



# THE OLD STONE CHURCH

JANUARY 28, 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

10AM Sanctuary Worship

## WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

*Andante in D*

Felix Mendelssohn

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT

*Thy Perfect Love*

John Rutter

Jesu, my love, my joy, my rest, Thy perfect love close in my breast  
That I thee love and never rest; and make me love thee of all things best,  
And wound my heart in thy love free, that I may reign in joy evermore with thee.

\* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Great are the works of God, and greatly to be praised.  
God's righteousness endures forever.

**We come together as a congregation of believers.**

**We give thanks to God with whole hearts.**

God is gracious and merciful and trustworthy.

At all times, God is mindful of the covenant.

**The works of God's hands are established among us.**

**We can count on God's righteousness and faithfulness.**

Awe before God is the beginning of wisdom.

All who approach God in fear have good understanding.

**Holy and awesome is God's name.**

**We call on God to empower our worship.**

\* INVOCATION PRAYER

God of the prophets,  
help us to recognize your voice among the competing claims of our day.  
Raise up in our midst authentic witnesses to your truth.  
Be present with us now to guide our prayers and praise.  
Let us not presume to know your message  
without careful listening  
or to speak your word without discerning the Spirit.  
Light your fires within us  
so we may heed your summons and give our best in your service.  
Amen.

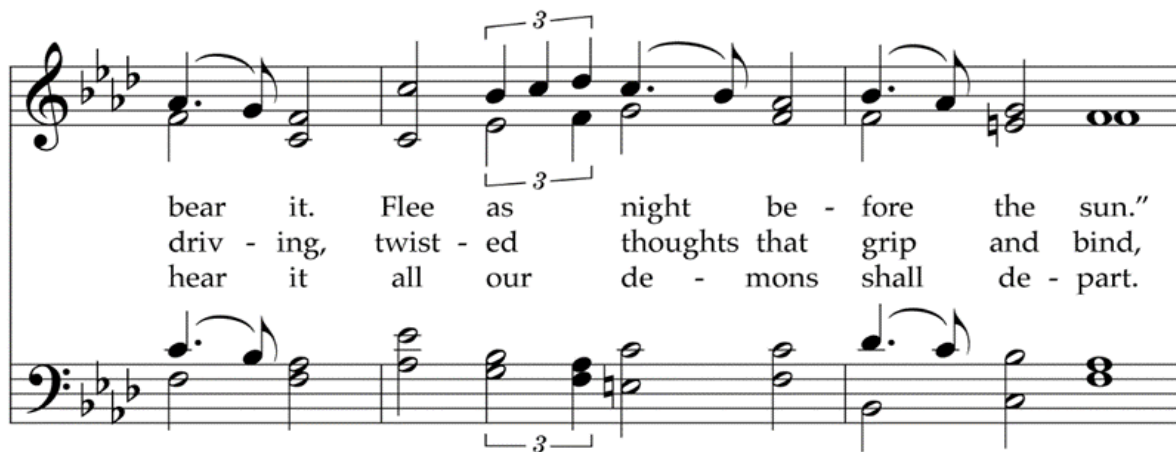
\* HYMN #181

*Silence! Frenzied, Unclean Spirit*

EBENEZER

1 "Si - lence! Fren - zied, un - clean spir - it," cried God's  
2 Lord, the de - mons still are thriv - ing in the  
3 Si - lence, Lord, the un - clean spir - it, in our

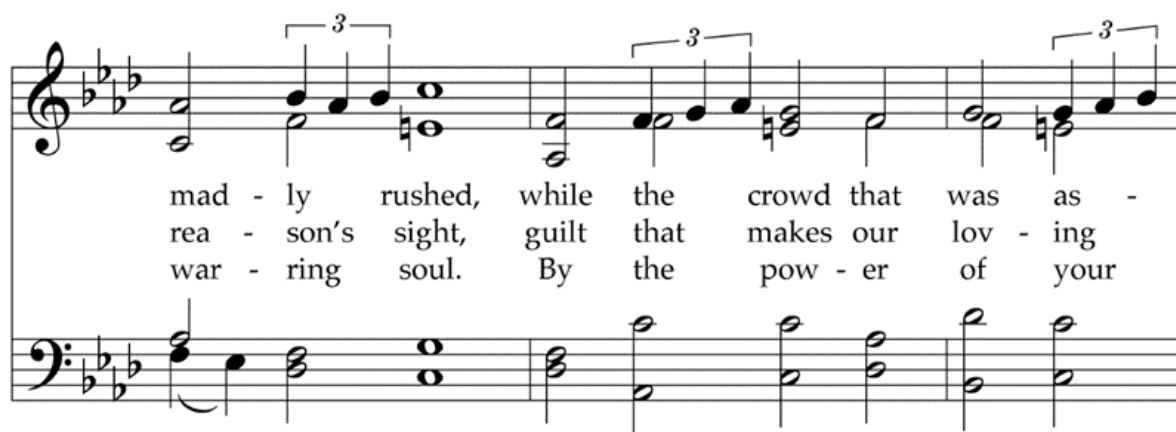
heal - ing, Ho - ly One. "Cease your rant - ing! Flesh can't  
gray cells of the mind: ty - rant voic - es, shrill and  
mind and in our heart. Speak your word that when we



