



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

We've Come This Far by Faith

Albert A. Goodson

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

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.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, all who live in the shelter of the Most High.
Gather together, all who trust in God Almighty.

God reigns through all generations.

We will praise God as long as we live.

We trust in God, our refuge and our fortress.

We can count on God's faithfulness at all times.

God lifts us up when we are threatened or afraid.

We call to God for protection and rescue.

Worship God, who richly provides us with all things.

Give thanks to the one who dwells in unapproachable light.

God, who made heaven and earth, keeps faith forever.

We will pour out our thankfulness in words and deeds.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**Ever-present God, let your Spirit fill this place,
for we need to know that you are in charge.**

**Through the terrors of night, amid the arrows that fly by day,
we need to sense your power, your protection, your higher purpose.
Show us here your saving, healing strength.**

**Grant to us such confidence and contentment
that we may look beyond ourselves to become a blessing to others.
Amen.**

* HYMN #35

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

1 Praise ye the Lord, the Al-might-y, the King of cre-
2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly
3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a-

a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
 reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so
 dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with

health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his
 gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sires e'er have been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

This very strong 17th-century German hymn employs many phrases from the psalms, especially Psalms 150 and 103:1-6. It did not receive an effective English translation until the mid-19th century, but has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its stirring tune.

TEXT: Joachim Neander, 1680; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.

MUSIC: Stralsund Erneuereten Gesangbuch, 1665; harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863

LOBE DEN HERREN

14.14.4.7.8

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Brad Oglesby

How easily we find our security in things!
 We are tempted and trapped by senseless and harmful desires.
 We become indifferent to the plight of brothers and sisters.
 We lose touch with God.
 We are in need of God's mercy, forgiveness, and help.
 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-powerful God, we have become so comfortable
with our advantages that we forget who makes them possible.
We are so eager for riches that we wander away from faith.
We consider ourselves more worthy than others to enjoy your bounty.
We look down on people less industrious or differently gifted than we.
We turn away from the plight of neighbors who need our helping hand.
O God, forgive our misplaced priorities.
Have mercy on us and melt our hardened hearts
so we may participate in the joy of your realm here and now.**
(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

You were called to eternal life
when you made your first confession of faith.
Set your hopes on God, who richly provides all things for our enjoyment.
Do good; be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share.
In so doing, you will take hold of life as it is meant to be
and you will realize the ever-present realm of God.
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.

Because love of money is the root of all evil,
we seek to make wealth a tool for accomplishing good
more than for accumulating things.

Because we have been blessed in order that we might share,
we bring our offerings with gratitude and rejoicing.

Let us give thanks with glad and generous hearts.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Poor Man Lazrus

arr. Jester Hairston

Poor man Lazrus, sick and disabled, Dip your finger in the water,
come and, cool my tongue, 'Cause I'm tormented in the flame.
He had to eat crumbs from the rich man's table, Dip your finger in the water,
come and, cool my tongue, 'Cause I'm tormented in the flame.
I'm tormented in the flame. I'm tormented in the flame.
Rich man Divies he lived so well, Dip your finger in the water, come and,
cool my tongue, 'Cause I'm tormented in the flame.
And when he died he went straight to hell, Dip your finger in the water,
come and, cool my tongue, 'Cause I'm tormented in the flame.
I'm tormented in the flame. I'm tormented in the flame.
I love to shout, I love to sing, Dip your finger in the water, come and,
cool my tongue, 'Cause I'm tormented in the flame.
I love to praise thy heavenly king, Dip your finger in the water, come and,
cool my tongue, 'Cause I'm tormented in the flame.
I'm tormented in the flame. I'm tormented in the flame.

* 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

Brad Oglesby

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**What a joy to have something to give!
Thank you, God, for granting us choices
in the use of all you have placed on earth for our use.
We have chosen this portion
to dedicate for the ministry of the church in our community
and in outreach throughout the world.
Make us aware of the needy at our doors
as well as lost ones everywhere who long for the bread of life.
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

**Nurturing God,
you give life to all things
and long to satisfy the needs of your children
in their desire for healing and wholeness.
Send your Spirit upon us this day,
that as we hear your word we may meet Jesus,
the one in whom all our hungers are fed.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Epistle

1 Timothy 6:6-19 (Inclusive Bible)

There is, of course, great benefit in religion, but only for those who are content with what they have.

We brought nothing into the world, nor have we the power to take anything out. If we have food and clothing, we have all that we need. Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and a trap. They are letting themselves be captured by foolish and harmful desires which draw us down to ruin and destruction.

The love of money is the root of all evil. Some people, in their passion for it, have strayed from the faith and have come to grief amid great pain.

But you are to flee from these things. As one dedicated to God, strive to be a person of integrity and piety, filled with faith and love, patience and gentleness. Run the great race of faith. Take firm hold of the everlasting life to which you were called when, in the presence of many witnesses, you made your good profession of faith.

Before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I charge you to keep God's command without fault or reproach until our Savior Jesus Christ appears. This appearance God will bring to pass at a chosen time. God alone is the Sovereign over all, and blessed and only ruler above all the earthly rulers, who alone possesses immortality, and who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no human being has ever seen or can see. To God be the honor and the everlasting kingdom! Amen.

