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Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Pastor
Mrs. Amy Peck, Worship Choir Director
Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator

September 21, 2025

9:45 AM

Sacred Stones: Building Faith in the Places God Meets Us*
Spaces of Beginning

Thank you for worshiping with us today. If you are a guest, we invite you to take a moment to complete a visitor's card located in the back of the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate when it is passed. We also invite you to sign your name in our guest book located in the back entrance of the sanctuary.

We welcome infants and children and all their wiggles & voices in our worship! For your comfort, we also have a children's corner in the back narthex where your child can relax and play and you can still participate in the worship experience. We have children's books and activity bags for them to enjoy! Additionally, after the children's message, children from 3 years old—6th grade are invited to participate in Sunday school in our classroom downstairs. They can choose to attend Sunday school or return to their seats to sit with their parents. Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance!

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
JOYS & CONCERNS

PRESENTATION OF THE BIBLES
INTRODUCTION TO THEME

PRELUDE

Back to School Slideshow

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Come, people of God, ready to build your faith.

C: We are living stones, gathered in God's house.

L: God meets us in new beginnings.

C: We worship the One who makes all things new.

L: Even ordinary places become holy when God is here.

C: Surely the Lord is in this place!

L: I invite you to stand as comfortable as we start this new day in praise of our God.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

This is a Day of New Beginnings

Les Garrett, 1967

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Piano ♩ = 80

The musical score is written for piano on a grand staff with a treble clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 80. The score consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a piano dynamic marking. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The score includes first and second endings, indicated by bracketed lines with '1.' and '2.' above them. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

1. This is a day of new be - gin-nings,
2. For by the life and death of Je - sus,
3. Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing,
4. Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us

5
time to re - mem - ber and move on,
God's might - y Spir - it, now as then,
step from the past and leave be - hind
to show and share what love can do.

9
time to be - lieve what love is bring-ing,
can make for us a world of dif-ference,
our dis - a - point - ment, guilt, and griev-ing,
This is a day of new be - gin-nings

13
lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
as faith and hope are born a - gain.
seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
our God is mak - ing all things

17
new.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

***TIME OF CONFESSION¹**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: God of new beginnings,

C: we confess that we cling to the familiar. We resist change, we hesitate to dream, we forget that You are present in every place. Forgive us, O God. Wake us to Your presence, so that even ordinary stones may remind us You are here.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P: Hear the good news: God meets us at every beginning. In Christ, you are forgiven and made new—In Christ, we all are forgiven and made new.

C: Thanks be to God!

ACT OF PRAISE

Spaces of Beginning (to the tune of the Doxology)

ALL SING: Praise God who meets us at the start, Who plants new dreams within each heart; Through every step, God shows the way, And makes the ordinary holy each day.

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 28:10-22 (CEB)

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 433 NCH (black hymnal, see next page)

In the Bulb There is a Flower

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

In the Bulb There is a Flower

Natalie Sleeth

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. In the bulb there is a flow-er; in the seed, an ap-ple
 2. There's a song in ev-ery si-lence, seek-ing word and mel-o -
 3. In our end is our be - gin-ning; in our time, in - fin - i -

5

tree; in co - coons, a hid-den prom-ise: but - ter - flies will soon be
 - dy; there's a dawn for ev-ery dark-ness, bring-ing hope to you and
 - ty; in our doubt there is be - liev-ing; in our life, e - ter - ni -

9

free! In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to
 me. From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys-ter -
 - ty. In our death, a res - ur - rec-tion; at the last, a vic-to -

13

be, un-re - vealed un-til its sea-son, some-thing God a-lone can see.
 - y, un-re - vealed un-til its sea-son, some-thing God a-lone can see.
 - ry, un-re - vealed un-til its sea-son, some-thing God a-lone can see.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM

Do Not Be Afraid for You Are Mine

by Larson

TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

Nearer My God to Thee

by Adams

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION¹

P: Generous God, here are our gifts of time; here are our gifts of talents; here are our gifts of money; building stones for Your Kingdom, awaiting shaping and placing within Your loving purpose.

C: Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN UM HYMNAL NO. 1 (black hymnal, see next page)

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

by Showalter

References

¹The Offertory Prayer is written by Rev Dr Derek Browning, and posted on the Church of Scotland's Starters for Sunday website. <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>

Welcome Team Members—Byron & Dawn Almoney, Doris Loucks

Liturgist— Jesse Smith

Tech Team— Deb & Jack Herlocker, John Schriver

*The brick graffiti wall symbolizes the strength of a community built stone by stone, brick by brick. Though bricks are shaped by human hands and stones by the earth itself, together they remind us that God works through both the natural and the crafted to build sacred spaces. Each week, a new word will be added, proclaiming God's presence in our life together and marking this wall as a holy witness to faith. Thank you to the altarscape team for their visioning and sharing of gifts to make our Sanctuary space a beautiful offering to God in this season: Jodi Bender, Danika Dallam, Cindy Hogentogler, Barb Neff

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.


Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Walter C. Smith

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano




1. Im - mor-tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise, in
 2. Un - rest-ing, un - hast-ing, and si - lent as light, not
 3. Your life is life - giv-ing, to both great and small; in
 4. So per-fect your glo - ry, so bril-liant your light, your

6




light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes, Most bless-ed, most
 want-ing, not wast-ing, but rul-ing in might; Your jus - tice like
 all life you're liv-ing, the true life of all; We blos-som and
 an - gels a - dore you, all veil-ing their sight; All praise we now

11



glo - rious, the An - cient of Days, al - might - y, vic -
 moun-tains high soar - ing a - bove, your clouds which are
 flour - ish as leaves and as flowers, then with - er and
 ren - der as your an - gels do: in awe at the

15



- to - rious, your great name we praise.
 foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 per - ish, but naught dims your powers.
 splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.