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.
INTROIT

Create in Me

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 follow
2 I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at
3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with

2 Hearing loop installed. Switch hearing aid to T-coil
CALL TO CONFESSION

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


*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. Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
2. World without end, without end. Amen.

and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
World without end, without end. Amen.
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 troubled days
2. If you have wandered where no human help was near, and in your trouble cried to God, who
3. If you have lived inside the prison of your gloom and cried to God, who broke your bonds and
4. So praise the One whose love is great, whose kindness is well known, consider well the healing hand and
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

"Why Did it Have to be Snakes?"

Pastor Denise Clark-Jones
* 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 survey the wondrous cross on which the

2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the

3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and

4 Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a

Prince of glory died, my richest gain I
death of Christ my God; all the vain things that
love flowed mingled down; did e'er such love and
present far too small; love so amazing,
count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.
sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?
so divine, demands 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.
* 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

Psalm XIX

Benedetto Marcello

“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, 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

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<tr>
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<td>oldstonechurch.org/giving/</td>
<td>Text the keyword “oldstonecle” to 73256</td>
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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  
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

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.