



# THE OLD STONE CHURCH

OCTOBER 29, 2023

REFORMATION SUNDAY

10AM Sanctuary Worship

## WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Michael Crawley  
*Bagpiper*

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Fred Heider

\* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

Let all the world in every corner sing! My God and King!  
 The heavens are not too high, His praise my thither fly!  
 The earth is not too low, His praises there may grow.  
 Let all the world in every corner sing! My God and King!

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

We have gathered today in search of reformation.

**We want to reform ourselves, our church, and our society.**

**Our ancestors in the faith listened for God's word.**

**They dared to believe God's promises.**

Leaders like Moses and Paul saw evidence of God's work.

They believed they were face-to-face with God's truth.

**They looked beyond the present moment.**

**They lived for dreams not yet realized.**

Many felt God's love in knowing Jesus.

They experienced a new relationship with neighbors.

**We have come seeking community centered in Christ.**

**We want to feel God's presence as we worship.**

## \* INVOCATION PRAYER

O God, our Creator and Sustainer and Renewer,  
 we come before you with humble appreciation  
 that your power is expressed toward us in a mighty love.

We are grateful for this opportunity to worship,  
 for the courage and insights of our forebearers  
 who cared enough to speak up and speak out  
 for what they believed to be the best ways to return your love,  
 to act upon it.

We pray for the strength in ourselves to protest when that is called for  
 and to keep silence when that, too, serves your will.

We cherish the heritage of our church.

We ask that you alert us to the contemporary meanings  
 of our history and traditions.

We seek not to live in the past but by your grace  
 to let the best of the past live through us.

Finally, God, as we enter this time of worship,  
 we open ourselves to your discipline and guidance.

We who tend to get out of shape spiritually  
 call upon you to reform us into your image,  
 into sturdy and energetic children who are decisively your own.

In Spirit and in truth, be present among us,  
 for we gather and pray in Christ's good name. Amen.

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul-wark nev - er  
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be  
 3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -  
 4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -

fail - ing. Our help - er he, a - mid the flood of  
 los - ing, were not the right man on our side, the  
 do - us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his  
 bid - eth. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours through

mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe doth  
 man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ  
 truth to tri - umph through us. The Prince of Dark - ness grim, we  
 him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go, this

seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and  
 Je - sus, it is he. Lord Sab - a - oth his name, from  
 trem - ble not for him. His rage we can en - dure, for  
 mor - tal life al - so. The bod - y they may kill; God's

armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.  
 age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.  
 lo, his doom is sure. One lit - tle word shall fell him.  
 truth a - bid - eth still. His king - dom is for - ev - er.

\* CALL TO CONFESSION

Marty Vassel

The word of God comes to us through Moses:  
“You shall be holy, for I, your God am holy.”  
But we have taken little delight in holiness.  
We scoff at pretensions of saintliness, preferring the company of sinners.  
Wickedness seems more attractive than righteousness,  
not only for entertainment but also to boost our success in the marketplace.  
Do we want to change our accommodation to today’s world?  
Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,  
followed by time for silent personal confession.  
Thus, we pray:

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we have missed your signs and wonders  
because we are so busy creating our own.  
Those around us who pretend to be your prophets  
offer little to which we aspire.  
Yet, we would pray with the psalmist,  
“Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
so we may rejoice and be glad all our days.”  
Where is the meaning we have missed in all our striving?  
Does Jesus hold the key when he says,  
“Love God with all your being,” and “Love your neighbor as yourself”?  
O God, we long to make sense out of life.  
Help us to follow your way.  
*(moment of silent confession)*

\* KYRIE ELEISON

John Merbecke

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

\* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

It takes courage to question the way things are,  
especially when present arrangements are to our benefit.  
We who are privileged seldom notice those who suffer  
and are shamefully mistreated.  
Yet we cannot ignore them.  
We can only suppress knowledge of the evil around us for a little while.  
God is even now nudging us gently,  
caring tenderly for us amid our confusion and inner turmoil.  
The favor of God is upon us,  
entrusting us with the gospel for our own lives and for the world.  
Receive forgiveness and blessing as good news.  
**Alleluia and Amen!**

\* PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us offer a sign of peace to one another.

