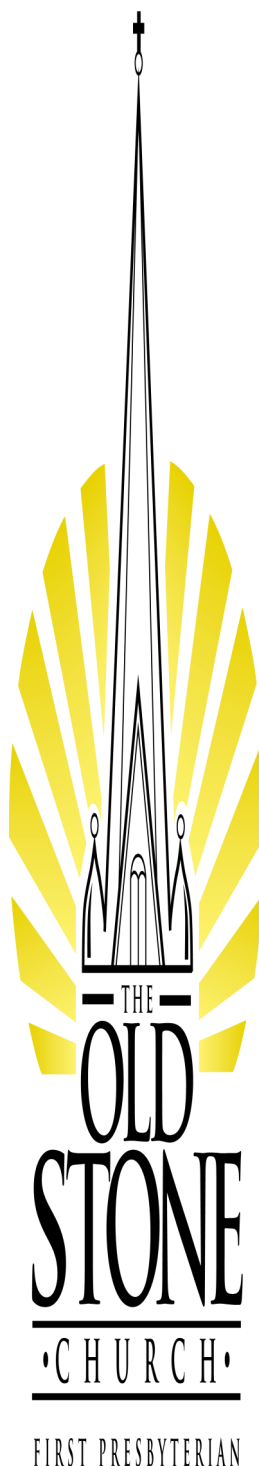


We continue to keep in our prayers:

JoAnn Hood, Mary Jane Sykora, Fred Heider, Judy and Frank Macuga,
Harry Hatters, Annie and Tony Carlos, Donna Sue Buchanan, Shelley Wheeler
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.



@ Old Stone Church

Sunday June 1/Ascension Sunday

10:00AM Worship with Communion/Sanctuary

1:40PM Guardians/Angels/Progressive Field

Tuesday June 3

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

Wednesday June 4

11AM-2PM Open Doors/Sanctuary

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

6:00 PM Welcoming & Fellowship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Saturday June 7

9AM-12PM Open Doors/Sanctuary

10:00AM Pride in Cle Parade

Sunday June 8/Pentecost

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

11:30AM Mission and Urban Wellness Committee Meeting/
Cuyahoga Room/Second Floor

11:30AM Plant Exchange/Memorial

1:40PM Guardians/Astros/Progressive Field

Tuesday June 10

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

Wednesday June 11

11AM-2PM Open Doors/Sanctuary

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday June 12

2:00 PM Worship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Sunday June 15/Trinity Sunday

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:76 Online:226

There are many ways to support The Old Stone Church-The First Presbyterian Church of Cleveland

Online Giving:

oldstonechurch.org/giving/

Mobile Giving:

Text the keyword “**oldstonecle**” to 73256

Mail to:

Old Stone Church
Attn: Financial Office
91 Public Square
Cleveland, OH 44113

Scan the QR Code with your phone.



Checks should be made payable to “Old Stone Church.”

All contributions are tax-deductible and will be appropriately acknowledged at year-end.

THE OLD STONE CHURCH

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

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Senior Pastor: Rev. Stephen C. Blonder Adams

Parish Associate: Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

Minister of Music: David L. Dettloff

The Old Stone Singers

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*

Cicely Schonberg, *soprano*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Ian Atwood, *tenor*

Stephen Brown, *tenor*

Noah Whitaker, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

Reese Henrick, *alto*

Elizabeth Rickel, *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

Fred Heider

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

Lori Lippert

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 Old Stone Church/First Presbyterian Church, Cleveland, Ohio. Thank you.