



# THE OLD STONE CHURCH

FEBRUARY 26, 2023

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

10AM Sanctuary Worship

## WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

*Prelude #4 in E Minor*

F. Chopin

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT

*Ave Verum Corpus*

Elgar

Ave verum corpus natum ex Maria Virgine,  
vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine,  
cujus latus perforatum vero fluxit et sanguine,  
esto nobis praegustatum mortis in examine.  
O clemens, O pie, O dulcis Jesu, Fili Mariae.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

We have entered into the season of Lent.  
Sundays, however, are not a part of Lent.

**We have entered a wilderness time.**

**Yet this day of worship is an oasis in the desert.**

We are here to worship the God of all creation.

We gather to remember God's revelation in Jesus.

**We seek to follow in the steps of Jesus.**

**We want to walk in the paths where Christ leads.**

May God empower us here with genuine righteousness.

Let patience, kindness, and truthful speech prevail.

**We seek knowledge and the will to live by it.**

**We seek community and the capacity to share it.**

\* INVOCATION PRAYER

Lead us in your truth this day, gracious God.

We long to know your ways and to be guided by your Spirit.

Direct us into the realm where your purposes  
govern the hearts and minds of all your children.

We want to grow in the likeness of Jesus,  
to learn to live in the ways that are pleasing to you.

We wait for you now, eager to respond to your instruction.

Let nothing cut us off from you or separate us from one another,  
not only in this time of worship

but as we face the challenges of another week.

Amen.

\* HYMN #287

Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading

NJOO KWETU, ROHO MWEMA

that we're need - ing; help us to fol - low you.  
 may they flour - ish, strength - ened by grace un - priced.  
 in their seek - ing, free - ing from guilt and shame.  
 to con - tent - ment, doubt in - to cer - tain - ty.  
 zeal - ous fit - ness, which you a - lone as - sure.

*Refrain*

Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.  
 Njo - o, njo - o, nj - oo, Ro - ho mwe - ma.

Originally written for the uniting of the Lutheran churches in Tanzania, this prayerful hymn touches on the need of the whole church at all times for the Holy Spirit's guidance and blessing. When appropriate, the refrain can effectively be used alone as a prayer response.

TEXT: Wilson Niwagila, 1965; trans. Howard S. Olson, 1968  
 MUSIC: Wilson Niwagila, 1965; arr. Egil Hovland, 1993  
 Text and Music © Lutheran Theological College, Makumira (admin. Augsburg Fortress)  
 Music Arr. © Egil Hovland

NJOO KWETU, ROHO MWEMA  
 CM with refrain

\* CALL TO CONFESSION

In our day, we cannot escape temptation,  
 for it comes in so many forms, from so many sources.  
 As Jesus was tempted, so are we.  
 But we have yielded to temptation, and Jesus did not.  
 Sometimes we do not even recognize the sins into which we have slipped.  
 We seek to recall them now.  
 Repent, and believe in the good news.  
 Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,  
 followed by time for personal silent confession.

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Have mercy on your church, O God,  
for we forget the covenant into which you call us.  
We muddle along in our self-serving schemes  
rather than waiting on your word.  
We follow the path of least resistance  
without seeking your higher way.  
We forget our baptism into a faith community built on trust and forgiveness.  
We turn from the vision of heaven  
to the treacherous hell of competing egos.  
O God, we turn to you to lead us to a new day.  
According to your steadfast love, forgive us, we pray.  
*(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 is faithful to the covenant, even when we forget.  
In mercy and steadfast love, God lifts us above the sins of our youth  
and the transgressions of today.  
Christ brings us to God  
that we might receive a new spirit and a good conscience.  
We are God's beloved children who are welcomed into God's realm  
right here, right now, in the midst of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

\* 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

We dare to believe  
that the Power holding together the infinite reaches of time and space  
has entered into a covenant relationship with people on this tiny planet,  
that God gives us responsibility to be co-creators in the covenant community  
which is intended for all humanity.  
Our giving is dedicated to that end.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*There's a wideness in God's mercy*

Bevan

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.  
There's a kindness in His justice, which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.  
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.  
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
But we make his love too narrow, by false limits of our own,  
and we magnify His strictness with a zeal he will not own.

There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;  
There is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.  
There is grace enough for thousands. Of new worlds as great as this;  
There is room for fresh creations in that upper home of bliss.  
If our love were but more simple, we should take him at his word;  
And our lives would be all gladness in the joy of Christ our Lord.

\* 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 *(Please be seated.)*

Let us pray together:

**Thank you, God, for the signs and wonders that reveal your presence.  
Thank you for the covenant fulfilled in Jesus Christ.  
We want to do our part to share your love with the world.  
Use our offerings and our lives to bring a realization  
of your reign among us.  
Extend your realm by re-creating the church  
as a true representation of Jesus Christ.  
May we be humble, teachable, and faithful  
as we seek to lead others into covenant community.  
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

Isaiah 58:1-12 (NRSV Updated Version)

Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgments;  
they want God on their side.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day  
and oppress all your workers.

You fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the straps of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you;  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

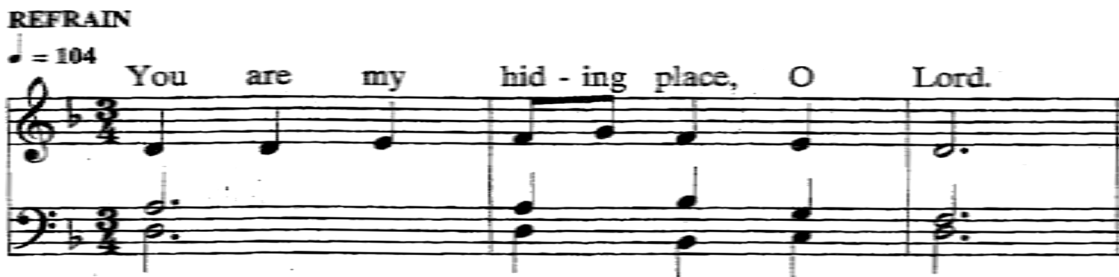
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”

If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The LORD will guide you continually  
and satisfy your needs in parched places  
and make your bones strong,  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water  
whose waters never fail.  
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 32 (*Congregation joins in the response.*)



Happy those whose offence is forgiven,  
O happy those to whom the Lord imputes no guilt.  
I kept it secret and my frame was wasted,  
for night and day your hand was heavy upon me.  
But now I have acknowledged sins; my guilt I did not hide.  
So let faithful men and women pray to you in the time of need.  
You are my hiding place, O Lord;  
I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;  
Be not like horse and mule, unintelligent.  
Many sorrows has the wicked; but those who trust in the Lord,  
Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord, exult you just!

Gospel Matthew 23:23-24 (NRSV Updated Version)

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others. You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel!”

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

“Practicing Faithfulness.”

Pastor Chip Hardwick

\* THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

\* 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



Em Am7 Bm7 Esus Em

1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for  
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for  
 3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for  
 4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the

Am7 Bm7 Esus Em Am7

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

D G C Am Dsus D

your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

Refrain G C G Em Bm Em

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

Am7 D G Dsus D Em Em7

dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

C Am7 D G Am7 G

church gath - ered to - day.

By blending biblical images and current vignettes in the present tense, this hymn connects Christ's promise that he is the Light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5) and his charge to his followers to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). This is part of the church's servant calling.

\* BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

The time is fulfilled; God's reign is now.

Hear and believe the good news Christ offers.

**We are children of God, beloved and blessed.**

**We are a covenant community with a mission.**

Be open to all God wants to teach you this week.

Seek God's leading every day through Lent.

**This is a season for renewal and recommitment.**

**We will turn to God in prayer every day.**

God will teach you and lead you in truth.

God's mercy and steadfast love will surround you.

**We will live as people of the promise.**

**We go out rejoicing in our baptism, in Christ.**

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

*Ninefold Amen*

Laurie

ORGAN POSTLUDE

*Toccata in E minor*

Pachelbel

*"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:**

Bruce Arnoff, Margaret Bell, Becky Carpenter, Alan Gillespie, Marilyn Graham,  
Lee Rutti, Bonnie Savage-Farinacci, Kai, Veronica, Bob and Gail Reid,  
James Castrigano and family, the Brownfield family,  
the Jack Moreland family, Mary and Earl Rolan

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

We pray for the repose of the soul of Leonard J. Angersola,  
may his memory be a blessing.

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



## Lent @ The Old Stone Church

A Lenten Daily Devotional based on the Psalms will be available today near the Chapel and Public Square Doors.

The Welcoming and Fellowship Committee will have wooden crosses to decorate in preparation for Easter at a table near the Chapel doors.

### Today's Guest Preacher

The Rev. Dr. Charles B. Hardwick began serving as the Executive for the Synod of the Covenant in spring, 2020. Chip is grateful that the Holy Spirit brought him to this challenging role, where he can work with the eleven presbyteries throughout Ohio and Michigan to develop ministries to help Presbyterians live more faithfully.

Before joining the Synod, Chip served the denomination as Director of Theology, Formation, and Evangelism. He has also served churches in Lake Forest, IL, Bloomington, IL, and Atlanta, GA. His education includes a B.A. from Alma College, an M.B.A. from Northwestern University, a Th.M. from Emory University, and an M.Div. and Ph.D. (preaching and worship) from Princeton Theological Seminary. Before seminary he worked at strategy consultancy Bain and Company in Dallas and Madrid, and at Dow Corning Corporation in Kentucky and Michigan.

Chip is single, grew up in Beavercreek, OH, and lives in the Detroit area, with his two cats Salsa and Queso. He is fluent in Spanish and enjoys photography, pop culture, travel, Spanish culture, and biking. The biggest competitor to Christ's lordship in his life is the University of Kentucky Wildcats basketball team.



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

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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

**Guest Organist:** Jason Lorenzon

### The Old Stone Singers

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*  
Cicely Schonberg, *soprano*  
Val Sibila, *soprano*

Ian Atwood, *tenor*  
Frederick Peterbark, *tenor*  
Andrew J. Schoenhofer, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*  
McKenna Jones, *alto*  
Emma Nossem, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*  
Joseph K. Breslau, *bass*  
Seth Hobi, *bass*

### Church Elders:

Clerk of Session: Beth Buchanan

Class of 2023  
Beth Buchanan  
Robert Hubert Jr.  
Judy Macuga  
Harriet Niles  
Lee Ann Rader  
Marty Vassel  
John Young

Class of 2024  
Michelle Baron  
Janie Chambers  
Fred Heider  
Bernard Medie  
Bob Reid

Class of 2025  
Kara Bane  
Willie Brown  
Dave Finley

### Church Deacons:

Class of 2023  
Melissa Maffia  
Pete Maffia  
Mary Mikula  
Michael Rolan  
Penni Rolan  
Alyssa Niepokny

Class of 2024  
Scott Bailey  
Bernie Bischel  
Carol Hoagland  
Amy Wheeler  
John Wheeler

Class of 2025  
Elie Medie  
Mark Pichler