

# THE LAW OF LOVE

## THE OLD STONE CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST WITH BAPTISM

10AM Sanctuary Worship

### WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Vocalise Op. 34, No. 14

Sergei Rachmaninoff

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT

*Be Joyful in The Lord*

Kendal L. Gunlicks

Be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands! And serve the Lord with gladness.  
Be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands! Come before his presence with a song.

\* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Tell the whole congregation of God's people:  
This is a day for new beginnings.

**This is a time of God's appearing.**

**This is the moment for faithful response.**

Praise God in the assembly of the faithful.

Make melody to God and sing a new song.

**Praise God for life enriched by love.**

**Praise God for love that fulfills God's law.**

This is the hour to wake from our sleep.

The energy of God's love fills this place.

**Here we claim our identity as Christians.**

**Here we become the church of Jesus Christ.**

\* INVOCATION PRAYER

This is a festival day, glorious God,

a day of remembering your faithfulness through the centuries,

a time for celebrating your vibrant presence with us,

a pause of anticipation for the seasons yet to be.

We rejoice at the assurance that you take pleasure in us,

that we are known by you, called by you,

empowered by you to live honorably and humbly, in the spirit of the Christ.

We would exalt your name and sing for joy,

knowing that we can trust you for the guidance and direction we need.

Amen.

\* HYMN #529

*Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

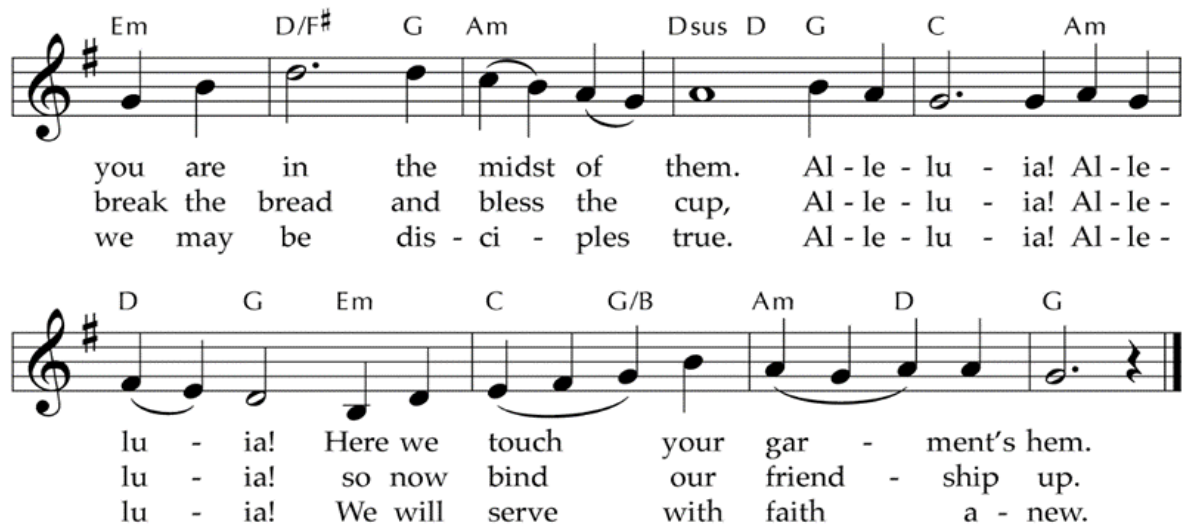
UNION SEMINARY



1 Draw us in the Spir - it's teth - er, for when hum - bly  
2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of  
3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -



in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,  
Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er  
ments of you, that by car - ing, help - ing, giv - ing,



you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
 break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
 we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

lu - ia! Here we touch your gar - ment's hem.  
 lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.  
 lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This communion text calls attention to the inherent sacramental nature of all meals and the communal dimensions of all human interaction. The tune, originally composed for an anthem setting of this text, honors the institution where the composer was trained and later taught.

TEXT: Percy Dearmer, 1931, alt.

MUSIC: Harold Friedell, 1957

Text © 1931 Oxford University Press

Music © 1957, ren. H. W. Gray Company (admin. Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.)