bear it. Flee as night be - fore the sun."  
 driv - ing, twist - ed thoughts that grip and bind,  
 hear it all our de - mons shall de - part.



At Christ's voice the de - mon trem-bled, from its vic - tim  
 doubts that stir the heart to pan - ic, fears dis - tort - ing  
 Clear our thought and calm our feel - ing; still the frac - tured,



mad - ly rushed, while the crowd that was as -  
 rea - son's sight, guilt that makes our lov - ing  
 war - ring soul. By the pow - er of your



sem - bled stood in won - der, stunned, and hushed.  
 fran - tic, dreams that cloud the soul with fright.  
 heal - ing make us faith - ful, true, and whole.



\* CALL TO CONFESSION

Bob Reid

We are called to confession if we have distorted God's word,  
knowingly or unknowingly.  
We are invited to repent if our freedom in Christ has led others astray.  
We join in prayer together  
because the church is not yet the perfect body of Christ.  
Let us seek God's forgiveness.  
Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,  
followed by time for silent personal confession.  
Thus, we pray:

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Faithful God,  
we have claimed to have more knowledge than we really possess.  
We have grasped for freedom  
without taking full responsibility for our actions.  
Our witness is weak,  
and is directed primarily toward those with whom we prefer to associate.  
By our actions, some of our sisters and brothers are excluded,  
some are misled, and some are unjustly accused.  
If we have violated another's conscience,  
if we have caused someone to fall,  
we are deeply sorry.  
For failing to do all Christ expects of the church,  
we repent and seek your forgiveness.  
*(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

All who love God are known by God,  
whose intention is that we live by eternal values,  
in loving relationship with one another.  
God applauds our efforts to rid our lives of pseudo-gods we create,  
habits that destroy, and prejudices that divide.  
We count on God to understand us,  
to free us from our bondage to sin,  
and to dwell among us,  
transforming our lives.  
Praise God forever and ever!  
**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.

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.  
An important way to give thanks to God  
is through sharing the bounty we have been honored to receive.  
We can never do enough to earn God's generous blessings.  
We can only express our gratitude by passing on our gifts.  
It is a privilege to be able to give.  
The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Create In Me*

Kary M. Dover

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord; and take not Thy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free Spirit.  
Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways; and sinners be converted to Thee.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God.

\* 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 Reid

Let us join our voices in prayer:

By giving away some of the wealth we cherish so much,  
we keep ourselves focused on who you are, gracious God,  
and on what you expect of us.  
As the body of Christ, we seek to be a healing force in our world.  
May the offerings we present  
be used in ways that encourage healthful behaviors among us in the church,  
within our community,  
and as far as our influence can reach.  
Receive us and our gifts,  
we pray in Jesus' name.  
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

Holy Spirit, your people call out for understanding.  
Bring to our yearning hearts and minds  
the truth of your Word; in Jesus' name.  
Amen.

## THE READINGS

Epistle

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge, but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists" and that "there is no God but one." Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. "Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge the weak brother or sister for whom Christ died is destroyed. But when you thus sin against brothers and sisters and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never again eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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

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

## Gospel

Mark 1:21-28 (NRSVUE)

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams  
"Casting Out Demons"



## \* 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.

## 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 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies; Christ, the true, the on - ly light;  
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa-nied by thee;  
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of Righ-teous-ness, a - rise; tri-umph o'er the shades of night;  
joy - less is the day's re-turn till thy mer-cy's beams I see;  
fill me, ra - dian - cy di-vine; scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.  
till they in - ward light im - part, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.  
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin-ing to the per - fect day.

This well-crafted morning hymn opens by celebrating daylight as an image of Christ, the true Light, then ponders life without light, and culminates in a prayer for inward light. The tune's name honors its German roots: Ratisbon is the former English name for Regensburg.

\* BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

Go out to witness to the good news you have heard.

God is even now raising up prophets among us.

**We thank God for this time of being together.**

**We are grateful for freedom to worship and grow.**

God is establishing truth among us, inviting us to learn.

Dare to question and explore, as disciples of Jesus.

**We praise God for insight and guidance we have received.**

**We delight in ways we are able to help others.**

God will supply us with words for our witness.

We will be led to offer others appropriate help.

**All honor and majesty and glory be to God!**

**May we never stop praising God with our lives!**

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

*Amen*

John Rutter

POSTLUDE

*Fugue in F*

Johann Pachelbel

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

*Psalms 73:26*



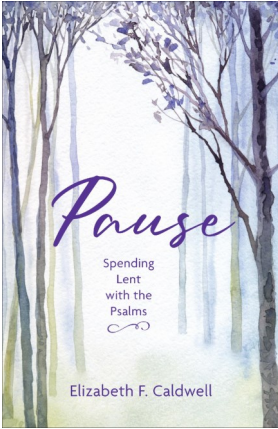
**We continue to keep in our prayers:**

Joanne Dawson, Lee Rutti, Ken Moser, Katelynn Fawcett, Andrew Buchanan,  
George Sedlak, Marylou Eisaman, Becky Jadlocki, Jackie Cole, Dean, Joyce Sabe,  
Nova and Tony Kordalski, Marlene Henne, Laurie Thomson,  
Susan Ball, Shirley Daly, Karen Nestor, JoAnn Hood, Louis Handler,  
Jackie and Ellis Lenaplis, David, John and Alan

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.*

## **Lenten Studies**

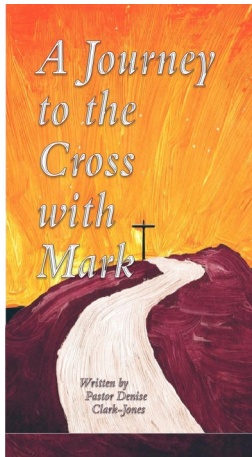


Pastor Stephen will be offering a 6-week Lenten Book Study on the Psalms, which will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday evenings throughout Lent, beginning Wednesday, February 14th, through Wednesday, March 20th via ZOOM.

The book is titled *Pause: Spending Lent with the Psalms* by Elizabeth F. Caldwell.

Old Stone Church has a limited number of copies preordered and they can be purchased at the church office for \$10.20 a copy.

Please contact [Anthony@oldstonechurch.org](mailto:Anthony@oldstonechurch.org) for more information or to order your copy and to participate.



Pastor Denise is offering *A Journey to the Cross with Mark* that she has written as a daily devotional for Lent. There are readings, study notes, reflection questions, and prayers for each day.

Pastor Denise will then offer a time on Sunday mornings at 9AM in the Gallery to gather, discuss and reflect on the weeks' offerings.

Copies may be picked up Sunday February 11, 2024 near the Chapel doors or by the Public Square doors.



### **@ Old Stone Church**

**Sunday January 28/ Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

**10:00AM** Worship/Sanctuary

**Sunday February 4/ Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

**10:00AM** Worship/Sanctuary

**11:15AM** Mission and Urban Wellness Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

**Wednesday February 7**

**6:00PM** Welcoming and Fellowship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

**Thursday February 8**

**2:00PM** Worship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

**Sunday February 11/ Transfiguration Sunday**

**10:00AM** Worship/Sanctuary

**Wednesday February 14/ Ash Wednesday**

**12:15PM** Ash Wednesday Service/Sanctuary

**Last Sunday Attendance** In-Person:56 Online:212

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*

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

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

**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 2024

Michelle Baron  
Janie Chambers  
Fred Heider  
Bernard Medie  
Bob Reid

### Class of 2025

Dorothy Baunach  
Willie Brown  
David Eifert  
Dave Finley  
Robert Hubert Jr.

### Class of 2026

Beth Buchanan  
Judy Macuga  
Melissa Maffia  
Harriet Niles  
Marty Vassel

## Church Deacons:

### Class of 2024

Scott Bailey  
Anand Bandari  
Bernie Bischel  
Carol Hoagland  
Amy Wheeler  
John Wheeler

### Class of 2025

Valorie Hempstead  
Eileen Kelly  
Elie Medie  
Mark Pichler

### Class of 2026

Mark Corey  
Forrest Diehl  
Pam Daly  
Ruth Finley  
Alyssa Niepokny  
Charlene Thornton

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.