FEBRUARY 18, 2024
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Prelude: Adagio
Felix Mendelssohn

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

* Those who are able are requested to stand. Please silence all electronic devices.
INTROIT

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 followest all my way, I yield my
3 O Joy that seekest me through pain, I can not
4 O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not

2 Hearing loop installed. Switch hearing aid to T-coil
**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 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


* 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)}
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                                      Michael Joncas

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

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 throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.

2 As you with Satan did contend and did the victory win, O give us strength to persevere, in you to conquer sin.

3 And through these days of penitence, and through this Passion-tide, yes, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

4 Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past, an Easter of unending joy we may attain 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.”  
   **Psalm 73:26**

`In Our Prayers`

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

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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
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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. Dettlof

The Old Stone Singers
Leah Jennings Brown, soprano
Cicely Schonberg, soprano
Val Sibila, soprano
Rayna Brooks, alto
Margaret Raupp, alto
Elizabeth Rickel, alto
Ian Atwood, tenor
Stephen Brown, tenor
Frederick Peterbark, tenor
R. Dominic Aragon, bass
Christopher Clark, bass
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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