Warn those who are blessed with this world's goods not to look down on other people. They are not to put their hope in wealth, for it is uncertain. Instead, they are to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with all that we need for our enjoyment. Tell them they are to do good and be wealthy in good works. They are to be generous and willing to share. In this way, they'll create a treasure for the future, and guarantee the only life that is real.

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

With God's help we are listening.

Gospel

Luke 16:19-31 (Inclusive Bible)

"Once there was a rich person who dressed in purple and linen and feasted splendidly every day. At the gate of this person's estate lay a beggar named Lazarus, who was covered with sores. Lazarus longed to eat the scraps that fell from the rich person's table, and even the dogs came and licked Lazarus' sores. One day poor Lazarus died and was carried by the angels to the arms of Sarah and Abraham. The rich person likewise died and was buried. In Hades, in torment, the rich person looked up and saw Sarah and Abraham in the distance, and Lazarus resting in their company.

'Sarah and Abraham,' the rich person cried, 'have pity on me! Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am tortured by these flames!' But they said, 'My child, remember that you were well off in your lifetime, while Lazarus was in misery. Now Lazarus has found consolation here, and you have found torment. But that's not all. Between you and us there is a fixed chasm, so that those who might wish to come to you from here can not do so, nor can anyone cross from your side to us.'

The rich person said, 'I beg you, then, to send Lazarus to my own house where I have five siblings. Let Lazarus be a warning to them, so that they may not end up in this place of torment.' But Sarah and Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets. Let your siblings hear them.' 'Please, I beg you,' the rich person said, 'if someone would only go to them from the dead, then they would repent.' 'If they don't listen to Moses and the prophets,' Sarah and Abraham replied, 'they won't be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead!'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams
"The Hells We Create"

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 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Rul - er of the

na - ture, O thou of God to earth come
 wood - lands, robed in the bloom - ing garb of
 moon - light, and all the twink - ling, star - ry
 na - tions, Son of God and Son of

down, thee will I cher - ish, thee will I
 spring. Je - sus is fair - er; Je - sus is
 host. Je - sus shines bright - er; Je - sus shines
 Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o -

hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
 pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 pur - er, than all the an - gels heaven can boast.
 ra - tion, now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Franz Liszt used this melody for a "Crusaders' March" in an oratorio, but this hymn had nothing to do with the Crusades. No record of the German text exists before the middle of the 17th century or of the Silesian folk melody before the first half of the 19th century.

TEXT: Münster Gesangbuch, 1677; stanzas 1–3, trans. *Church Chorals and Choir Studies*, 1850, alt.;
 stanza 4, trans. Joseph August Seiss, 1873, alt.
 MUSIC: Silesian folk melody; *Schlesische Volkslieder*, 1842

CRUSADERS' HYMN
 5.6.8.5.5.8

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Pursue righteousness and godliness, today and always.
Face life with gentleness and endurance.

The love of God sends us out to share love.

The riches of God inspire our generosity.

Fight the good fight of faith.

Take hold of eternal life in the midst of every day.

We are called to life with eternity in it.

We are blessed with God's presence always.

Good works and caring contain their own blessing.

Our lives dance with meaning when we share.

We rejoice in God's healing touch.

We give thanks for salvation so richly given.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Threefold Amen

John Storer

POSTLUDE

Our Father, Who Art in Heaven BWV 737

J. S. Bach

*“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:

Phyllis Adams, Debbie Carrick, Thelma Nelson, Addie Singleton, Edward Nicholson,
Laura, 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

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 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

11:30PM Deacons Meeting/ Conference Room/First Floor

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

Tuesday October 7

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

Wednesday October 8

11AM-2PM Open Doors/Sanctuary

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday October 9

2:00PM Worship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Sunday October 12

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

1:00PM Pot Luck Luncheon/Memorial Hall

2:00PM Alzheimer's and Dementia Seminar/Memorial Hall

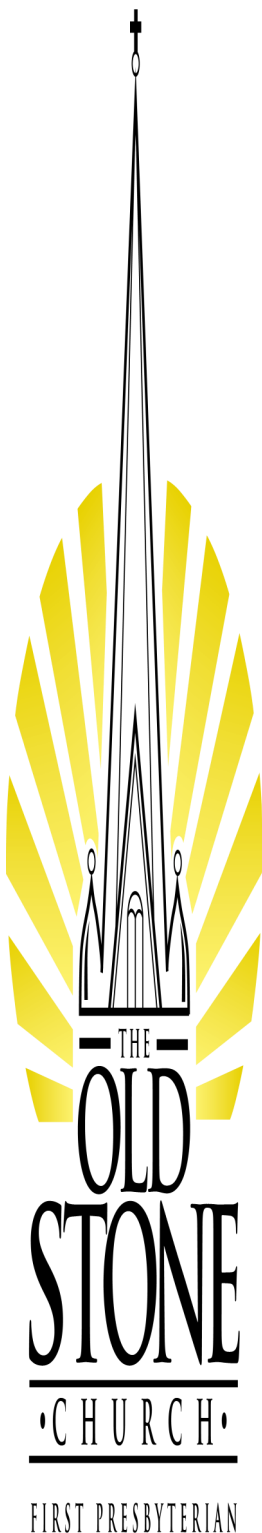
Tuesday October 14

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

Wednesday October 15

11AM-2PM Open Doors/Sanctuary

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary



Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:82 Online:201

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Mail to:

The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland
Attn: Financial Office
91 Public Square
Cleveland, OH 44113

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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

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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*

Samuel 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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