



An Order of Worship for the Lord's Day
 Stone Presbyterian Church
 A Welcoming and Affirming Congregation
 October 1, 2023 ~ World Communion Sunday



We Gather with the Whole World to Worship God

PRELUDE "Regent Square" June Nixon
(Please listen quietly to the prelude as the community prepares for worship)

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 78)

Give ear, O people; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.

We will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

In the sight of their ancestors, he worked marvels in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.

In the daytime he led them with a cloud, and all night long with a fiery light.

He split rocks open in the wilderness, and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.

He made streams come out of the rock, and caused waters to flow down like rivers

Surely the Lord is with us and will provide for us

For the Lord is good, his steadfast love endures forever!

Let us worship God.

+HYMN 512 "Living Word of God Eternal" sung to REGENT SQUARE
(+ Those who are able are invited to stand)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(first together, then in silent reflection)*

O God our help, we stand at the brink of what has been already and what is yet to be.

We long for liberation, to taste the sweetness of your promises.

But the way forward is unknown.

And so we hesitate, discouraged, frightened, insecure, complaining.

Yet we know that we are called to a journey.

And so we confess to you our need of grace.

Forgive our sin, that we may rise to meet the challenges and adventures that we face.

Keep us thirsting for the knowledge of your sustaining presence with us, and give us the mind of Christ day by day;

for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

RESPONSE HYMN #2275 "Kyrie"
("Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.")

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

+A DOXOLOGY #579 Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

+THE PEACE OF CHRIST

We Listen for the Word of God

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

(You are invited to say the "amen" aloud.)



LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Exodus 17:1-7 God provides water to the complaining Israelites.

The Word of the Lord. / **Thanks be to God.**

Told by Donna Goodfriend

Philippians 2:1-13 Have the mind of Christ among you.

The Word of the Lord. / **Thanks be to God**

SOLO "Christ, Who is in the Form of God"
 G. Roberts Kolb, soloist

Parry/Kayzis

Matthew 21:23-32 Actions vs. good intentions.

The Word of the Lord. / **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Out of Focus"

We Respond in Faith with Thanksgiving

+HYMN (insert) "Have This Mind Among You"

KEITH

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Adapted from "The Confession of 1967".

To be a disciple of Jesus Christ is to be a member of his community of reconciliation, the church. Christ calls us to the ministry of reconciliation and has given us the gift of the Holy Spirit. We show forth continuity with the apostles when we are obedient to our calling. The life, death, resurrection and promised coming of Jesus Christ set the pattern for our life as the church. As his church, we follow the pattern of his life in our life. For us to live and serve according to the pattern of Jesus' life is truly to confess him. Amen.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH, JOYS & CONCERNS

OFFERTORY

“Communion in Christ”

Todd Kendall

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. / **And also with you.**
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 God thanks and praise.

...Your ways are just and true. You alone are holy:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest!

...and whose story of victory we celebrate at this table:
Dying, you destroyed our death; rising, you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory!

THE LORD’S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND COMMUNION

(Please come forward by the center aisle to receive and partake the bread and individual cups, then return to your seat by the side aisles.)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

We Go Out to Serve Our Call

+HYMN (insert)

“I Need Thee Every Hour”

NEED

+CHARGE & BENECTION

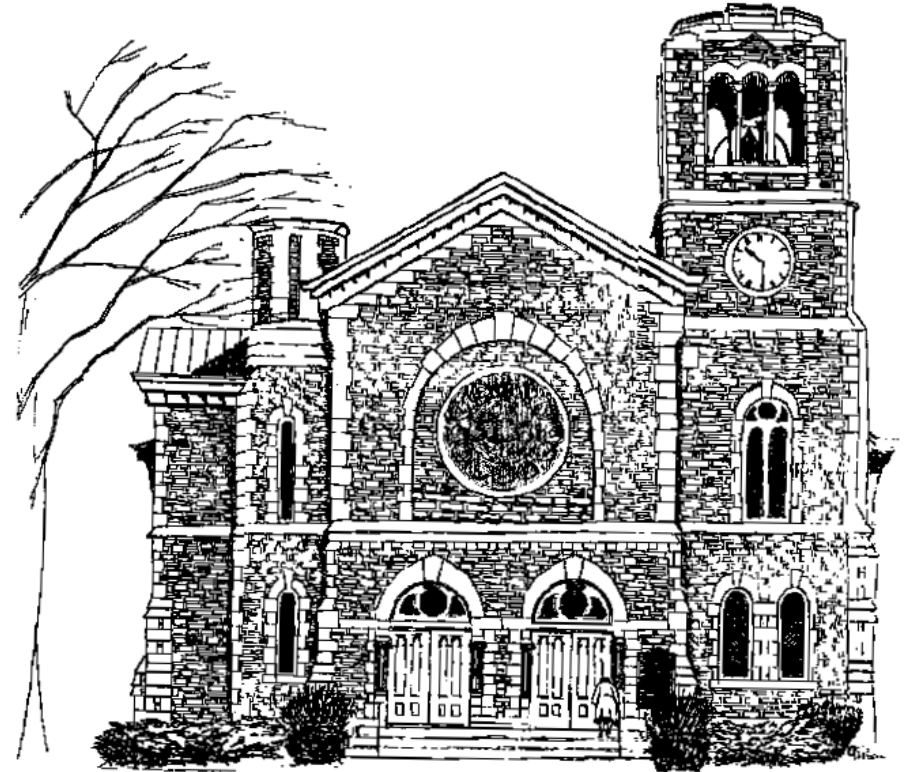
+POSTLUDE

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

Charles Callahan



STONE CHURCH WELCOMES YOU TO WORSHIP
October 1, 2023 ~ World Communion Sunday ~ 10:30 a.m.



