

Welcome to the historic Stone Church!



**Mailing address: 204 S. Chase Street, Houston, MN 55943
Church Office 507-896-3102**

Thank You for helping with the service today July 21, 2024.

Organist: Shelley Jerviss

Prayers of intercession: Volunteer

Reader: Jessica Brand

Set Up: Jessica Brand, Larry Jerviss

Servers/Clean Up: Krin Abraham, Twyla Thorson

Prelude

Ringling of the Church Bell

Announcements

Prayer & Confession *(written by Lloyd Vix)*

**Thank you God for the stillness of the early morning.
For the sunrise symbolizing one more of your precious days.
Thank you for the strength to rise this day.
Remove my guilt as I confess my sins
requesting forgiveness that I may have everlasting life.
In your holy name I pray. Amen.**

Gathering Hymn #632 “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” vs 1-3

1 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

2 Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same.

Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.

⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

R: The word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 95

- ¹ O come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
- ² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
- ³ For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
- ⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
- ⁵ The sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.
- ⁶ O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
- ⁷ For he is our God,
**and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.**

Reflection Reading: Numbers 22:22-38 Balaam the Prophet

²²God's anger was kindled because he was going, and the angel of the LORD took his stand in the road as his adversary. Now he was riding on the donkey, and his two servants were with him. ²³The donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road, with a drawn sword in his hand; so the donkey turned off the road, and went into the field; and Balaam struck the donkey, to turn it back onto the road. ²⁴Then the angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on either side. ²⁵When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, it scraped against the wall, and scraped Balaam's foot against the wall; so he struck it again. ²⁶Then the angel of the LORD went ahead, and stood in a narrow place, where there was no way to turn either to the right or to the left. ²⁷When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, it lay down under Balaam; and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he struck the donkey with his staff. ²⁸Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and it said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?" ²⁹Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have made a fool of me! I wish I had a sword in my hand! I would kill you right now!" ³⁰But the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey, which you have ridden all your life to this day? Have I been in the habit of treating you this way?" And he said, "No."

³¹Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road, with his drawn sword in his hand; and he bowed down, falling on his face. ³²The angel of the LORD said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? I have come out as an adversary, because your way is perverse before me. ³³The donkey saw me, and turned away from me these three times. If it had not turned away from me, surely just now I would have killed you and let it live." ³⁴Then Balaam said to the angel of the LORD, "I have sinned, for I did not know that you were standing in the road to oppose me. Now therefore, if it is displeasing to you, I will return home." ³⁵The angel of the LORD said to Balaam, "Go with the men; but speak only what I tell you to speak." So Balaam went on with the officials of Balak.

³⁶When Balak heard that Balaam had come, he went out to meet him at Irmoab, on the boundary formed by the Arnon, at the farthest point of the boundary. ³⁷Balak said to Balaam, "Did I not send to summon you? Why did you not come to me? Am I not able to honor you?" ³⁸Balaam said to Balak, "I have come to you now, but do I have power to say just anything? The word God puts in my mouth, that is what I must say."

Sermon

Pastor Matt Larson

Hymn ELW #732 "Borning Cry"

1 "I was there to hear your
borning cry, I'll be there when you
are old. I rejoiced the day you
were baptized to see your life
unfold. I was there when you
were but a child, with a faith to
suit you well; in a blaze of light
you wandered off to find where
demons dwell."

2 "When you heard the wonder of
the Word I was there to cheer you
on; you were raised to praise the
living Lord, to whom you now
belong. If you find someone to
share your time and you join your
hearts as one, I'll be there to
make your verses rhyme from
dusk till rising sun."

3 "In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through
the night, complete what I've
begun. When the evening gently
closes in and you shut your
weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always
been, with just one more
surprise."

4 "I was there to hear your
borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were
baptized to see your life unfold."

The Holy Baptism of Oliver Carter Coil

God gives us a new birth into a living home through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ.

Parents and sponsors who do you present to be baptized?

We present Oliver Carter to be baptized.

Parent(s) called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ? **I do.**

You are entrusted with the responsibilities of bringing your child to worship, teaching the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments. To teach your child how to pray, to read the scriptures, to trust God and to care for others through word and deed. Do you promise to help your child to grow in the Christian faith and life? **I do.**

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture this child in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit? **I do.**

People of God, do you promise to support **Oliver Carter** and pray for him in his life in Christ? **We do.**

Parent(s) and Sponsors I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the forces that defy God, the devil, the powers of this world that rebel against God and the ways of sin?

I renounce them.

Along with the congregation let us confess our faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.**

Baptism

Oliver Carter, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Congregation: **You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized.
Alleluia.**

Sign of the Cross

Oliver Carter, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen.

Candle

Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Congregational Welcome

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ.

Gift of Quilt

Prayers of Intercession

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Caring Collection

Offering Collection

Offertory Hymn #512 “Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”

Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone away.

When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.

When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the
glory, for ever and ever.
Amen**

Invitation to Communion *Congregation Response: All are welcome.*
The Distribution (*Please sign the pew pad.*)
Communion Hymns: 781, 759, 818, 733

Sending Song ELW# 543 “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

1 "Go, my children, with my blessing,
never alone. Waking, sleeping, I am with you,
you are my own. In my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing,
you are my own."

2 "Go, my children, sins forgiven,
at peace and pure. Here you learned
how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven,
at peace and pure."

3 "Go, my children, fed and nourished,
closer to me. Grow in love and love by serving,
joyful and free. Here my Spirit's power filled you,
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished,
joyful and free."

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Tolling of the Church Bell

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Baptized during worship today is Oliver Carter Coil, son of Adam & Kayla Coil. Oliver's sponsors for baptism are Lilly Coil, Brent Magaard.

No Stone Church Worship on July 28, 2024.

WELCA Annual Pie and Ice Cream Social



Sunday, August 11, 2024, 2:00-4:00 pm At the Historic Stone Church, Hwy. 76, Houston Self-guided tours of the church! Come see Houston history and enjoy delicious pie and ice cream! Drawing for beautiful sunflower quilt sponsored by the Caring Quilters of Cross of Christ!

August 4 HERITAGE DAY

Noisy Offering Collected During Worship
Special Presentation following worship in the sanctuary will highlight the lives of some of our Stone Church Founders and Civil War Veterans who are buried in the cemetery. Open your cookbooks and make a dish that reminds you of family and your favorite gatherings.



September 1 CAR SHOW

Noisy Offering Collected During Worship
Drive your car or tractor or ride your bike to church. Bring sandwiches, salads, or desserts to share.



Cookies & Coffee are served all other Sundays after church on the front sidewalk. Bring a plate of cookies to share for what we call *CookieLuck*.

