



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

FEBRUARY 18, 2024

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Adagio

Felix Mendelssohn

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

This is the time of fulfillment! The reign of God is at hand!

Reform your lives and believe the Good News, believe the Good News.

This is the time of fulfillment! The reign of God is at hand!

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Welcome to the time of covenant renewal.

The God of our salvation greets us here.

We are reminded of God's promise to us;

We remember the promises we have made.

Sense the Spirit descending on us now.

Hear God's welcoming voice.

Surely God is with us.

We can hear God calling our names.

See the rainbow in the sky.

Wonder at God's steadfast love.

All creation proclaims the wonders of God.

We come together to learn what God wants to teach us.

*** 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 that 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 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 #833**

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

ST.MARGARET

1 O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my
2 O Light that fol-lowest all my way, I yield my
3 O Joy that seek - est me through pain, I can - not
4 O Cross that lift - est up my head, I dare not



wea - ry soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that
flick-ering torch to thee; my heart re-stores its bor-rowed ray, that
close my heart to thee; I trace the rain-bow through the rain, and
ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead, and

in thine o - cean depths its flow may rich - er, full - er be.
in thy sun - shine's blaze its day may bright - er, fair - er be.
feel the prom - ise is not vain that morn shall tear - less be.
from the ground there blos-soms red life that shall end - less be.

This intense hymn of commitment to God (addressed as Love, Light, and Joy) closes with an invocation of the ultimate testimony to those attributes (the Cross). The composer, a Scotsman, named this specially-composed tune for the 11th-century patroness of Scotland.

TEXT: George Matheson, 1881, alt.
MUSIC: Albert Lister Peace, 1884, alt.

ST. MARGARET
8.8.8.8.6

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Caroline Eifert

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 silent personal confession.
Thus, we pray:

* 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

James Chepponis

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

* 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 #582

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me GLORY TO GOD
(Vasile)

Capo 3: (G) B \flat (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)
F B \flat F B \flat F F Gm F

1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
2 World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

(A7) (D) (F#) (Bm)
C7 F A Dm

and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm)(A7)(D)
Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F

As it was in the be - gin-ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.

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. The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

God So Loved the World

Bob Chilcott

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son that who so believeth, believeth in him, should not perish but have everlasting life.

* 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

Caroline Eifert

Let us join our voices in prayer:

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 humbled, 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

Gracious God,
in rushing waters and in dry wilderness,
in every season and circumstance,
we need your sustaining word.
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
proclaim the good news among us today
so that we may repent and believe
and see anew how the time is fulfilled
and the Kingdom has come near;
in Jesus Christ your Son, our Savior. Amen.

THE READINGS

Torah

Genesis 9:8-17 (NRSVUE)

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

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

With God's help we are listening.

Psalm 25

To You, O Lord

Michael Joncas

To you, O Lord, to you, O Lord, I lift, I lift my soul.

Remember your compassion, O Lord, and your merciful love, for they are from of old.
In your merciful love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord.

To you, O Lord, to you, O Lord, I lift, I lift my soul.

Relieve the anguish of my heart and set me free from my distress.
See my lowliness and suffering and take away all my sins.

To you, O Lord, to you, O Lord, I lift, I lift my soul.

Preserve my life and rescue me. Let me not be put to shame, for in you I take refuge.
May integrity and virtue protect me, for I have hoped in you, O Lord.

To you, O Lord, to you, O Lord, I lift, I lift my soul.

Gospel

Mark 1:9-15 (NRSVUE)

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

"Eternal Covenant"



* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

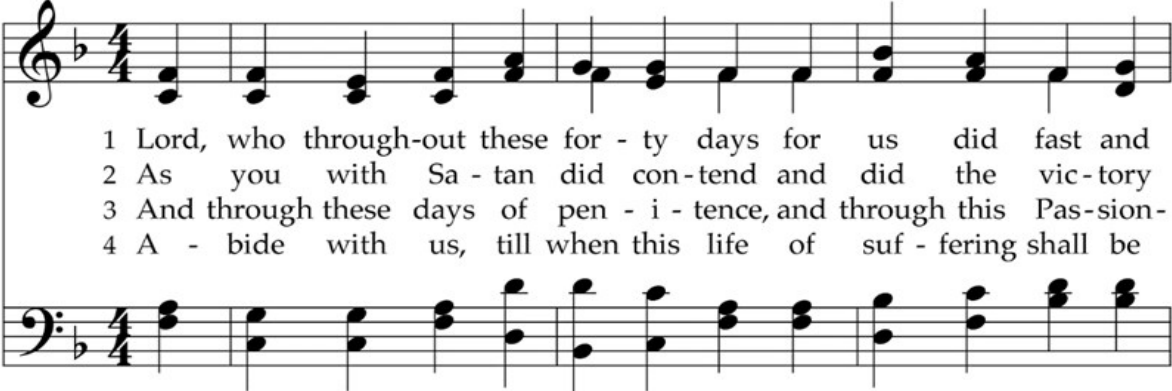
Rom. 8:1, 28, 38, 39

We believe there is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus;
for we know that all things work together for good
for those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose.
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

