



# THE OLD STONE CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025  
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
HOMECOMING SUNDAY  
**10AM Sanctuary Worship**

## WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

*All That Matters* Eliot Kennedy & Gary Barlow  
Val Sibila, soprano

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT

*God Is Our Hope and Strength*

Eric Thiman

God is our hope and strength, a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth be moved,  
and the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.

\* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

God welcomes those whose hearts are sick.

God's invitation comes to people whose joy is gone.

**Why is the health of God's people not restored?**

**Why must we weep day and night for those we have lost?**

There is a balm in Gilead. There is a physician who heals.

Jesus Christ is our mediator, healer, and savior.

**We bring all our pain and unresolved anger.**

**We come in all our confusion to seek answers.**

Bring all your urgent prayers and honest laments.

God is eager to offer salvation and open us to truth.

**We cry out to God for deliverance from our sin.**

**We cry out for relief from our suffering.**

\* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**Into this holy temple, we have come, gracious God.**

**This is not our church but yours.**

**We cannot claim our world; it is a trust from your hand.**

**Our lives, our health, our length of days call forth our stewardship.**

**We are managers, not owners,**

**so we come to you now to give account**

**and seek your further commands.**

**Help us, O God of our salvation.**

**Amen.**

\* HYMN #327

*From All That Dwell Below the Skies*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

The musical score is written for a choir or congregation. It features a treble and bass clef staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo/mood is indicated as 'Unison' at the beginning and 'Harmony' and 'Unison' later. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system of music has three lines of lyrics. The second system has three lines of lyrics. The third system has three lines of lyrics. The fourth system has three lines of lyrics. The fifth system has three lines of lyrics. The sixth system has three lines of lyrics. The seventh system has three lines of lyrics. The eighth system has three lines of lyrics. The ninth system has three lines of lyrics. The tenth system has three lines of lyrics. The eleventh system has three lines of lyrics. The twelfth system has three lines of lyrics. The thirteenth system has three lines of lyrics. The fourteenth system has three lines of lyrics. The fifteenth system has three lines of lyrics. 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name be sung through ev - ery land, in ev - ery tongue.  
voic - es raise and fill the world with joy - ful praise.  
shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.

*Harmony*



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Unison*



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

\* CALL TO CONFESSION

Natalie Ronayne

"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and all are not saved."

We resist the great physician, for healing requires change

and we have not been ready to give up our favorite vices.

We have not been eager to do things God's way.

Join me as we seek forgiveness.

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 we have not managed well the wealth of the earth,  
which is our trust from you.  
We have modified your commands to suit our own egos and desires.  
We have wasted resources  
while hoarding for our own use what is meant for all to enjoy.  
Our concerns are narrow and our compassion is weak.  
We are restless and unfulfilled for we have not tried your ways.  
Forgive us, we pray, and lead us into your new day.**

*(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

Let the confusion and despair of your former ways  
melt into trust in a God who cares.  
Let go of dishonesty and false riches  
to accept the wealth of knowing God and responding in faithfulness.  
God's gift to us is a quiet and peaceable life,  
full of dignity and godliness.  
Such acceptance and inner peace  
enliven our active care for others and our sharing in the joy of service.

**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.

As managers for God of the world's resources,  
we share the hurt of those who are poor, sick, and in mourning.  
Our wealth is meant to bring good news to them in Jesus' name.  
We invest in the church's outreach, that our money may serve God,  
not trap us in idolatry.  
The offering will now be received.

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

Setting by John Rutter

For the beauty of the earth For the beauty of the skies  
For the love which from our birth Over and around us lies  
For the beauty of the hour Of the day and of the night  
Hill and vale and tree and flower Sun and moon and stars of light

For the joy of human love Brother, sister, parent, child  
Friends on earth and friends above For a gentle thought and mild  
For each perfect gift of thine To our race so freely given  
Graces human and divine Flowers of earth and buds of heaven

Lord of all to thee we raise This our joyful hymn, our joyful hymn of praise  
This our joyful hymn of praise

### \* 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

Natalie Ronayne

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**We give, loving God, because of your generosity to us.**

**We share because this is your will for us.**

**In faithfulness to your call,**

**we seek to manage the resources you provide  
for the greatest benefit to humankind.**

**May they bring a bit closer an awareness of your intentions for us  
and your rule among us.**

**We worship and serve you with all we have. 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, by the gift of your Spirit  
show us the truth that you desire  
and teach us wisdom in our hearts.  
Let us hear with joy and gladness  
the Word that you speak today;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
Amen.**

## THE READINGS

### Epistle

1 Timothy 2:1-7 (Inclusive Bible)

First of all, I urge that prayers be offered for everyone—petitions, intercessions and thanksgivings—and especially for rulers and those in authority, so that we may be able to live godly and reverent lives in peace and quiet. To do this is right, and will please God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to reach full knowledge of the truth. For there is only one God, and there is only one mediator between God and humankind—Christ Jesus, who was one of us, and who at the proper time sacrificed himself as a ransom and a testimony for all. Because of this I have been appointed to be a preacher, an apostle, and—this is the truth, now, I'm not lying—a faithful and honest teacher to the Gentiles.

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

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

### Gospel

Luke 16:1-13 (Inclusive Bible)

Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a wealthy landowner who, having received reports of a steward mismanaging the property, summoned the steward and said, 'What's this I hear about you? Give me an account of your service, for it's about to come to an end.' The steward thought, 'What will I do next? My employer is going to fire me. I can't dig ditches. I'm ashamed to go begging. I have it! Here's a way to make sure that people will take me into their homes when I'm let go.'

"So the steward called in each of the landowner's debtors. The steward said to the first, 'How much do you owe my employer?' The debtor replied, 'A hundred jars of oil.' The steward said, 'Take your invoice, sit down quickly and make it fifty.' To another the steward said, 'How much do you owe?'