\* GLORIA #581

*Glory be to the Father*

GREATOREX

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen, Amen.**

#### OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.  
We who have been entrusted with the message of the gospel  
have the means to make it known to the world.  
Our tithes and offerings are dedicated to that purpose.  
As we present them, we also submit ourselves to God's purposes and direction.  
The offering will now be received.

#### OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*O How Amiable*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

O how amiable are thy dwellings, thou Lord of hosts!  
My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord.  
My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.  
Yea, the sparrow hath found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay  
her young: even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King, and my God.  
Blessed are they that dwell in thy house. They will be always praising thee.  
The glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us;  
prosper thou the work of our hands upon us. O prosper thou our handiwork.  
O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

\* DOXOLOGY #607

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

\* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Marty Vassel

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**As we give ourselves and our offerings, we pray, O God,  
that they may reveal your love in such a way that many will respond.  
Awaken in us a love for you and for one another that is contagious.  
Remove from us all apathy, pretension, and greed  
that we may grow in holiness and compassion,  
living joyously in communion with you.  
Amen.**

\* OFFERTORY RESPONSE

*All Things Come of Thee*

Herbert C. Peabody

All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen

# WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Come, Holy Spirit, giver of life;  
breathe into us that we may hear a word of truth this day.  
Draw us into communion,  
enable us to love,  
conspire to make us one with You  
for the world You so deeply love. Amen.

## THE READINGS

Epistle

Thessalonians 2:1-8 [NRSVUE]

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but, just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals but to please God, who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed, nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

The Holy Spirit has a word for each of us today.

**With God's help we are listening.**



Gospel

Matthew 22:34-46 [NRSVUE]

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

'The Lord said to my Lord,  
Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet'?

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

"Reformed by Love"



\* A RESPONSIVE READING OF ARTICLE 4 OF THE BELHAR CONFESSION

We believe that God has revealed himself as the one  
who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;  
**we believe that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity,  
is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged;**  
we believe that God calls the church to follow him in this;  
for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;  
**we believe God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;**  
we believe that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger,  
helps orphans and widows, and blocks the path of the ungodly;  
**we believe that for God, pure and undefiled religion  
is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;**  
we believe that God wishes to teach the church  
to do what is good and to seek the right;  
**we believe that the church must therefore stand by people  
in any form of suffering and need,  
which implies, among other things,  
that the church must witness against  
and strive against any form of injustice,  
so that justice may roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream;**  
we believe that the church, as the possession of God,  
must stand where the Lord stands,  
namely against injustice and with the wronged;  
that in following Christ, the church must witness  
against all the powerful and privileged  
who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others.

**We believe in the triune God,** (Belhar Confession, Article 1)  
**Father, Son and Holy Spirit,**  
**who gathers, protects, and cares for the church through Word and Spirit.**  
**This, God has done since the beginning of the world  
and will do to the end. Amen.**



# LIGHTING OF CANDLES, PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

We ask all these things in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray...

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

\* HYMN #643

Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,  
2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
3 All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,

who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;  
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:

who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way  
and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,

with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.  
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.  
the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

\* BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

Brothers and sisters, our coming together is not in vain.  
God is doing a new thing among us and beyond us.

**We have sensed a vision of God's plan for us.**

**God's sign and wonders await our discovery.**

God has compassion on all who seek to serve.

Steadfast love is with all who continue in faithfulness.

**God's glorious power is manifested in humility.**

**Surely God's favor rests upon us here.**

Now we go out with courage, entrusted with the gospel.

We carry good news of God's love to our neighbors.

**We will be gentle with others as God is gentle with us.**

**We offer tender care in the spirit of Jesus.**

**Amen.**

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

*Amen*

John Rutter

POSTLUDE

*Highland Cathedral*

Ulrich Pöever/  
Michael Korb

Michael Crawley  
*Bagpiper*

*"My flesh and my heart may fail,  
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."*

*Psalm 73:26*



**We continue to keep in our prayers:**

Jean Cooke, Shirley Daly, JoAnn Hood, Louis Handler, Jenni Plants,  
Ken Guidas, Faith Battan, Barney Taxel,  
Isaac, Ameila, Mark Merritt, Angela Hendricks, Karen Cogar,  
the family of Mike Kelley, the family of Margaret Bell,  
the Baron family, the Reid family, the Karen King family

We pray for the repose of the soul of Albert King,  
may his memory be a blessing.

