



# THE OLD STONE CHURCH

FEBRUARY 25, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

10AM Sanctuary Worship

## WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

*My God, My God*  
R. Dominic Aragon, Bass

Marty Haugen

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Marty Vassel

INTROIT

*The Time of Fulfillment*

James Chepponis

**This is the time of fulfillment! The reign of God is at hand!**  
Come, be transformed by the glory of God, the glory of God.

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

\* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

We are invited to walk with God.

We are welcomed by God as people of the covenant.

**How awesome it is to stand in the presence of the Creator!**

**We bring our praise to glorify God.**

God calls us by name and gives us new names.

We are summoned to faithfulness and fruitfulness.

**God not only speaks to us but also listens.**

**God hears our cries and meets our needs.**

Let the ends of the earth remember and turn to God.

Let the families of all nations worship the Creator.

**We will pay our vows to the One who calls us.**

**We praise the God of all nations and all people.**

\* INVOCATION PRAYER

In trust and confidence, we call on your name, almighty God,

eager to know you more fully and serve you more faithfully.

We have heard your amazing promises given to our ancestors in the faith.

We seek your word for us in our day,

for we want to grow strong in our faith as our ancestors did in theirs.

As they gave you glory and praise, we gather to do the same.

As they passed on their faith to new generations,

we seek to teach and live in such a way that our children

and their children will be drawn to minister in your name.

Amen.

\* HYMN #49

*The God of Abraham Praise*

LEONI

1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a-bove,  
2 Your spir-it still flows free, high surg-ing where it will.  
3 Your good-ly land we seek, with peace and plen-ty blest,  
4 You have e-ter-nal life im-plant-ed in the soul;

the An-cient of E-ter-nal Days, the God of love!  
In proph-et's word you spoke of old and you speak still.  
a land of sa-cred lib-er-ty and Sab-bath rest.  
your love shall be our strength and stay, while a-ges roll.

The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con-fessed,  
 Es - tab-lished is your law, and change-less it shall stand,  
 There milk and hon - ey flow, and oil and wine a - bound,  
 We praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name:

we bow be - fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.  
 deep writ up - on the hu - man heart by your strong hand.  
 and trees of life for - ev - er grow with mer - cy crowned.  
 the first, the last, be - yond all thought, and still the same!

Shaped by its traditional Jewish tune, this selection of English stanzas conveys the essence of the *Yigdal*, a canticle based on a medieval Hebrew statement of faith about the nature of God and often used in synagogue worship, alternately chanted by cantor and congregation.

TEXT: Moses Maimonides, 12th cent.; vers. Daniel ben Judah Dayan, 1404; stanzas 1, 3, trans. Thomas Olivers, c.1770, alt.; LEONI  
 stanzas 2, 4, trans. Max Landsberg, Newton M. Mann, and William C. Gannett, 1884, 1910, alt.  
 MUSIC: Jewish melody, 17th cent.; adapt. Meyer Lyon and Thomas Olivers, 1770 6.6.8.4.D

## \* CALL TO CONFESSION

Sherrell Hempstead

In this season, when we examine our lives and find our faith tested,  
 we often discover a barrenness within.  
 Our relationship with God is weak, not because God has turned away,  
 but because we have failed to trust the Almighty or spend time in prayer.  
 We have not sought God's answers to our daily problems.  
 Let us be honest with our Creator in this time of prayer.  
 Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,  
 followed by time for silent personal confession.  
 Thus, we pray:

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of our ancestors, we come to you,  
confessing that we have set our minds on human things.  
We have sought to gain the world,  
so many things to buy, so many things to do.  
Yet we are not satisfied.  
Life's meaning eludes us.  
Your ways seem out of date;  
your promises appear as the hopes and dreams of a past generation.  
But in our hearts, we sense an eternal design which is for all generations,  
a way of life more satisfying than we have allowed ourselves to explore.  
O God, we confess our need for you.

*(moment of silent confession)*

\* KYRIE ELEISON

James Chepponis

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

\* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God's face is not hidden from those who truly seek.  
God does not withhold love from us when we go our own way.  
When we open our eyes to see God's works,  
when we open our ears to hear God's word,  
when all our senses are alert to God's leading,  
we will realize how we have been blessed by an unseen hand,  
forgiven and restored to wholeness.  
God offers us the opportunity to live as ones in tune with the universe,  
filled with hope, upheld in love, dwelling in covenant.

Thanks be to God.

