



An Order of Worship for the Lord's Day
Stone Presbyterian Church
A Welcoming and Affirming Congregation
September 7, 2025 ~ The 13th Sunday after Pentecost



We Gather to Worship God

PRELUDE **“Improvisation on ‘For the Beauty of the Earth’”** Charles Callahan
(Please listen quietly to the prelude as the community prepares for worship)

POURING OF BAPTISMAL WATER AND CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 139)

CHOIR: *Lord, you have searched me; you know me through and through.*

LEADER: O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

PEOPLE: **You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.**

CHOIR: *Lord, you have searched me; you know me through and through.*

LEADER: You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

PEOPLE: **Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.**

CHOIR: *Lord, you have searched me; you know me through and through.*

LEADER: How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them

PEOPLE: **I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.**

CHOIR: *Lord, you have searched me; you know me through and through.*

LEADER: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever.

ALL: **Let us worship God.**

+HYMN #473 **“For the Beauty of the Earth”** DIX

WELCOME

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

Gracious God:

We confess our sin to one another and to you.

We often think of ourselves as deserving more than we have.

We sometimes count ourselves among the righteous.

We forget that it is by your grace that we are made whole.

We forget that forgiveness is to be our way of life
because we have so freely been forgiven.

Help us be a people changed, a people different,
a people set apart for love and service.
Let us not grumble and complain,
but rejoice at being found, saved,
and made whole for service to you and to others;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

+A DOXOLOGY #578 **“Glory Be to the Father”** OLD SCOTTISH CHANT

+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 18:1–11 *The Lord as a potter.*
The Word of the Lord. / Thanks be to God.

Philemon 1–21 *Paul appeals to Philemon for a favor.*
The Word of the Lord. / Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM **“Bread of the Angel Host”** César Franck

Luke 14:25–33 *Giving up possessions.*
The Word of the Lord. / Thanks be to God.

SERMON **“Feet of Clay”**

We Respond in Faith with Thanksgiving

+HYMN #333 **“Seek Ye First”** LAFFERTY

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
(Based on "Of Saving Faith" (XIV.1-3), *The Westminster Confession of Faith* (1647))

By grace through faith, we believe that salvation is the work of the Spirit of Christ in our lives. This work is nurtured and strengthened by the ministry of the Word and sacraments and prayer.

Through faith we respond to the truth and authority of the Word of God with changed lives. We stand in awe of God's judgment, and we embrace God's promises for this life and for the life to come.

We accept Christ, receive Christ, and rely upon Christ alone to set us right with God, and to give us abundant new life in the covenant of grace.



Our faith is a journey which passes over high peaks and through deep valleys. Though our way be threatened, and though we become lost, Christ will prevail, and we shall be found. Thanks be to God!

LIFE OF THE CHURCH, JOYS AND CONCERNS

OFFERTORY "Lento" John Alcock

+A DOXOLOGY #592 Avery and Marsh

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. / **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. / **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. / **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

... who forever sing praises to the glory of your name:

SINGING (#581)

**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.**

... as we declare the great mystery of our faith, singing:

SINGING (#582)

**Dying, You destroyed our death;
Rising You restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Traditional Version, *Presbyterian Hymnal*, p. 16)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND COMMUNION

(Please hold the bread to eat together; please drink the cup as you are served it.)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

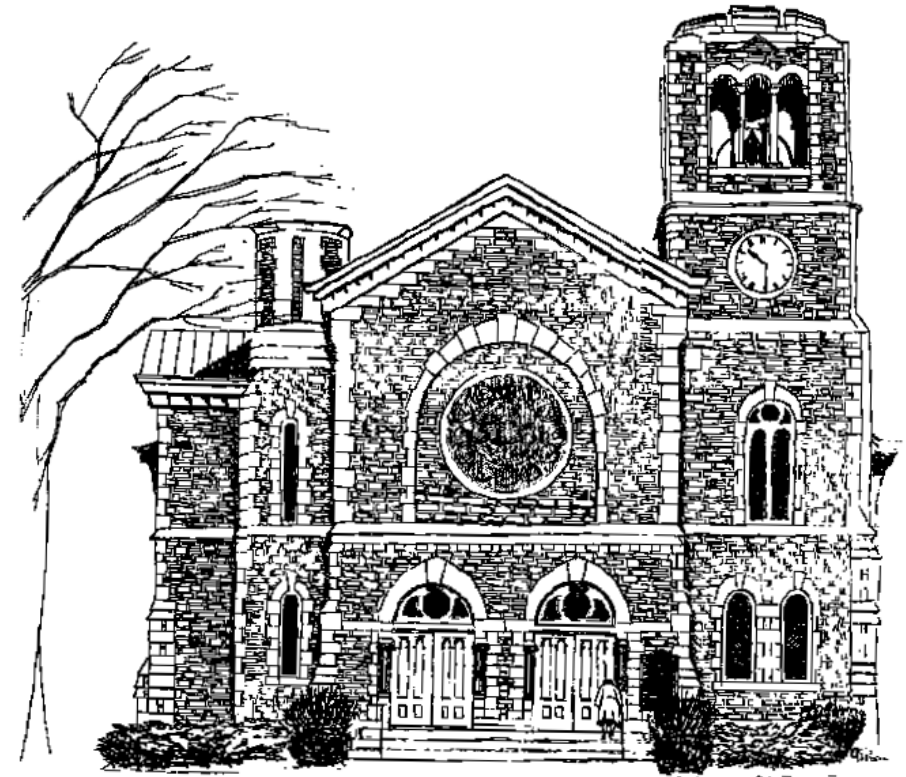
+HYMN #326 "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart" MORECAMBE

