



An Order of Worship for the Lord's Day
Stone Presbyterian Church
A Welcoming and Affirming Congregation
September 21, 2025 ~ The 15th Sunday after Pentecost



We Gather to Worship God

PRELUDE **“Prelude on ‘There Is a Balm in Gilead’”** Jeffrey R. Kolb
(Please listen quietly to the prelude as the community prepares for worship)

CHORAL INTROIT AND POURING OF BAPTISMAL WATER

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather this day to celebrate the joy in our lives.

But if there is no joy? If there is only pain and grief today?

We gather, in God's presence, to find comfort and hope for our pain.

God's grace wipes away our tears and knits us together as one people.

In joy or in mourning, we gather in God's presence, to worship in faith and truth.

Alleluia! Amen!

+HYMN #2216 **“When We Are Called to Sing Your Praise”** KINGSFOLD
(+ Those who are able are invited to stand)

WELCOME

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

O God who gave us life and death, you hold us in your hands.

You cradle us in our need, and you push us into growth.

We confess to you that all is not well, that we grieve the loss of many things and people.

All is not well, and we hurt in part because we cannot make things better for ourselves, for those we love, or for the world. All is not well, and we find it easy to succumb to despair.

And so, O God, we pray for healing, and for strength and courage, and for grace to meet this day and this world. We pray to find you in the midst, and to be cradled by you once again.

Hear now our silent prayer.

RESPONSE HYMN #2275 **“Kyrie”**
(“Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.”)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Sisters and brothers in Christ, the mercies of God are from everlasting to everlasting.

Let us proclaim the good news:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

+A DOXOLOGY #579 **“Glory Be to the Father”** GLORIA PATRI

+THE PEACE OF CHRIST

We Listen for the Word of God

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

(You are invited to say the concluding “amen” aloud.)

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 ***There is no balm in Gilead to soothe the prophet's grief.***

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

1 Timothy 2:1-7 ***God wants everyone to be made whole.***

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

ANTHEM **“I Will Sing Unto the Lord”** Jamie Killion & Joseph M. Martin

Luke 16:1–13 ***A clever steward develops a clever strategy.***

The Word of the Lord. / **Thanks be to God.** Told by Donna Goodfriend

SERMON **“Getting Through Hard Times”** Helen Tracy

We Respond in Faith with Thanksgiving

+HYMN #2218 **“You Are Mine”** YOU ARE MINE



+ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(together)*

We are not alone; we live in God's world.

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others
by the Spirit.**

We trust in God. We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

(“A New Creed” – The United Church of Canada)

LIFE OF THE CHURCH, JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (Traditional, Hymnal, p.16)

CHORAL RESPONSE

OFFERTORY “Kum Ba Yah” Charles Callahan

+ **DOXOLOGY #592** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”
GENEVAN PSALTER

+ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

We Go Out to Live and Serve in the Name of Christ

+ **HYMN #281** “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” CWM RHONDDA

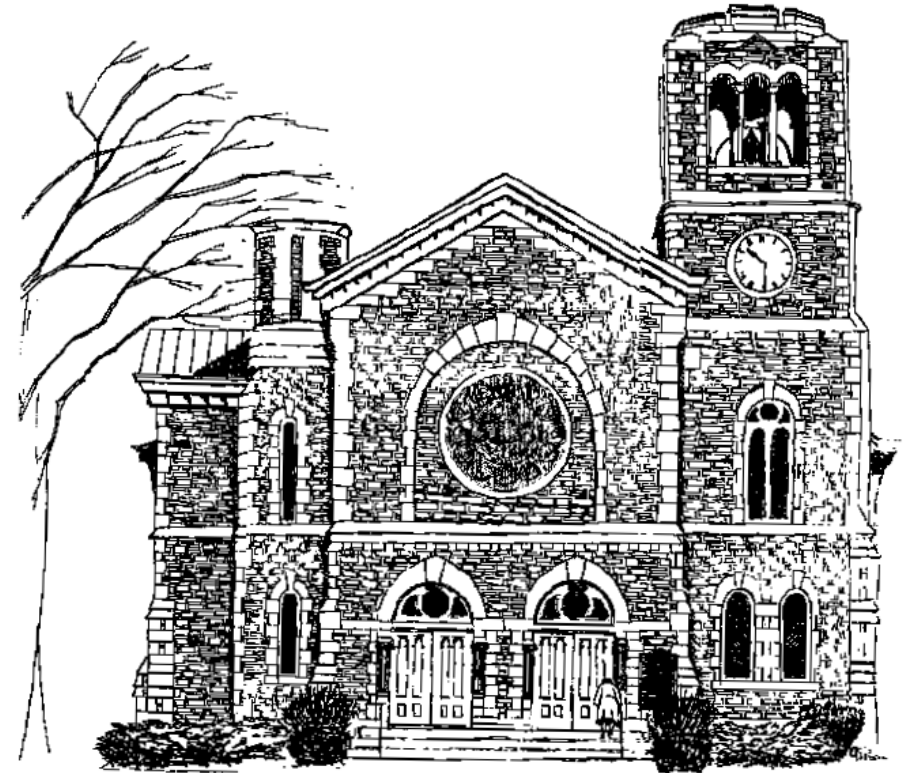
+ **CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

+ **CHORAL RESPONSE**

+ **POSTLUDE**

STONE CHURCH WELCOMES YOU TO WORSHIP

September 21, 2025 ~ 15th Sunday after Pentecost ~ 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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