\* PASSING OF THE PEACE

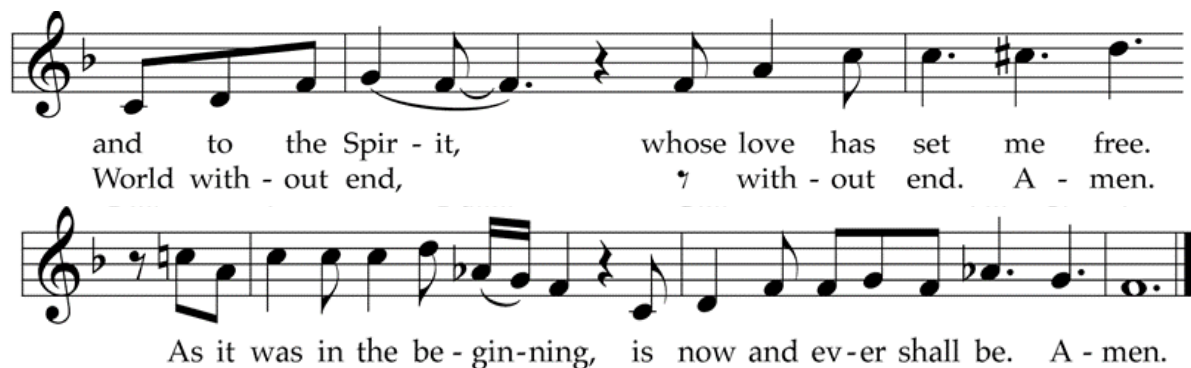
May the peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us offer a sign of peace to one another.

\* GLORIA #582

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

1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,  
2 World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,  
World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.



## OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.

Those who want to save their life will lose it,  
and those who lose themselves for Christ's sake and for the gospel will be saved.  
We are invited to give all we have and all we are  
to the realization of God's will among us.  
A portion of that we bring today as our offering.  
The offering will now be received.

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* Gilbert Martin

When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of Glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ, my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did ever such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were an offering far too small;  
Love, so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all! 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

### Sherrell Hempstead

Let us join our voices in prayer:

Glorious God,  
we dedicate these gifts as an expression of our faith.  
You alone know how much we share and how much we withhold.  
You know the extent of our trust and the depth of our commitment.  
May this act of giving draw us closer to you  
and extend a blessing to all who are helped through our sharing.  
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,  
open our hearts to receive your Word,  
reveal to us the good news,  
and enable us to trust in the promise of salvation  
in Christ Jesus. Amen.

## THE READINGS

Torah

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 (NRSVUE)

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face, and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her and also give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."


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

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


Psalms 22

*Amid the Thronging Worshipers*

BOVINA



1 A - mid the throng-ing wor-ship - ers the Lord, our God, I bless;  
2 The bur - den of the sor-row - ful the Lord will not de - spise;  
3 He feeds with good the hum-ble soul and sat - is - fies the meek,



be - fore his peo - ple gath-ered here his name will I con - fess.  
he has not turned from those who mourn, he lis - tens to their cries.  
and they shall live and praise the Lord who for his mer-cy seek.





Come, praise him, all who fear the Lord, the chil - dren of his grace;  
His good-ness makes me join the throng where saints his praise pro-claim,  
The ends of all the earth will hear, the na - tions seek the Lord;



with rev-erence sound his glo-ries forth and bow be - fore his face.  
and there will I ful - fill my vows with those who fear his name.  
they wor - ship him, the King of kings, in earth and heaven a - dored.

Gospel

Mark 8:31-38 (NRSVUE)

Then Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, Jesus rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Jesus called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

"Shut up!"



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 Take up your cross, the Sav - ior said, if  
 2 Take up your cross, let not its weight fill  
 3 Take up your cross, heed not the shame, and  
 4 Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength, and

you would my dis - ci - ple be; take up your cross with  
 your weak spir - it with a - larm; Christ's strength shall bear your  
 let your fool - ish heart be still; the Lord for you ac -  
 calm - ly ev - ery dan - ger brave: it guides you to a -

will - ing heart, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me.  
 spir - it up and brace your heart and nerve your arm.  
 cept - ed death up - on a cross, on Cal - vary's hill.  
 bun - dant life and leads to vic - tory o'er the grave.

Lift Up Your Hearts 326

Words: Charles W. Everest (1814-1877), alt., P.D.

Music (ERHALT UNS, HERR 8.8.8.8): J. Klug's *Geistliche Lieder*, Wittenberg, 1543; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), alt., P.D.

\* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Dare this week to follow where Jesus leads.

Dare to love the unlovable and care about others.

**We want to follow in the footsteps of Christ.**

**We want the poor to eat and be satisfied.**

Do not be ashamed to challenge values of our culture.

Dare to question all that denies God's reign.

**We want to live with faith, hope, and love.**

**We want to extend God's rule to all people.**

The promises of God are for you and for all.

God will make you exceedingly fruitful.

**We will trust the promises of God.**

**We go out to live as covenant people.**

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

*Three-fold Amen*

Orlando Gibbons

POSTLUDE

Toccata "*Deo Gratias*"

Richard Keys Biggs

*"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:**

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,  
North Presbyterian Church, Aaron Beard, Sue Blazek, Sally Drummond and family

We pray for the repose of the soul of Dorothy Marti,  
may her 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.



### **@ Old Stone Church**

#### **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

#### **Sunday March 3/ Third Sunday in Lent**

9:00AM Lenten Study/Gallery

10:00AM Worship with Communion/Sanctuary

11:15AM Mission and Urban Wellness

Committee Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

#### **Wednesday March 6**

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

7:00PM Lenten Book Study/ZOOM

**Last Sunday Attendance** In-Person:79 Online:142

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

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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.