



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

FEBRUARY 4, 2024
THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD
WITH COMMUNION

10 AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Lift Every Voice and Sing

arr. Roland M. Carter

Text: James Weldon Johnson

Music: J. Rosamond Johnson

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.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Awareness of God's presence may come suddenly.
Can we endure the mighty one in our midst?

**How dare we stand before the glorious Ruler,
who bursts through our temples and our techniques.**

The Powerful Light forces us to open our eyes,
and the messenger whom God sends speaks to us.

**We hear the voice of Jesus from our common humanity,
yet also as our faithful High Priest.**

Blessed are those who find strength from their Creator,
who are inspired and empowered by the Spirit.

**We long to experience the saving gifts of God
and the assurance we need to face each day.**

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Gather us, O God, to meet Jesus in this hour.
In the perfect humanity of the Nazarene we see ourselves as you intended.
In that faithful life of long ago we sense who we could be.
Now in this place our souls find a home
away from the frantic pace and the din of competing claims.
How lovely is your dwelling place, O God of hosts!
We will ever sing your praises.
Amen.

* HYMN #109

Blest Be the God of Israel

MERLE'S TUNE



1 Blest be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free;
2 God from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has given;
3 On those who sit in dark - ness the sun be - gins to rise,



who vis - its and re - deems us, who grants us lib - er - ty.
a Sav - ior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heaven.
the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes.



The proph-ets spoke of mer - cy, of free-dom and re - lease;
 Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
 God guides the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace.



God shall ful - fill that prom - ise and bring the peo - ple peace.
 the proph-et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.
 O bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

TEXT: Michael Perry, 1973, alt.
 MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1983
 Text © 1973 The Jubilate Group (admin. Hope Publishing Company)
 Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company

MERLE'S TUNE
 7.6.7.6.D

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Natalie Ronayne

The Refiner and the Purifier bids us to come and renew our covenant with God and with one another.

We leave behind the tents of wickedness,
 so we will know this is the house of God.

Here we seek forgiveness and renewal,
 for we are ready to turn from temptation and sin.

God is listening for our sincere prayers.

Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
 followed by time for silent personal confession.

Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Hear our prayers, Sovereign God, for we are afraid.

We have tried so hard and so often to walk uprightly,
 but we have failed again.

We have given in to temptation, staining your image within us.

We have wandered away from the community of faith,
 even while you are calling us to come home.

Forgive us, God of hosts,

that we may find a place at your altar and at your table.

(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

Audrey Ronayne

God will forgive and purify all who come with contrite hearts.
Trust in the One who sent Jesus to earth as one of us.
When we are tempted,
we can remember that Jesus shared the same temptations, and overcame them.
As the Christ, Jesus made expiation for our sins.
We need not be bound by the brokenness and wrong we have caused.
God has already forgiven us. Accept that forgiveness,
and live the new life God offers.

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:

Our offerings are pleasing to God when we give from the heart.
God does not withhold from us any good thing we need.
Let us not withhold what belongs to God; our tithes, our offering, ourselves.
The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Be Thou My Vision

Traditional Irish
arr. Dan Forrest

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart. Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought by day or by night, waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word. I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father and I Thy true son, Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor men's empty praise. Thou mine inheritance, now and always.
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart. High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won. May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'ns sun.
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O ruler of all.

* 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

Natalie Ronayne

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**We ask you to accept these offerings, gracious God,
and to work with us until our sacrifices are pleasing to you.
Keep us from being satisfied with less than our best efforts
to help all people see your salvation.
May we walk in your light and live by your word,
as conveyors of your peace.
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

Let us pray together:

**As you led Simeon to embrace the infant Jesus,
guide us, Holy Spirit, by your gracious light,
that we may welcome your saving Word. Amen.**

THE READINGS

Epistle

Hebrews 2:14-18 (NRSVUE)

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, Jesus likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that Jesus did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore Jesus had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because Jesus was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Gospel

Luke 2:22-40 (NRSVUE)

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word,
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

"Who We Could Be"



WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND FAITH

* HYMN #534

Now the Silence

NOW

Capo 3: (Dsus) (D) (Bm) (Em) (A) (F#m) (Em)(Bm) (A)
 Fsus F Dm Gm C Am Gm Dm C

Now the si - lence Now the peace Now the emp - ty hands up - lift - ed

(Dsus) (D) (Bm) (Em) (A) (F#m) (Em)(Bm) (Em) (C)
 Fsus F Dm Gm C Am Gm Dm Gm E^b

Now the kneel - ing Now the plea Now the Fa - ther's arms in wel - come

(D) (G) (Em) (Am) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D) (Am)
 F B^b Gm Cm F B^b F Gm F Cm

Now the hear - ing Now the power Now the ves - sel brimmed for pour - ing

(D) (G) (Em) (Am) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (A)
 F B^b Gm Cm F B^b F Gm C

Now the bod - y Now the blood Now the joy - ful cel - e - bra - tion

(Dsus) (D) (Bm) (Em) (A) (F#m) (Em)(Bm) (A) (Em)
 Fsus F Dm Gm C Am Gm Dm C Gm

Now the wed - ding Now the songs Now the heart for - giv - en leap - ing

(D) (Em) (A) (Em7) (D) (Em) (A) (Em7)
 F Gm C Gm7 F Gm C Gm7

Now the Spir - it's vis - i - ta - tion Now the Son's e - piph - a - ny

(D) (Em) (Em7) (Bm) (A) (Em) (A) (Em) (A)
 F Gm Gm7 Dm C Gm C Gm C

Now the Fa - ther's bless - ing Now Now Now

* INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

In the tender mercy of our God
the dayspring from on high has broken upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

This table is for all who wish to know
The presence of Christ
And to share in the community of God's people.
It is not my table,
It is not the Old Stone Church's table,
It is the table of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
And all are welcome.

