



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

MARCH 10, 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Requiem Aeternam

Gerald Near

WELCOME

Pastor Denise Clark-Jones

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Elizabeth Buchanan

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Kait McNeeley
Executive Director, Metanoia Project

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

Create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a right spirit within me, I pray.
Restore to me now the joy of salvation and hold me with Thy free spirit.
Create in me, a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Light has entered our world; rejoice!
Light is God's gift to each, and to all together.

**Give thanks to God for days of watchful care.
The steadfast love of God endures forever.**

Let those whom God has redeemed rejoice!
Let them tell the world of God's good news!

**We will thank God for wonderful works.
We will rejoice in God's love for all humankind.**

By God's word, we are delivered from destruction.
By God's mercy, we are healed and made whole.

**Our voices will join in songs of joy.
Our lives will offer sacrifices of thanksgiving.**

* INVOCATION PRAYER

God of infinite patience, we call on you once more,
knowing that you have every reason to question our coming together.
We have worshiped without expectation.
We have gathered without diligent preparation,
as if meeting you laid no requirements on us.
Amid the complexities of our lives,
we have forgotten to set aside times to be still before you.
Sometimes we feel as if we are bitten by snakes all week long,
so we assemble here for some relief and healing.
O God, will you meet us as we are?
Amen.

* HYMN #377

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

HOUSTON

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to fol - low
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to look at
3 I'm look-ing for the com - ing of Christ. I want to be with

Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The
 Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness, shine on my path, and
 Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

Refrain

star of my life is Je - sus.
 show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at
 shall know the joy of Je - sus.

all. The night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the

light of the cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Bob Reid

Our time of penitence before God
 gives us the opportunity to rid ourselves of the weights we carry,
 the lingering sense that we have not lived up to our full potential,
 that we have cheated others,
 that we are disoriented and mired down in troubles of our own making.
 Let our individual confessions be gathered up in the confessions of the church.
 Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
 followed by time for silent personal confession.
 Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Healing God, we are sick through our sinful ways.
We are impatient, complaining, and troubled.
We love the night because it hides the evil we have done
and the doubt that shows on our faces.
By our self-indulgent habits,
we are destroying ourselves and depriving others.
As a church, we seem content to be dead in our trespasses,
for we are afraid to embrace the changes
that come with the new life you offer.
We cry out to you in our trouble.
Save us from our distress.

(moment of silent confession)

* KYRIE ELEISON

James Chepponis

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God loved the world so much that Jesus Christ was sent
to show us the way to eternal life.
We are not condemned but offered saving grace.
Come to the light.
Let its warmth melt away our resistance to God's truth.
We are re-created in Jesus Christ
that we may do the good that God intends
and make that goodness our way of life.
Praise God!

Thanks be to God.

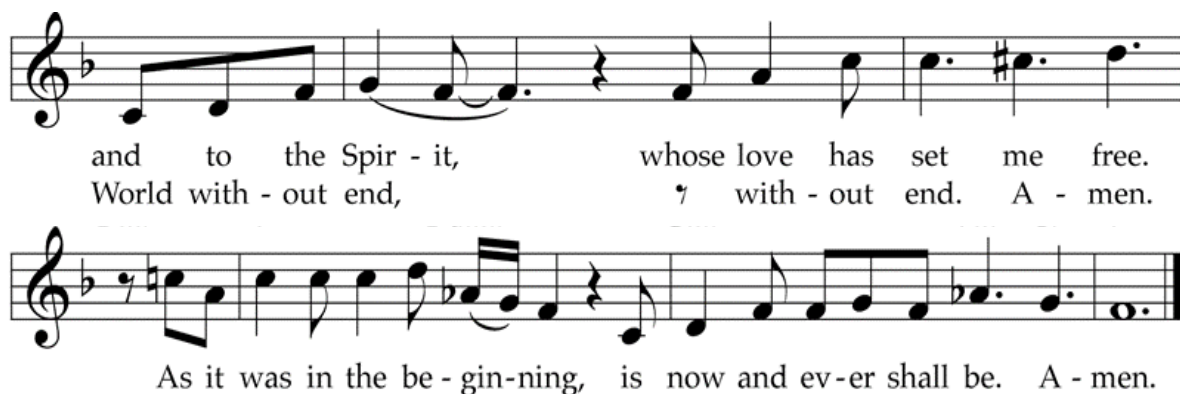
* PASSING OF THE PEACE

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.

In joyous thanksgiving, we offer sacrifices of time and resources
to announce God's healing grace to the world.

It is our privilege to participate in God's wonderful works to humankind,
to share the steadfast love that is saving us
and to offer life to those who are perishing.

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

Bob Reid

Let us join our voices in prayer:

For life-sustaining gifts that we so often take for granted—
for shelter, food, and meaningful tasks to do;
for your steadfast love that awakens us
and raises us from our sinful ways;
for your word that guides and heals us—
we give you thanks, gracious God.
As we invest a part of all you entrust to us
to further the ministries of the church,
may we show to others
the immeasurable riches of your grace in Jesus Christ.
Make this church a beacon of hope for the world.
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

Almighty God,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
open your Word and illumine our darkened world,
that we may see clearly and live faithfully
by the light of your truth in Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE READINGS

Hebrew Scripture

Numbers 21:4-9 (NRSVUE)

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom, but the people became discouraged on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

With God's help we are listening.