+CHARGE & BENEDICTION

+CHORAL RESPONSE

+POSTLUDE

STONE CHURCH WELCOMES YOU TO WORSHIP
September 7, 2025 ~ 13th 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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Janice LeFrois, Office Administrator
Lee Kelso, Sexton

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For the Beauty of the Earth

473

DIX 7.7.7.7.7

Conrad Kocher, 1838

Abr. William Henry Monk, 1861

Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Folliott Sandford Pierpoint, 1864

1. For the beau-ty of the earth, For the glo-ry of the skies,
 2. For the won-der of each hour Of the day and of the night,
 3. For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's de-light,
 4. For the joy of hu-man love, Broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,

For the love which from our birth O-ver and a-round us lies,
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light,
 For the mys-tic har-mo-ny Link-ing sense to sound and sight,
 Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, For all gen-tle thoughts and mild,

Refrain

Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate-ful praise.

5. For Thy church that evermore Her pure sacrifice of love,
 Lifteth holy hands above, Lord of all, to Thee we raise
 Offering up on every shore This our hymn of grateful praise.

LIFE IN CHRIST

Matthew 6:33

333

Seek Ye First

LAFFERTY Irregular

Karen Lafferty (b. 1948)

Karen Lafferty (b. 1948)

Descant Al-le-lu-ia, Al-

1. Seek ye first the king-dom of God And His
 2. Ask and it shall be giv-en un-to you, Seek and

le-lu-ia, Al-le-

righteous-ness, And all these things shall be
 ye shall find, Knock and the door shall be

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

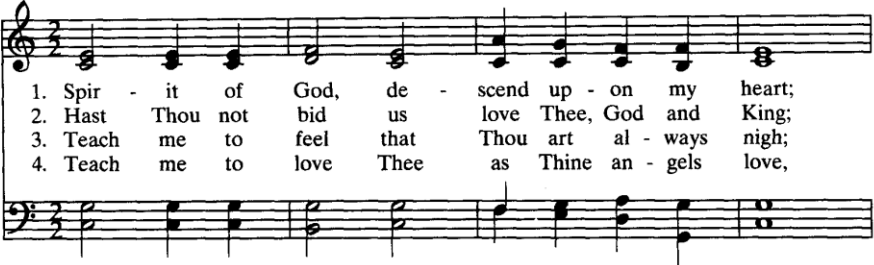
add-ed un-to you. Al-le-lu, al-le-lu-ia!
 o-pened un-to you. Al-le-lu, al-le-lu-ia!

326 Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

MORECAMBE 10.10.10.10

George Croly, 1854

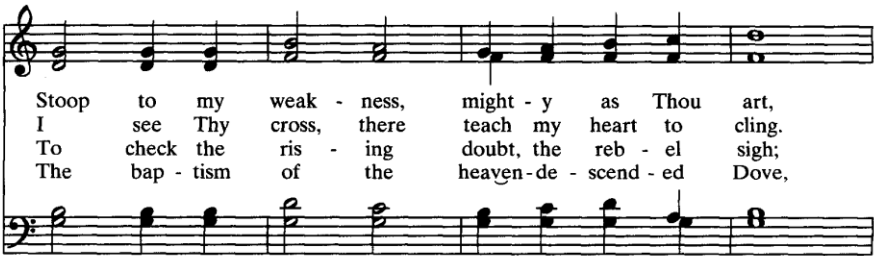
Frederick Cook Atkinson, 1870



1. Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
2. Hast Thou not bid us love Thee, God and King;
3. Teach me to feel that Thou art al - ways nigh;
4. Teach me to love Thee as Thine an - gels love,



Wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
All, all Thine own: soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
Teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,
One ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;



Stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as Thou art,
I see Thy cross, there teach my heart to cling.
To check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;
The bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove,



And make me love Thee as I ought to love.
O let me seek Thee, and O let me find!
Teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
My heart an al - tar, and Thy love the flame.