



# THE OLD STONE CHURCH

NOVEMBER 26, 2023

REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY

10AM Sanctuary Worship

## WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

Elizabeth Buchanan

\* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

## INTROIT

*I Will Worship the Lord*

John Rutter

I will worship the Lord all the days of my life;  
I will tell of his glory and will show forth his praise;  
I will sing and rejoice, for the Lord is my stronghold.  
Alleluia.

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Jon M. Fancher

Come, God is seeking to gather us together.  
Like a shepherd searching for lost sheep, God calls us.  
**Something or someone has summoned us here.**  
**Dare we believe that God knows and welcomes us?**  
God reaches out to rescue all who have strayed.  
Scattered, weak and injured ones are drawn to God.  
**We come, in need of healing, seeking a blessing.**  
**Our faith draws us here, in spite of our doubts.**  
Come, above all else, to worship and give thanks.  
Make a joyful noise to the Creator of all worlds.  
**God's steadfast love becomes real to us here.**  
**We are reminded of God's immeasurable greatness.**

## \* INVOCATION PRAYER

We come with gladness, loving God,  
drawn by our need and by a desire to praise you and give thanks.  
Enlighten the eyes of our hearts that we may be full of hope.  
Enlarge the circle of our concern that we may see  
the stranger as next of kin,  
the hungry person as part of our own family,  
the one who is sick as a whole individual deserving of our care.  
Grant us the presence of Christ  
that we may learn more fully to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.  
Amen.

## \* HYMN #320

## The Church of Christ in Every Age

WAREHAM

1 The church of Christ in ev - ery age, be - set by  
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims  
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing  
4 For Christ a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the  
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its  
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for  
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's  
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to  
be - dience to our Lord: to care for all, with -

her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.  
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.  
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.  
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.  
out re - serve, and spread Christ's lib - er - at - ing word.

In this challenging text by a British Methodist minister, the odd-numbered stanzas develop the image of "the servant church," while the second surveys the many needs and the fourth describes the true source of strength for the task.

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1969  
MUSIC: William Knapp, 1738  
Text © 1971 Hope Publishing Company

WAREHAM  
LM

## \* CALL TO CONFESSION

Bob Heath

God both loves and judges us.  
High standards are held before us,  
and God expects much of us.  
Where we have grown fat and lazy,  
God calls us to a more disciplined life.  
When we are tempted to forget those less fortunate than ourselves,  
God alerts us to make radical changes.  
Let us begin by recognizing our sin.  
Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,  
followed by time for silent personal confession.  
Thus, we pray:



\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All-knowing God,  
you are aware of our comfort-seeking weakness.  
We ignore strangers in need as if they were no concern of ours.  
We resist programs that might threaten our privileges.  
We do only enough good to keep us from feeling guilty.  
We give grudgingly of our time and resources,  
instead of overflowing with thanksgiving and joyous sharing.  
We treat the church as our possession  
rather than letting Christ rule as head of the body.  
O God, we pray we have not wandered beyond your reach.  
*(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

God says,  
I will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep,  
between the sheep who respond to the needs of others with compassion,  
and the goats who pretend that everything is fine.  
God judges because God loves,  
and we are invited to share in loving acts that reveal God's care.  
God is good and is faithful in steadfast love to all generations.

**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.  
The riches we enjoy grant to us an exciting opportunity  
to be generous and work for good.  
Through our offerings, we seek to share the good news,  
to bind up the injured, strengthen the weak,  
secure justice for the oppressed,  
and bring back those who have strayed.  
Join in this venture as we present our gifts.  
The offering will now be received.

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Let All the World*

Robert Baker

Let all the world in every corner sing! My God and King!  
The church with psalms must shout; No door can keep them out!  
But above all the heart must bear the longest part.  
Let all the world sing! My God and King!

### \* 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

Bob Heath

Let us join our voices in prayer:

God of steadfast love,  
receive these expressions of our thanks  
for the glorious inheritance entrusted to us.  
We hereby enlist ourselves and our resources  
toward the realization of your eternal purpose for all humanity.  
May this congregation become more and more a source of hope  
for each of us and for all we meet.  
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

Hebrew Scripture

Psalm 23(NRSVUE)

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.