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendor, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**

Heavenly Abba God,
as your Son Jesus Christ was presented in the Temple,
let our offering today be acceptable to you
and grant that we may see in him, who is our salvation,
the glory of your people and the light of all the nations;
who is alive and reigns, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good,
always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ, who is one with you from all eternity.
For on this day he appeared in the temple
in substance of our flesh
to come near to us in judgement.
He searches the hearts of all your people
and brings to light the image of your splendor.
Your servant Simeon acclaimed him
as the light to lighten the nations

while Anna spoke of him
to all who looked for your redemption.
Destined for the falling and rising of many,
he was lifted high upon the cross
and a sword of sorrow pierced his mother's heart
when by his sacrifice he made our peace with you.

And now we rejoice and glorify your name
that we, too, have seen your salvation
and join with angels and archangels
in their unending hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

So, Abba God, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

**Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**
(Please be seated)

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favor on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with the Holy Family, Simeon and Anna,
and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honor and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.
We pray for all in need of healing, whether it be in body, mind, or spirit...

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray as our Savior has taught us:
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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night before Jesus died,
he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
Jesus broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

**Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam
hamotzi lekhem min ha'aretz.**

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
who brings forth bread from the earth.

“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.”

When supper was ended Jesus took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

**Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam
borei p'ri hagafen.**

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
who creates the fruit of the vine.

“Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, send power upon these gifts,
your bread and your cup.
Bless them and your people all around the world.
As we eat of these common elements,
unite our spirits in love for you,
and our hearts in love for one another.
In the name of the Creator, the Redeemer, the Sustainer,
to be guided by the Holy Spirit, and to live Christ.
Now and forever. Amen.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

This is the feast prepared for you.
Come and share for all is ready.
Please partake of the elements as you receive them,
and then place the cup back into the tray.
You may then light a candle in petition of prayer
or in remembrance.

Starting from the back of the sanctuary
you are invited to come forward at this time.

COMMUNION ANTHEM *Nunc Dimittis (The Song of Simeon)*
Alexander Gretchaninoff

Lord, now lettest Thou thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word.
For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou has prepared before the face of all people.
A light, to be a light, to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of Thy people Israel.

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,
who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we,
who have received these gifts beyond words,
prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes
to bring us to eternal life;
for he is alive and reigns, now and 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.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

According to the word and purpose of God:
Depart in peace, to serve wherever you go.

**Our eyes have seen the salvation God prepares
for all people, near and far.**

Shine a light for the whole world to see;
sing praises for all the earth to hear.

**We dwell in the arms of God, who blesses us
and sends us out to deliver others from bondage.**

Go out with prayers on your lips;
know that God hears, understands, and answers.

**We go from strength to strength
as God blesses us day by day.**

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

John Rutter

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Fiat Lux

Theodore Dubois

*“My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”
Psalm 73:26*



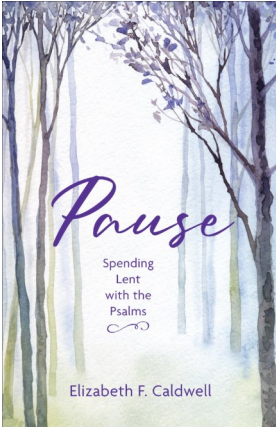
We continue to keep in our prayers:

Lee Rutti, Joe Geraci, Ken Moser, Katelynn and Liam Fawcett, George Sedlak,
Dean, Joyce Sabe, Nova and Tony Kordalski, Marlene Henne, Laurie Thomson,
Joanne Dawson, Shirley Daly, Karen Nestor, JoAnn Hood, Louis Handler,
Scott Shaffer, Tralaina Dowp, Jackie and Ellis Lenaplis,
David, John and Alan, the Dunn family

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

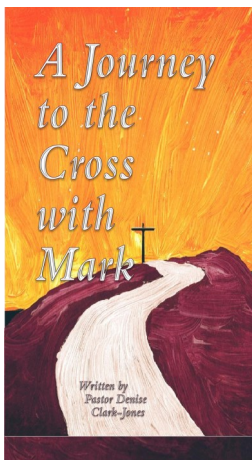


Pastor Stephen will be offering a 6-week Lenten Book Study on the Psalms, which will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday evenings throughout Lent, beginning Wednesday, February 14th, through Wednesday, March 20th via ZOOM.

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 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 next Sunday February 11, 2024 near the Chapel doors or by the Public Square doors.



@ Old Stone Church

Sunday February 4 Presentation of the Lord

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:15AM Mission & 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

10:00PM Worship/Sanctuary

Wednesday February 14/ Ash Wednesday

12:15PM Worship/Sanctuary

Last Sunday Attendance

In-Person:51 Online:173

There are many ways to support The Old Stone Church

Online Giving: oldstonechurch.org/giving/	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 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*

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.