We pray for those struggling with illness, convalescing, homebound or in need.

*Names are generally removed after four weeks unless there is a continuing need.*

# The 2024 Old Stone Church Stewardship Campaign



## Coming Home Giving Back

“Return to your home and declare how much God has done for you.”  
So, he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.  
Luke 8:39 (NRSVUE)

This year we want to stress that the core of stewardship is **LOVE**.  
Stewardship is a spiritual practice throughout the year—  
how we shepherd our whole lives —  
through word and habit with God and each other —  
to be expressions of God’s **Love** in the world.

**Sunday November 12, 2023 is Consecration Sunday,  
please bring in your 2024 Pledge cards  
and join in a Stewardship Pot Luck Luncheon following the service.**



Please join the Old Stone Church community next Sunday, November 12, 2023 at 1:00PM for a Celebration of the Life of David C. Daugherty, Old Stone Church Director of Music, who died earlier this year.



### **@ Old Stone Church**

**Sunday October 29, 2023**

11:15AM Christian Spirituality/Chapel

12:30PM Welcoming & Fellowship Event/ Memorial Hall

**Wednesday November 1, 2023**

6:30PM Fall Book Study/ZOOM

**Saturday November 4, 2023**

10:30AM Gail Reid Funeral Service

**Sunday November 5 All Saints Sunday**

11:15AM Christian Spirituality/Chapel

**Tuesday November 7**

All Day Election Day

**Wednesday November 8**

6:30PM Fall Book Study/ZOOM

**Saturday November 11**

All Day Veterans Day

### **Last Sunday Attendance**

In-Person:83 Online:173

There are many ways to support The Old Stone Church

Online Giving: <a href="http://oldstonechurch.org/giving/">oldstonechurch.org/giving/</a>	Mobile Giving: Text the keyword "oldstonecle" to 73256
Mail to: Old Stone Church Attn: Financial Office 91 Public Square Cleveland, OH 44113	Checks should be made payable to "Old Stone Church." If you would like to designate your contribution to one of Old Stone's mission projects, please make a note on the memo line.

All contributions are tax-deductible and will be appropriately acknowledged at year-end.

### THE OLD STONE CHURCH

LOVING CHRIST, SERVING CITY—SPIRITUALLY, SOCIALLY, CULTURALLY—SINCE 1820

91 Public Square, Cleveland, Ohio 44113-2058

Phone: 216-241-6145 Fax: 216-241-6149

Website: [www.OldStoneChurch.org](http://www.OldStoneChurch.org) E-Mail: [info@OldStoneChurch.org](mailto:info@OldStoneChurch.org)

Music copied under ccli#1638695

**Senior Pastor:** Rev. Stephen C. Blonder Adams

**Minister of Music:** David L. Dettloff

### The Old Stone Singers

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*

Ian Atwood, *tenor*

Cicely Schonberg, *soprano*

Stephen Brown, *tenor*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Frederick Peterbark, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Margaret Raupp, *alto*

Christopher Clark, *bass*

Elizabeth Rickel, *alto*

Albert Donze, *bass*

### Church Elders:

Clerk of Session: Beth Buchanan

#### Class of 2023

Beth Buchanan  
Robert Hubert Jr.  
Judy Macuga  
Harriet Niles  
Marty Vassel  
John Young

#### Class of 2024

Michelle Baron  
Janie Chambers  
Fred Heider  
Bernard Medie  
Bob Reid

#### Class of 2025

Willie Brown  
Dave Finley

### Church Deacons:

#### Class of 2023

Melissa Maffia  
Pete Maffia  
Alyssa Niepokny  
Michael Rolan  
Penni Rolan

#### Class of 2024

Scott Bailey  
Bernie Bischel  
Carol Hoagland  
Amy Wheeler  
John Wheeler

#### Class of 2025

Elie Medie  
Mark Pichler

By entering The Old Stone Church and by your presence here, you consent to be photographed, filmed, livestreamed, and/or otherwise recorded.

Your entry constitutes your consent to such photography, filming, livestreaming, and/or recording and to any use, in any media for The Old Stone Church/First Presbyterian Church, Cleveland, Ohio. Thank you.