The Holy Spirit has a word for each of us today.  
**With God's help we are listening.**

Gospel

Matthew 18:12-14(NRSVUE)

What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"For You Are With Me"

Pastor Jon M. Fancher



\* THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand  
of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting.  
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



1 Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten-der care.  
 2 We are yours: in love be - friend us; be the guard-ian of our way.  
 3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be;  
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor; ear - ly let us do your will.

In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us; for our use your fold pre-pare.  
 Keep your flock: from sin de - fend us; seek us when we go a-stray.  
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.  
 Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.

This unattributed hymn, like many that are now meaningful to adults, was written for children and develops shepherd imagery from Psalm 23 and John 10:1-18. The tune, composed for these words, was originally named for the text but has come to be known by the composer's name.

\* BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

Go forth in faith, with love for all the saints.

Open your eyes to see the good in all you meet.

**We believe that God is empowering our ministry.**

**God's love enables us to love even in difficult times.**

Among God's gifts is a spirit of wisdom and revelation.

God grants insight and resources to be helpful to others.

**Reaching out to people in need is a service to Christ.**

**We want to treat others as part of God's family.**

We partake of eternal life through our caring.

We sense life's meaning in the midst of our sharing.

**God's steadfast love inspires our risk-taking service.**

**God's faithfulness to us evokes our generosity.**

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

*Amen*

John Rutter

POSTLUDE

*Crown Him with Many Crowns*

Jeffrey Blersch

*"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:**

Nova and Tony Kordalski, Marlene Henne, Frank Macuga, Jean Cooke,  
Susan Ball, Bernie Bischel, Shirley Daly, Karen Nestor, JoAnn Hood,  
Louis Handler, Jenni Plants, Faith Battan, the family of John Petrus

We pray for the repose of the soul of John W. Petrus,  
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.*

Today's guest preacher is the Rev. Dr. Jon M. Fancher.  
Jon is Pastor *Emeritus* of Rocky River Presbyterian Church,  
where he served for 31 years until his retirement last year.  
He enjoys watching professional and community theatre,  
and has acted in several area theatres.

He volunteers at Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood and serves on the boards of  
the Community West Foundation and the Lakewood-Rocky River Rotary Foundation.  
He and his wife Mary, a retired public school music teacher,  
have three sons and one grandson.



## **Messiah**

Celebrate the season of Advent at Old Stone Church with the  
Old Stone Singers and chamber orchestra performance of the  
Christmas portion of George Frederick Handel's famed oratorio  
*Messiah*.

This free and open-to-the-public performance of *Messiah*, directed  
by Old Stone Church's Minister of Music David Dettloff will take  
place **NEXT Sunday, December 3rd from 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**  
and feature members of the Old Stone Singers as the soloists.  
Come join us for this unique performance.

The program will conclude with a Christmas Carol sing-a-long!



# The FRONT STEPS Giving Tree

Please take a moment to sign up for an Essential Christmas Gift for the residents of  
Front Steps Housing and Services. A table is set up outside the Chapel with a list of  
essential needs and gift tags of each resident for your gift bag.

**Gift packages are due back by Sunday December 10, 2023**

## **@ Old Stone Church**

**Sunday November 26**

**11:00AM** Deacons Meeting/Gallery

**11:15AM** Greening of the Sanctuary

**11:15AM** Christian Spirituality/Chapel

**Sunday December 3 Advent I**

**9:00AM** Bible Study/Cuyahoga Room/Hybrid

**10:00AM** Worship/Sanctuary

**11:00AM** Called Congregational Nominating Meeting

**1:00PM** Messiah Concert/Sanctuary

**Sunday December 10 Advent II**

**9:00AM** Bible Study/Cuyahoga Room/Hybrid

**10:00AM** Worship/Sanctuary



**Last Sunday Attendance: In-Person:62 Online:172**

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 <b>"oldstonecle"</b> 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*

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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

**Parish Associate:** Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

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

## The Old Stone Singers

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*

Cicely Schonberg, *soprano*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Ian Atwood, *tenor*

Stephen Brown, *tenor*

Frederick Peterbark, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

Margaret Raupp, *alto*

Elizabeth Rickel, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Christopher Clark, *bass*

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

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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.