Psalm 107

Give Thanks to God Who Hears Our Cries

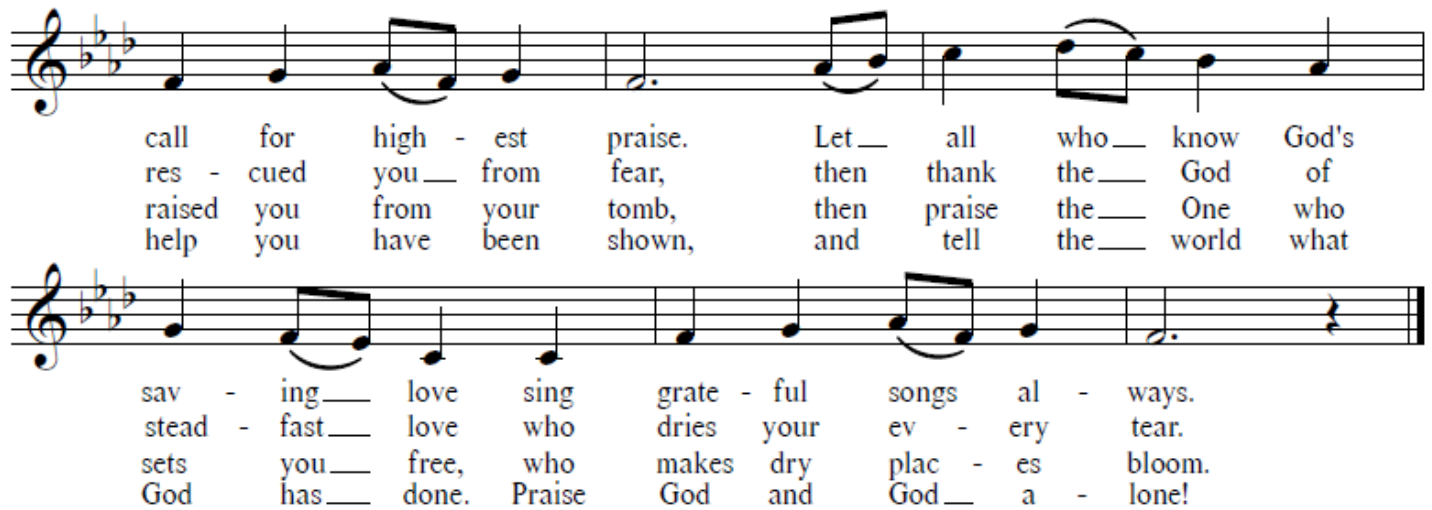
MORNING SONG



1. Give thanks to God who__ hears our__ cries and saves in trou - bled
2. If you have ev - er__ wan - dered where no hu - man help was
3. If you have ev - er__ lived in - side the pris - on of your
4. So praise the One whose love is__ great, whose kind - ness is well



days near, with won - drous works to hu - man - kind that
gloom and in your__ trou - ble cried to__ God, who
known, and cried to__ God, who broke your bonds and
con - sid - der__ well the heal - ing__ hand and



Gospel

John 3:14-21 (NRSVUE)

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Denise Clark-Jones

"Why Did it Have to be Snakes?"



* 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 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ my God; all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down; did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

This familiar text from the beginning of the 18th century grew out of Isaac Watts's desire to give Christians the ability to sing about gospel events. It is set here to a very restrained tune from the early 19th century inspired by the patterns of Gregorian chant.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1707
 MUSIC: Lowell Mason, 1824

HAMBURG
 LM
 (alternate tune: ROCKINGHAM, 224)

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

God sent Jesus that the world may believe.

God sends us into the world to share that good news.

In Christ, we are not condemned to perish.

Christ came to offer us abundant life.

Let everyone see the light you have received.

Live openly as people enjoying the love of God.

Let those whom God has redeemed say so.

Let us give thanks for God's steadfast love.

We are alive together in Christ Jesus.

God offers to all the gift of eternal life, beginning now.

By grace, we have been saved through faith.

We will live in the light and thus share good news.

We have received the immeasurable riches of God's grace
in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

We go forth to share this gift with others.

May the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the light of the Spirit bless you
and keep you in the way of truth. Amen.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Three-fold Amen

Orlando Gibbons

POSTLUDE

Psalms XIX

Benedetto Marcello

*"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, Marlene Henne, Laurie Thomson, Joanne Dawson,
Karen Nestor, JoAnn Hood, Scott Shaffer, Tralaina Dowp, Jackie and Ellis Lenaplis,
North Presbyterian Church, Aaron Beard, Sue Blazek, Diane Priscilla,
Sravros Stavrou, Sally Drummond and family, Tony Kordalski and 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.



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.



Lent @ The Old Stone Church

The Welcoming and Fellowship Committee will have wooden crosses to decorate in preparation for Easter at a table near the Chapel doors.

Please return them on Palm Sunday March 24, 2024 to be displayed on Easter Sunday.

Easter Floral Order Forms are available today in your bulletin and at coffee hour.

Please return by Wednesday March 27, 2024 to be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin.



@ Old Stone Church

Sunday March 10/ Fourth Sunday in Lent

9:00AM Lenten Study/Gallery

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:15AM Communion/Chapel

Tuesday March 12

7:00PM Deacons Meeting/ZOOM

Wednesday March 13

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

7:00PM Lenten Book Study/ZOOM

Thursday March 14

2:00PM Worship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Sunday March 17/ Fifth Sunday in Lent

9:00AM Lenten Study/Gallery

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:15AM Communion/Chapel

Monday March 18

6:30PM Stated Meeting PWR/ZOOM

Tuesday March 19

6:30PM Stated Session Meeting/ZOOM

Wednesday March 20

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

7:00PM Lenten Book Study/ZOOM

Thursday March 21

7:00PM FPS Directors Meeting/Conference Room



Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:84 Online:184

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.