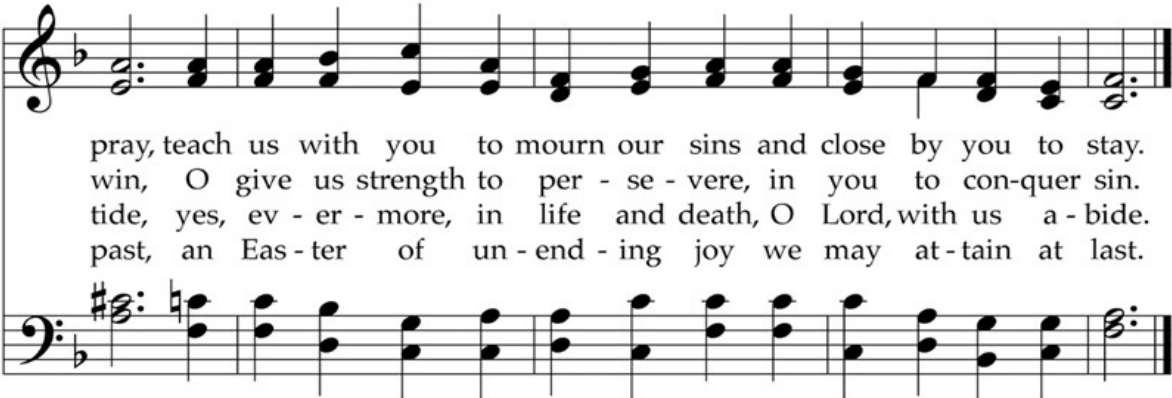
LIGHTING OF CANDLES, PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and
 2 As you with Sa - tan did con-tend and did the vic-tory
 3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas-sion-
 4 A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be



pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
 win, O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con-quer sin.
 tide, yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.
 past, an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at-tain at last.

Like many of this author's hymns, this text was written primarily for children but works equally well in reminding adults how Lent connects us with Christ's temptation in the wilderness and prepares us for Easter. The 16th-century English psalm tune provides sturdy support.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

The time is filled; 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

Amen

Orlando Gibbons

POSTLUDE

Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten

J.S. Bach

*"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:

Frank Macuga, 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,
Scott Shaffer, Tralaina Dowp, Jackie and Ellis Lenaplis,
Sue Blazek, Sally Drummond and family

We pray for the repose of the soul of Dennis Drummond,
may his memory be a blessing.

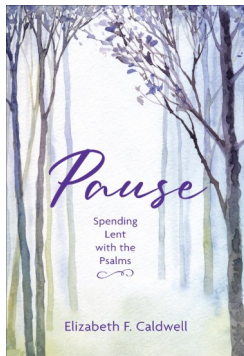
We pray for those struggling with illness, convalescing, homebound or in need.

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



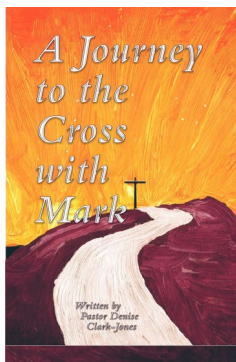
Please join us for Communion following the service this morning in the Chapel.

Wednesdays at 12:15 PM please join us in the Sanctuary for a Mid-Week Communion Service.



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.



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 near the Chapel doors or by the Public Square doors.



@ Old Stone Church

Sunday February 18/ First Sunday in Lent

9:00AM Lenten Study/Gallery

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:15AM Communion/Chapel

11:15AM Deacons Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

Wednesday February 21

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

7:00PM Lenten Book Study/ZOOM

Saturday February 24

11:30AM Funeral Jean C. Cooke/Sanctuary

Sunday February 25/ Second Sunday in Lent

9:00AM Lenten Study/Gallery

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:15AM Communion/Chapel

Wednesday February 28

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

7:00PM Lenten Book Study/ZOOM

Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:64 Online:172

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

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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

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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.