UNION SEMINARY

8.7.8.7.4.4.7

## \* CALL TO CONFESSION

Harriet Niles

Our ancestors in the faith sometimes sought vengeance on their enemies.  
 Jesus challenged his friends to listen  
 and to reconcile with those whom they disagreed.  
 Paul counseled followers to put away quarreling, jealousy, and harmful behavior.  
 There is much in our lives that is harmful to ourselves and others,  
 much that leads to brokenness and lasting pain.  
 Let us confess our need for healing.  
 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 not been faithful to your commands.  
We have been more ready to condemn than to console,  
more eager to justify ourselves than to work for understanding.  
We feed the flames of dissent  
instead of welcoming the freeing power of forgiveness.  
We gather as two or three, not to welcome your presence  
but to gossip about those who are absent.  
Our sins are destroying us, God.  
Turn us around to a new way of being.  
*(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

Salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers.  
God's healing presence has come among us and dwells within us.  
Our openness to God's transforming love  
releases in us the potential for wholeness.  
We will be amazed at what we can do and who we can be as humble,  
joyous followers of the One who is the way, the truth, and the life.  
**Alleluia and Amen!**

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Lucille May Montgomery  
Erika Dus & Jeffery Montgomery (Parents)  
Nichole Moujaes & Thomas Dus (Godparents)

\* PASSING OF THE PEACE

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.

Our Hebrew ancestors offered the best of their flocks and crops to honor God.  
We bring symbols of our labor,  
dedicating them and ourselves to upholding the highest values of human life.  
May our offerings be a joyous expression of worship.  
The offering will now be received.

## OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*The Gift of Love*

Traditional English  
arr. Hal Hopson

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,  
and have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,  
but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed, by this we worship and are freed. Amen.

\* 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

Harriet Niles

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**May these offerings help to free your people, O God,  
from the bondage of sin.  
Unite us in a community of mutual caring in which differences are resolved  
as we listen to one another and seek to offer understanding.  
May the light of your love shine through all our efforts  
to share your good news.  
Keep us in the light when we are tempted  
to ignore and violate your commandments.  
With these prayers we dedicate our gifts.  
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

God of all Wisdom, since the dawn of history,  
you have spoken to your people to teach us and guide us.  
Speak to us again this day,  
and let your Holy Spirit open our minds and hearts to understand.  
Speak to us, Lord, in this hour.  
In the name of the Holy Spirit we pray.  
Amen.

## THE READINGS

Epistle

Romans: 13:8-14 (NRSVUE)

Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

I Corinthians 13 (NRSVUE)

If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

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

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

Gospel

Matthew 18:15-20(NRSVUE)

“If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

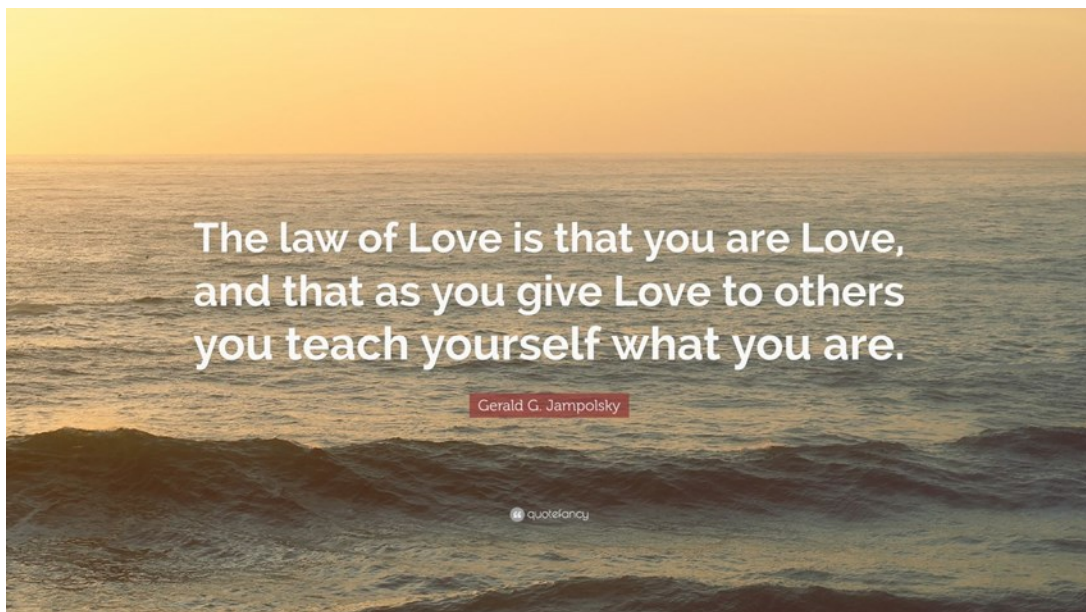
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“The Law of Love”



