



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

MARCH 17, 2024

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Ah, Holy Jesus

Dale Wood

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT

This is the Time of Fulfillment

James Chepponis

This is the time of fulfillment! The reign of God is at hand!
O serve the Lord and follow his way, and follow his way.
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

The days are surely coming, says our God;

The day is here to affirm a new covenant.

We call on God's steadfast love and mercy.

We seek a strong and vital relationship with our God.

God's law will be written on our hearts.

Our Creator claims us and forgives our faithlessness.

We are eager to know the God who loves us.

We are ready to learn God's intention for us.

God offers us the joy of salvation.

Our brokenness can be healed and wholeness restored.

We are open to the new and right spirit God offers.

We seek guidance for our daily living.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

As Jesus offered up prayers and supplications to you,

O God, we cry out to you today.

You know our losses and our fears.

You understand our suffering and pain.

We wish to see Jesus, to know the healing touch felt by so many.

We want to hear a reassuring voice.

We long to see a new day when evil is overcome

and wrong cannot prevail.

Lift us up and draw us to yourself as we worship in this hour.

Equip us for our daily living

as we seek to be true to your covenant with us.

Amen.

* HYMN #171

A Sower Came from Ancient Hills

SEACHRIST



1 A Sow - er came from an - cient hills and cast good
2 A Sow - er walked through - out the land and, ev - ery -
3 The Seed was bur - ied deep in death be - neath a
4 O Christ, you come a - mong us still, the Sow - er



seed a - broad: his field, ten thou - sand hu - man hearts; his
where he trod, he sowed his life be - cause he was him -
blood - red sky, and deep - er still was bur - ied hope for
and the Seed. As once you sowed the truth of God in

seed, the word of God. And some who lis - tened would not
self the Seed of God. But then, a - top a bar - ren
those who watched him die. But then, in Jo - seph's gar - den
glow - ing word and deed, im - plant your Word in wait - ing

hear, and some who heard for - got. But some re - ceived in
hill, be - neath a dark - ening sky, they threw God's Seed on
fair, as dawn broke o'er the land, the Seed, from three days'
hearts, and let it there take hold, un - til it bears in

fer - tile soil the truth the Sow - er taught.
ston - y ground and left it there to die.
si - lent sleep, a - woke at God's com - mand!
fruit - ful lives a har - vest hun - dred - fold.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

All three synoptic gospels record both the telling and the explanation of Jesus' parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:3–8, 18–23 / Mark 4:3–8, 14–20 / Luke 8:5–8, 11–15). Because the seed equals "the word," Jesus (as the Word made flesh) becomes the Seed in this expansion of the parable.

TEXT: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1998
MUSIC: John D. Horman, 2003
Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.
Music © 2003 Zimbel Press

SEACHRIST
CMD

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Melissa Maffia

The doubts and inattention that mark our response to God
summon us now to confess our sin.
The promises of God which we have ignored
draw us back to consider the covenant God offers.
The obedience of Jesus can inspire in us
a reverent submission to God's will.
Let us seek forgiveness and reconciliation.
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 us, O God, according to your steadfast love.
Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin.
We know more of our own transgression
than we have been willing to admit, even to ourselves.
We cannot escape from the sin that clings so closely.
By our actions and our neglect, we have done what is evil in your sight.
May your judgment help us to face the truth about ourselves.
Then wash away the stain of our iniquity.
Create in us clean hearts, and renew our spirits.
We are ready for a new life.

(moment of silent confession)

* KYRIE ELEISON

James Chepponis

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

We are welcomed into God's redeeming presence.
We are children of our Creator who loves us.
We are brothers and sisters of Jesus,
who was obedient to God and faithful to the law of love,
even in the face of the cross.
Through suffering, Christ became the source of eternal salvation for us,
realized when we embrace the covenant in truth and faithfulness.
The burden of our sin is lifted from us.
New life is ours to enjoy.