The purpose of Stone Church is to be an inviting, spiritual community of Christ, engaging in worship that inspires and challenges us to learn and grow as we reach out in caring and service, trusting in the love of God.

All the People, Ministers

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Living Word of God Eternal

512

KOMM, O KOMM, DU GEIST DES LEBENS 8.7.8.7.8.7

Jeffery Rowthorn, 1983

Neuermehrtes Meiningisches Gesangbuch, 1693

1. Liv - ing Word of God e - ter - nal, Lay - ing
 2. Lov - ing Sav - ior, whose em - brac - es Our true
 3. Liv - ing Bread come down from heav - en, Bro - ken,
 4. Lov - ing Spir - it, pray - ing in us, Giv - ing
 5. May Your Word a - mong us spo - ken, May the

claim to ev - ery age, Je - sus, speak through all our
 selves a - lone un - mask, In this fel - low - ship's small
 shared, dis - trib - ut - ed, Feed us, gath - ered at this
 voice to all our sighs, Show the wide - ness of Your
 lov - ing which we dare, May Your Bread a - mong us

speak - ing, Bring to life the Bi - ble's page; Let Your
 com - pass Train us for our com - mon task: By our
 ta - ble, With Your grace un - lim - it - ed, And as
 mer - cy To deaf ears and blind - ed eyes; Free our
 bro - ken, May the prayers in which we share Dai - ly

gos - pel, heard and heed - ed, Set our course of pil - grim - age.
 love to grow more like You And to dare what You will ask.
 ser - vants then em - ploy us Till this hun - gry world is fed.
 tongues to come be - fore You With our neigh - bors' joys and cries.
 make us faith - ful peo - ple, Liv - ing signs, Lord, of Your care.

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Have This Mind Among You

Philippians 2:1-11
Dennis DeweyKEITH 11.9.9.11
Dennis Dewey

1. Have this mind a - mong you, which is yours in Christ:
 2. If you are en - cour - aged by the grac - ious Lord,
 3. Have this mind a - mong you, which is yours in Christ,
 4. At the name of Je - sus ev' - ry knee shall bow,

Do not be by self - ish - ness en - ticed;
 If love be in - cen - tive, hear this word:
 For whom hu - man like - ness quite suf - ficed;
 Ev' - ry tongue con - fess and heart a - vow:

But serve each oth - er, full of love;
 Be of the same mind, hum - ble and low,
 Though God in - car - nate, will - ing to die;
 Je - sus is Lord, all praise and laud!

Have this mind a - mong you from a - bove.
 Car - ing for the world that God loves so.
 Raised up on the third day, glor - i - fied on high!
 Have this mind a - mong you, glor - i - fy - ing God!

I Need Thee Every Hour

Anne S. Hawks, 1872
Refrain by Robert Lowry, 1872

NEED: 6. 4. 6. 4. with Refrain
Robert Lowry, 1872

1. I need Thee ev - ery hour, Most gra - cious Lord; No oth - er voice but Thine
2. I need Thee ev - ery hour; Stay Thou near by; Temp - ta - tions lose their power
3. I need Thee ev - ery hour; Teach me Thy will, And Thy rich prom - is - es
4. I need Thee ev - ery hour, Most Ho - ly One; O make me Thine in - deed,

REFRAIN

Can peace af - ford.
When Thou art nigh. I need Thee, O I need Thee, Ev - ery hour I
In me ful - fill.
Thou bless - ed Son.

need Thee! O bless me now, my Sav - iour— I come to Thee! A - MEN.

A Short Commentary on Today's Epistle Lesson

To those in Philippi, an imperial colony, patriotically loyal to the Emperor (Nero), this poem praises an anti-hero. The claim that God had exalted Jesus to a status above all others, and that beings in all creation would proclaim him “Lord” would sound like a bad joke at best, and a dangerous act of disloyalty at worst. To Paul and his followers in Philippi, however, Jesus is Lord, even of Nero, the Roman Emperor. They willingly—if not also with “fear and trembling”—gave their ultimate loyalty to Jesus as their Lord. The Philippian patriots could not intimidate them, even if it meant that the Philippians would suffer like Paul and Jesus. When we read this poem in the context of a contest between a patriotic, imperial faith and faith in Jesus as Lord, this poem is a relevant witness to us today.... Paul has placed this poem about the faithfulness of Jesus as our Lord at the center of his reminder to the Philippians, and us, to “work out our deliverance with fear and trembling,” confident that God is present in us to enable us “to will and to work for God’s goodwill.”

David Lull, “Process & Faith”

<http://processandfaith.org/resources/lectionary-commentary/yeara/2014-09-28/proper-21>