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*  
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

Heard loop installed. Switch hearing aid to T-coil
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, 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 Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.
2 We are yours; in love befriend us; be the guardian of our way.
3 You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
4 Early let us seek your favor; early let us do your will.

In your pleasant pastures feed us; for our use your fold prepare.
Keep your flock: from sin defend us; seek us when we go astray.
you have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Online Giving:</th>
<th>Mobile Giving:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>oldstonechurch.org/giving/</td>
<td>Text the keyword “oldstonecle” to 73256</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 E-Mail: 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 I an 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 Rolen
Penni Rolen

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.