



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE	<i>Adagio</i> in E major	Frank Bridge
WELCOME	Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams	
MINUTE FOR MISSION		Edie Horvat
INTROIT	<i>O Lord, Increase My Faith</i>	David Schelat

O Lord, increase my faith, strengthen me and confirm me in Thy true faith.
Endue me with wisdom, with charity and patience.
In all my adversity, teach me to say Amen.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

God looks on humankind to see if any are wise.
Who is seeking after God above all else?

**We look to Jesus Christ for wisdom and truth;
we reach out to be strengthened for service.**

The winds of God blow among us to winnow and cleanse.
They sweep through our midst in judgment.

**Have mercy on us, O God, and wash away our sin.
Do not let your wrath burn against us.**

Remember your promises to us, O God.

Create in us clean hearts and renewed spirits.

**We seek to know you and to grow in understanding.
Confront us here and light our way out of the void.**

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**Hear our cries, O God, for we recognize our need for your mercy.
We are fearful to encounter you, yet we cannot live without you.
We are like lost sheep who have wandered
away from the best we know and cannot find our way back.
We want you to find us, but we fear your punishment.
Come, Good Shepherd, to rescue us from ourselves
Amen.**

* HYMN #12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble staff on top and a bass staff on the bottom. Both staves are in 3/4 time and have a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. Below the staves, there are four lines of lyrics, each corresponding to a measure of the music. The lyrics are: 1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise, 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light, 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small. 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light.

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might:
 In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all.
 Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight.

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice, like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove;
 We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

The opening line of this hymn was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King James Version), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

TEXT: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867, alt.
 MUSIC: Welsh folk melody; arr. *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839

ST. DENIO
 11.11.11.11

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Dorothy Baunach

We are to God like precious coins, worth seeking when we are lost.
 We are like sheep who have gone astray
 and yet are valued so much that God persists in searching for us.
 God has come among us here and knows where we are.
 We can keep no secrets;
 we can only hurt ourselves by hiding rather than confessing.
 Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
 followed by time for silent personal confession.
 Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We have been fools.
We have said in our hearts, "There is no God."
Our deeds deny you.
Our plans do not include you.
We grumble and complain,
criticizing those who embody your love for all people.
We have turned aside from the way you commanded.
Our greed is robbing this fruitful land and creating a desert.
The world is full of suffering people whom we ignore.
O God, is there any hope for us?**

(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

Forgiveness is not offered lightly or superficially.
Yet it is always available to those who recognize their spiritual poverty
and seek new life in Christ.
God is a refuge for those who are truly repentant.
God delivers us and restores us with mercy and grace.
There is great rejoicing when sinners seek forgiveness
and turn to serve God in love.

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.

We have the opportunity to join with God
in providing for the poor and oppressed.

Our gifts carry God's mercy to people who have not known God's love
or discovered the joy of living in harmony with God's good earth
and with their sisters and brothers.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Ubi caritas

setting by Ola Gjeilo

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.	Where charity and love are, God is there.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.	Christ's love has gathered us into one.
Exultemus, et in ipso iucundemur.	Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.	Let us fear, and let us love the living God.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.	And may we love each other with a sincere heart.

* 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

Dorothy Baunach

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**Because we have been blessed by you, O God,
we are delighted to share.**

**Because there are many who do not enjoy your bounty,
we search for ways to help them.**

**Thank you for showing us the way of mercy and patient example,
the way of generosity and self-forgetful service,
the way of faithfulness and joyous celebration.**

Bless us and our offerings, we pray.

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

**Mighty God,
you spoke the world into being; speak now to our hearts.
By the power of your Spirit, make these ancient words live,
that we might be shaped into your people,
eager to bear your claim in the world
and to give flesh to your future.
For we pray in the name of Jesus, who leads us into life.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Epistle

1 Timothy 1:12-17 (Inclusive Bible)

I thank Christ Jesus our Savior, who has strengthened me, given me this work, and judged me faithful. I used to be a blasphemer, a persecutor, a violent man; but because in my unbelief I didn't know what I was doing, I have been treated mercifully, and the grace of our God has been granted to me in overflowing measure, as was the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

Here's a saying that can be trusted and is worthy of your complete acceptance: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Of these I myself am the worst. But I was dealt with mercifully for this reason: so that in me—the worst case of all—Jesus Christ might demonstrate perfect patience; and so that I might become an example to those who would later have faith in Christ and gain everlasting life. To the Ruler of ages, the immortal, the invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever! Amen.