\* 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 God be with you till we meet a - gain; lov - ing  
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; un - seen  
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's  
 4 God be with you till we meet a - gain; keep love's

coun - sels guide, up - hold you, with a shep - herd's care en -  
 wings pro - tect - ing hide you, dai - ly man - na still pro -  
 per - ils thick con - found you, put un - fail - ing arms a -  
 ban - ner float - ing o'er you; smite death's threat - ening wave be -

fold you:  
 vide you:  
 round you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
 fore you:

After writing the first stanza of his "Christian Good-bye," the author sent it to two composers, one celebrated and one unknown, to see how each would set it. This is the second person's tune, which the author found more effective and used for the hymn's first publication.

\* BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

We are God's servants, sent on a mission.

Let us make God's deeds known among people.

**We will ready ourselves to go where God sends us.**

**High praises to God will be in our throats.**

Owe no one anything, except to love one another.

Keep the commandments God has given.

**"Let us then lay aside the works of darkness**

**And put on the armor of light."**

God grants victory over sin to the humble.

Rejoice, for God takes pleasure in us.

**Where two or three gather, God is with us.**

**We seek to live honorably in the spirit of Christ.**

**Amen.**

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

*Sevenfold Amen*

Peter Lutkin

POSTLUDE

*The Mission/How Great Thou Art*

E. Morricone/  
Swedish Folk Melody  
arr. by Jon Schmidt,  
Al Van Der Beek,  
Steven Sharp Nelson

Trevor Kazarian, cellist

*"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:**

Faith Battan, Barney Taxel, Gail Reid, Mark Merritt, Angela Hendricks,  
Melvin, Karen Cogar, Vito Zinerco, Cara Murkins, JoAnn Hood and Family  
We pray for those struggling with illness, convalescing, homebound or in need.

We pray for the repose of the soul of Zachary Mudd ,  
may his memory be a blessing.

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

## WALK WITH NAMI IN 2023

It's not how far we walk at **NAMIWalks Greater Cleveland** on **September 23** at **Edgewater Park**, but how far we've come to make our milestones count. With your support and high spirits, we intend to make an unprecedented impact on mental health in our community.

NAMIWalks 2023 represents a powerful chance to leave a significant mark on the local mental health landscape.

Whether you're a previous participant or a new voice waiting to be heard, we're pretty sure you'll find the festivities inspired *and* inspiring.

**9AM Check-in/10AM NAMIWalks steps off.**

## Old Stone Church Fall Food Drive

Old Stone Church is pleased to announce the return of our Fall Food Drive with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank on **Sunday, October 8th, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**We will once again pass out OSC shopping totes (to keep) as well as grocery bags with shopping lists attached (*while supplies last!*)**



### @ Old Stone Church

**Sun Sep 10**

2:30pm OSC Annual Picnic/North Olmsted Community Cabin

**Mon Sep 11**

11am 9/11 Memorial Service/Public Square

**Thu Sep 14**

2pm Worship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

**Sun Sep 17**

10am Worship/Homecoming Sunday/ 200 Homes Launch

11am Deacon Meeting/Chapel

### Last Sunday Attendance

In-Person:90

Online:162

### September 10-September 17, 2023

**Sun Sep 10** 10:00am Worship/Baptism

1:00pm Browns/Bengals

2:30pm OSC Annual Picnic/North Olmsted

**Mon Sep 11** 11:30am 9/11 Memorial Service/Public Square

**Wed Sep 13** All day Cruise Ship Cleveland

10:30am Team Meeting

**Thu Sep 14** 2:00pm Worship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

**Fri Sep 15** 4:00pm Rehearsal/Doamekpor/Ackoayi

**Sat Sep 16** 3:00pm Wedding/Jackie Doamekpor/Gabriel Ackoayi

**Sun Sep 17** 10:00am Worship/Homecoming Sunday/ 200 Homes Launch

11:00am Deacon Meeting/Chapel

1:00pm Guardians/Rangers

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)

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

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

### The Old Stone Quartet

Cicely Schonberg, *soprano*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

Stephen Brown, *tenor*

Christopher Clark, *bass*

Trevor Kazarian, *cellist*

### 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

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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.