The answer came, 'A hundred measures of wheat,' and the steward said,  
'Take your invoice and make it eighty.'

"Upon hearing this, the owner gave this devious worker credit for being enterprising! Why?

Because the children of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the children of light. So I tell you: make friends for yourselves through your use of this world's goods, so that when they fail you, you'll be welcomed into an eternal home. If you can trust others in little things, you can also trust them in greater, and anyone unjust in a slight matter will also be unjust in a greater. If you can't be trusted with filthy lucre, who will trust you with true riches? And if you haven't been trustworthy with someone else's money, who will give you your own?

Subordinates can't have two superiors. Either they'll hate the one and love the other, or be attentive to the one and despise the other.  
You can't worship both God and Money."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

"Breaking the Rules for all the Right Reasons"





## 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

We Cannot Own the Sunlight Sky

RIISING SUN

Cantor sings verse 1 congregation repeats verse 1 and sings verses 2 & 3

Gm Am/C Dm Bb/C Gm7/Bb Am7

1 We can-not own the sun-lit sky, the moon, the wild-flow-ers grow-ing,  
 2 When bod-ies shiv-er in the night and, wea-ry, wait for morn-ing,  
 3 God calls hu-man-i-ty to join as part-ners in cre-at-ing

Am7 Dm Am/C Gm F#sus4 F Dm Gm/C Dm

for we are part of all that is with-in life's riv-er flow-ing,  
 when chil-dren have no bread but tears, and war-horns sound their warn-ing,  
 a fu-ture free from want and fear, life's good-ness cel-e-brat-ing.

Dm Gm/Bb F/C Gm7/Bb F/A Dm Gm7 F

With o-pen hands re-ceive and share the gifts of God's cre-a-tion,  
 God calls hu-man-i-ty to wake, to join in com-mon la-bor,  
 That new world beck-ons from a-far, in-vites our shared en-deav-or,

F Gm7/Bb Am/C Gm/F Am/E Dm Gm/C F6

that all may have a-bun-dant life in ev-ery earth-ly na-tion.  
 that all may have a-bun-dant life in one-ness with their neigh-bor.  
 that all may have a-bun-dant life and peace en-dure for-ev-er.

Words: Ruth Duck, 1947-

Music: Joy F. Patterson, 1931-; arr. Randall Sensmeier, 1948-

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U.S.A.  
 8.7.8.7.D.  
 RIISING SUN

\* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

God has delivered and blessed us here.

God will assist us every day as we are open to God's help.

**We will look to God for guidance and direction.**

**We will seek God's truth for every situation.**

We are invited to pray for others each day.

When we intercede for them, we draw closer to God.

**We will be sensitive to others' pain and joys.**

**We will respond in the spirit of Jesus Christ.**

Seek to be faithful in all things, great and small.

Acknowledge God's ownership of all you possess.

**We seek to be honest managers and generous stewards.**

**We are grateful servants of a loving God.**

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

*We Walk in Love*

Deanna Witkowski

We walk in love united in purpose. We join our hands and lift up one voice.

We speak the truth with strength and compassion  
resounding with hope, with courage and joy.

POSTLUDE

*Allegro Moderato*

Herman Shroeder

*“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:**

Phyllis Adams, Thelma Nelson, Addie Singleton, Edward Nicholson,  
Michelle Brown, Terri, Victoria Walker, Denise Pepe, Victor Rodriguez,  
Eileen Kelly Tony and Annie Carlos, Courtney Knapp, Mark Corey,  
Bruce Baunach, JoAnn Hood, Judy and Frank Macuga,  
the Truitt family, Eleanor Cicerchi and the Heider family

We pray for the repose of the soul of Timothy Truitt,  
may his memory be a blessing.

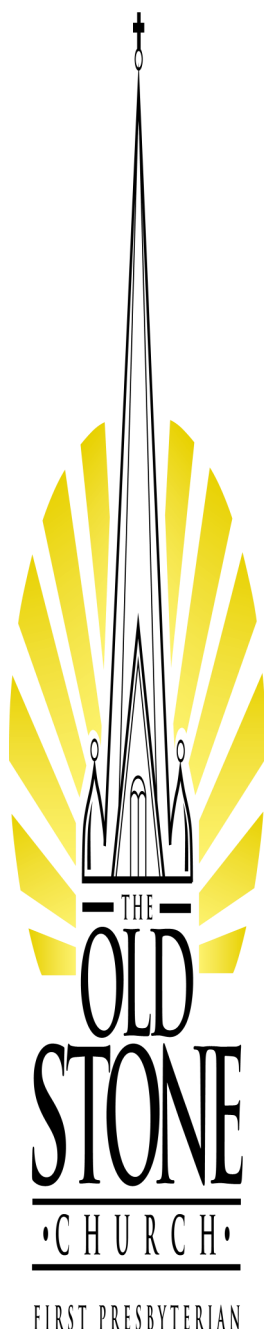
We pray for those struggling with illness, convalescing, homebound or in need.

*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 First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland**

### **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

### **Monday September 22**

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

### **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

### **Sunday September 28**

**10:00AM** Worship/Sanctuary

**11:30AM** Communion/Chapel

**3:10PM** Guardians/Rangers/Progressive Field

### **Tuesday September 30**

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

### **Wednesday October 1**

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

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

**6:00PM** Welcome and Fellowship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

### **Sunday October 5**

**10:00AM** Worship with Communion/Sanctuary

**12:00PM-2PM** Blessing of the Animals/Front Steps

**Last Sunday Attendance** In-Person:123 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**

*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](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*

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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photography, filming, livestreaming, and/or recording and to any use, in any media for  
The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland. Thank you.