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

With God's help we are listening.

Meanwhile, the tax collectors and the “sinners” were all gathering around Jesus to listen to his teaching, at which the Pharisees and the religious scholars murmured, “This person welcomes sinners and eats with them!”

Jesus then addressed this parable to them: “Who among you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, doesn’t leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and search for the lost one until it’s found? And finding it, you put the sheep on your shoulders in jubilation. Once home, you invite friends and neighbors in and say to them, ‘Rejoice with me! I’ve found my lost sheep!’ I tell you, in the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to repent.

“What householder, who has ten silver pieces and loses one, doesn’t light a lamp and sweep the house in a diligent search until she finds what she had lost? And when it is found, the householder calls in her friends and neighbors and says, ‘Rejoice with me! I’ve found the silver piece I lost!’ I tell you, there will be the same kind of joy before the angels of God over one repentant sinner.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams
“Waiting to be Found”



NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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 My shep-herd will sup - ply my need; Je - ho - vah is his name.
 2 When I walk through the shades of death your pres-ence is my stay;
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;

In pas - tures fresh he makes me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream.
 one word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
 O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.

He brings my wan - dering spir - it back when I for - sake his ways,
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;
 There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;

and leads me, for his mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
 my cup with bless - ings o - ver - flows; your oil a - noints my head.
 no more a strang - er, or a guest, but like a child at home.

The effectiveness of this beloved paraphrase of Psalm 23 owes much to the flowing shape note melody that serves as a "living stream" to carry the text, which in turn has been given a remarkable clarity and lightness through the poet's masterful use of single-syllable words.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

MUSIC: U.S.A. folk melody; Lewis's *Beauties of Harmony*, 1828; harm. Dale Grotenhuis, 1986

Music Harm. © 1990 Dale Grotenhuis

RESIGNATION

CMD

(alternate harmonization, 74)

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Rejoice that lost ones have been found.

Give thanks daily that God has found you.

How wonderful that the lost have been found!

How exciting that God reaches out to claim us.

Join in welcoming all people whom God loves.

Go after those who are in need of God's mercy.

God will restore their fortunes.

They will receive all they need from God's hand.

You will share in the joy of salvation.

You will hear the sounds of gladness.

Praise God for deliverance from judgment.

Give thanks for the experience of grace.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Not One Sparrow Is Forgotten

William Hawley

Not one sparrow is forgotten, E'en the raven God will feed;

And the lily of the valley From His bounty hath its need.

Then shall I not trust Thee, Father, In Thy mercy have a share?

And through faith and prayer, my Mother, Merit Thy protecting care?

POSTLUDE

Jesus Shall Reign

arr. Diane Bish

*“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:

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

@ The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

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

Tuesday September 23

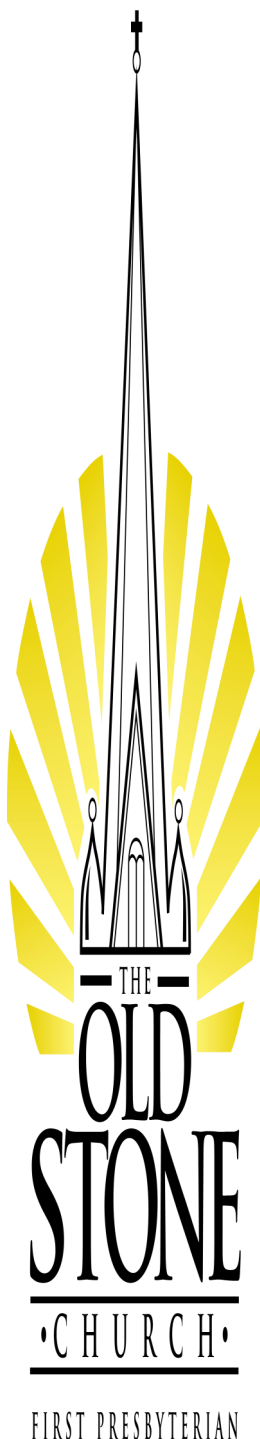
6:30PM Stated Session Meeting/ZOOM

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

Wednesday September 24

11AM-2PM Open Doors/Sanctuary

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary



Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:64 Online:211

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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: Evan M. Collins

The Old Stone Singers

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Kaya Sparks, *soprano*

Ian Atwood, *tenor*

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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