

AN ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY
May 17, 2009 ~ The Sixth Sunday of Easter

We Gather to Celebrate the Resurrection of Christ

PRELUDE *Fantasy No. 8* Orlando Gibbons

CHORAL INTROIT & POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

CALL TO WORSHIP

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God.

Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God because God is love.

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that God loved us.

The Lord is risen! **He is risen indeed!**

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The Lord is risen! **He is risen indeed!**

Let us worship God!

+HYMN #376 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* to BEECHER
(+Those who are able may stand.)

+PRAYER OF THE DAY (together)



Great and loving God, your will for us in Jesus is the peace which the world cannot give; your abiding gift is the Advocate he promised. Calm all troubled hearts, dispel every fear. Keep us steadfast in love and faithful to your word, that we may always be your dwelling place. Grant this through Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, now and forever and ever and to ages of ages. Amen.

+HYMN #383 *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* OLIVET

WELCOME, JOYS, CONCERNS AND INVITATIONS OF THE CHURCH

+THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of the risen Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

The Risen Christ Opens the Scriptures to Us

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

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

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Acts 10:44-48* *The Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit.*
The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalms 98 - *Red Hymnbook*, Selection #23, p. 494 (responsively)

1 John 5:1-6* *Faith overcomes the world.*
The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *I Will Sing with the Spirit* John Rutter

John 15:9-17* *Jesus' great commandment is "Love one another."*
The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Conquering the World through Love*

We Respond in Faith with Thanksgiving

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – The Apostles' Creed
(Traditional Version, *The Presbyterian Hymnal*, p. 14)

+HYMN #2223 *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love* St. Brendan's

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

"debts/debtors" (Traditional, *Hymnal*, p. 16)

*You are invited to "listen with your eyes" instead of reading as the texts are spoken.



OFFERTORY *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* Yury Arbatsky

+A DOXOLOGY LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**From all that dwell below the skies
Let the Creator's praise arise, Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung,
And praise the Spirit every tongue, Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

+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.**

We Go Out to Serve in the Name of the Risen Lord

+HYMN #2241 *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve* LAND OF REST

+CHARGE

+BENEDICTION

+CHORAL RESPONSE

+POSTLUDE

Sunday: 11:30 a.m.
Monday: 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 8:30 a.m.
 9:30 a.m.
Thursday: 7:00 p.m.
Next Sunday: 9:00 a.m.
 9:45 a.m.

Deacons' meeting
Storytellers' meeting
Clinton Ministerium – Lutheran Home
Communion with homebound
Worship Team meeting
Choir rehearsal
Church School
 • Adults – Dining Room
 • Children – Downstairs
Worship

10:30 a.m.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Thursday, May 21 is the deadline for submitting articles for the June/July issue of The Corner Stone.

The annual **HOPE HOUSE VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER** will be held on May 21st at the New Hartford Methodist Church on Genesee Street. The social time is from 5:00 to 5:30 p.m. followed by the dinner. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact Ceil Gilbert (853-8289) or Hope House (793-3723) so they will know how many to plan on. The theme is based on "the 1930's" and it should be a fun event.

HOPE HOUSE DATE CHANGE: We will serve our monthly dinner at Hope House on Tuesday, May 26 (instead of Monday) due to Memorial Day. Questions? Call Ceil Gilbert 853-8289.

MISSION SHOP: You are invited to visit our Mission Shop, located in the hallway near the Norton Room, to see our wonderful selection of Fair Trade teas, coffees, chocolates, soups, and clothes which are all for sale.

KIRKLAND COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST: Thursday, May 21, 7:00 to 8:30 a.m. at the Martin Luther Home. Kirkland area residents are encouraged to join local religious leaders and Kiwanis Club members in the 13th Annual Clinton Kiwanis Club Prayer Breakfast. Please make your reservation by contacting Bill Rudge at 853-6300 or Rudge44@aol.com.

THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

WELCOME to the worship of God at Stone Presbyterian Church, a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in the Presbytery of Utica. Please make use of the pew cards to indicate any prayer concerns, pastoral needs or suggestions for improvement.



VISITORS are always welcome! Please let us know who you are by filling out the Visitor's Card in the pew and dropping it in the offering plate. We invite you to join us for coffee and conversation in the back of the sanctuary following worship this morning. Please join us again for worship!

NAME TAGS: If yours is missing or your name is wrong, please let an usher know, and we will supply you with a temporary tag until a replacement is made. If you're visiting, an usher will be glad to make you a name tag.

A REST ROOM (wheelchair accessible) is located off the narthex to your left as you enter the church. A diaper-changing table is there for your convenience. More restrooms may be found downstairs in the hall that parallels Williams St.

THE QUIET ROOM is located off the narthex to your right as you enter the church. If you need to leave worship for any reason, you are welcome to use the Quiet Room where you may go to be apart but still take part in worship.

COFFEE HOUR: Please join us for coffee and conversation in the entryway following worship this morning.

CHURCH SCHOOL for children is held from 9:45 to 10:25 every Sunday morning. Please meet downstairs in the video room. All young people in grades 1-10 are welcome to join us!

THE COUNTRY PANTRY NEEDS: The Pantry food bank is requesting donations of shampoo, toothpaste, bar soap, and dish detergent. Other items are most welcome too! Please leave items in the basket in the narthex.

LITURGIST: Dave Forbes

USHER: John Menard

WE ARE THE INVITERS!

Our Church Growth Task Force has been working for over a year now on developing plans to grow our church. Everyone has a felt sense of the need. We know "up close and personal" what the statistics tell us: that since 1965 membership in Presbyterian Church (USA) has been halved. Coupled with this is a constant aging process; the majority of those worshipping in Presbyterian congregations are 55 years old or more. Where do we go from here? Is decline and death inevitable, or is there hope?

The current literature is pretty much unanimous: that churches in "maintenance mode" (just hanging on and doing the "same old same old") are on a glide path to extinction. But churches with transformational ministries, members who are connected in sharing their faith journeys and are engaged in intentional programs of spiritual growth, hands-on local mission, learning about their faith and participating together in spirited and deeply meaningful worship can not only survive but thrive!

The Session of Stone Church is now engaged in a study of practical evangelism—sharing our stories with those outside the walls of the church in a way that is hospitable and inviting. I am pleased to report that most of the strategies suggested by our denomination's resource, "Growing Healthy Churches" are being carried out here at Stone, including having a documented strategy for meeting and greeting visitors and doing follow-through [kudos to our SWAK Team for doing this in an excellent fashion] and being intentional about welcoming visitors in print/announcements.

This resource also suggests that everyone in the church—leaders and members alike—needs to view church growth as a positive and important priority in the life of the church. Churches are encouraged to

- engage in intentional strategies with respect to growing the church
- visit other churches in the area to do some field research
- have regular "bring a friend to church" Sundays, making these occasions of fellowship, community and outreach
- make use of publicity options to promote meaningful events at the church.

The most effective strategy of church growth is simply to start sharing with others outside the church why our faith is important to us and how being a part of Stone Church connects us to God in ways that are helpful in our lives. One Stone member recently told me of such a conversation that this member had had with a neighbor who was experiencing some challenges in his life. That neighbor has not yet come to Stone to worship, but who knows?! The seed has been planted! The soil is ripe. God is good!

We will be encouraging our members repeatedly over the next months to share the invitation to meet God and to know the joy in the fellowship of belonging to Jesus Christ here at Stone Church. As one commentator has observed, "Evangelism is not a side show, it's the main deal." We believe in a God who welcomes all people. But we're the ones who do the inviting!

Dennis Dewey

REMEMBER THE CLOCK TOWER CAMPAIGN!

Invite your friends and neighbors to consider a gift to



“the community’s clock!”

**Today is LOOSE CHANGE (AND BILLS) SUNDAY
for the clock tower.**

JUST A FEW HOURS A WEEK CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! AIDS Community Resources is looking for volunteers to be the friendly face and voice to greet the public at their Utica office. Responsibilities include announcing visitors to staff, receiving mail, and maintaining a professional environment for visitors waiting for appointments. People of all ages are welcome to apply. Flexible schedule, with daily, weekly, monthly or on-call hours available. For more information, call Mary, 793-0661, or email volunteer@aidscommunityresources.com.

SUMMER IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER! That means another season of camping programs at Vanderkamp Center! Attending camp can be a powerful, life-changing experience for children. This summer, Vanderkamp is offering five one-week programs, plus one two-week program for boys and girls ages 6-18. Camp opens on Sunday, June 28 and runs through Friday, August 7. Vanderkamp brochures are available in the back of the sanctuary.

PRAYER CHAIN: If you would like to add someone to our prayer list or would like to receive the prayer list for daily prayer, please contact the church office, 853-2933, or Sarah Rosenstein at 859-1037 or by e-mail at rosenstein@earthlink.net. Please note that we will remove names after 6 weeks if we haven’t received an update or request to keep them on.

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.

**Stone Presbyterian Church
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stonepres@verizon.net**

**Dennis Dewey, Designated Pastor
G. Roberts Kolb, Director of Music
Peggy Weldon, Office Administrator
Cros Harvey, Sexton
All the People, Ministers**

www.stonepres.org

Gil Adams Family
Padgett Family
Kaytryn Bentley and Family
Mary Ellen Brandis
Cookenham Family
Dortha and Bill Glaser
Karen Stockton’s husband
Arthur Budich
Marty Miller
Hannah Rosenstein and family
Jim and Ginny Francis

Members/Friends of the Week:
Arlene Vivyan, Cathy Watkins
Eleanor Palmer
Dick and Elaine Schmidt
Allen Solomon
Brian Britcher and his family
Ewa and Tom Lawrence
Pete Forrester
Forest Presbyterian Church,
Lyons Falls
John Stiefvater and his family

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