Thanks be to God.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

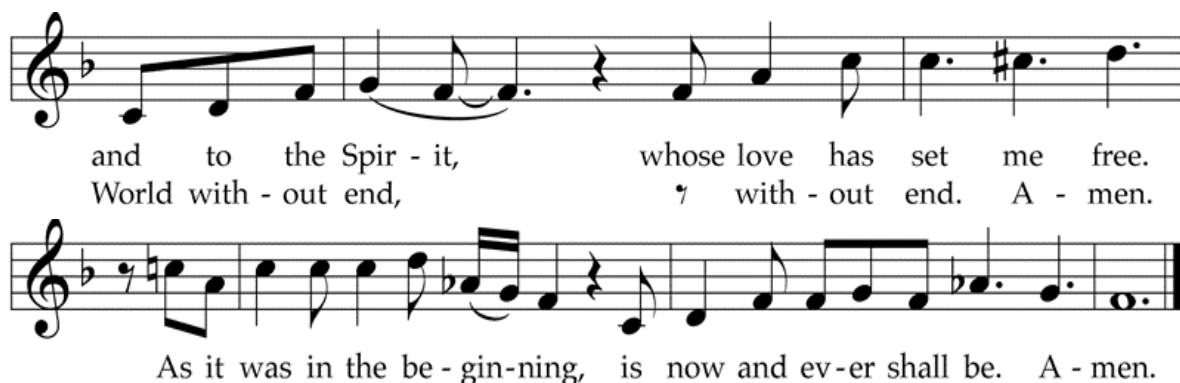
May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.
Let us offer a sign of peace to one another.

* 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.

What are we ready to die for?

How much of ourselves and our resources

will we risk for the sake of the gospel?

Jesus invites us to follow as disciples and servants,

risking everything for the sake of God's love.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

A Gaelic Blessing

John Rutter

Deep peace of the running wave to you, deep peace of the flowing air to you.

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you, deep peace of the shining stars to you.

Deep peace of the gentle night to you.

Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.

Deep peace of Christ, of Christ the light of the world to you.

Deep peace of Christ to you.

* 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

Melissa Maffia

Let us join our voices in prayer:

We dedicate these offerings to the proclamation of your word,
the teaching of your ways, and the living of your will for all humankind.

We reach out with joy and gladness to offer your love to the world.

May these gifts enable the sharing of your presence with many
who have not experienced a sense of their own value as your children.

As we keep covenant with you,

we would also share its joys and obligations with our neighbors.

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

Your Word, O God, has power to change our lives
and to create a whole new world.
As we meditate on your Word this day,
fill us with your Holy Spirit,
that we may treasure your Word with our whole hearts
and fix our eyes on you. Amen.

THE READINGS

Hebrew Scripture

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (Inclusive Bible)

“Behold, the days are surely coming, says YHWH, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them up out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their spouse, says YHWH. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says YHWH: I will put my law in their minds and on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they need to teach one another or remind one another to listen to YHWH. All of them, high and low alike, will listen to me, says YHWH, for I will forgive their misdeeds and will remember their sins no more.”

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

With God's help we are listening.

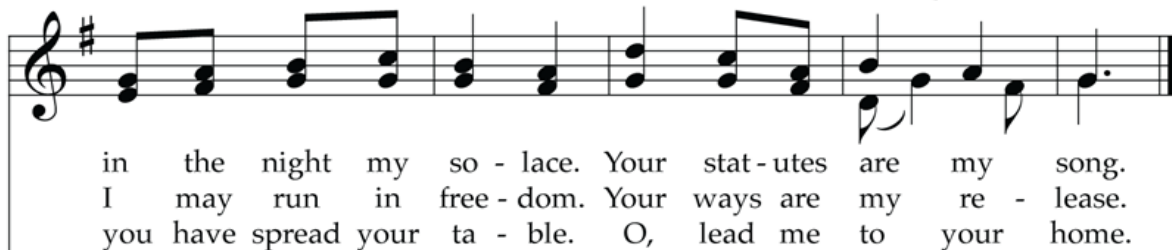
Psalms 119

I Long for Your Commandments

WOHL DENEN, DIE DA WANDELN

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the staves, with line numbers 1, 2, and 3 indicating different verses or parts of the psalm.

1 I long for your com - mand - ments; your judg - ments all are
2 With - out your lamp to guide me I wan - der from the
3 O God, I love your knowl - edge, more pre - cious than pure
just. With - in your words is wis - dom, your teach - ings
way. With - out your laws and pre - cepts I stum - ble
gold. It sat - is - fies like hon - ey, a sweet - ness
un - der - stood are com - fort to my spir - it's need and
in the dark. Your un - der - stand - ings are my hope that
on my tongue. It leads me to sal - va - tion's door where



Gospel

John 12:20-33 (Inclusive Bible)

Among those who had come up to worship at the Passover festival were some Greeks. They approached Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put forth this request: "Please, we would like to see Jesus." Philip went to Andrew, and the two of them went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied, "Now the hour has come for the Chosen One to be glorified. The truth of the matter is, unless a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. If you love your life you'll lose it; If you hate your life in this world you'll keep it for eternal life. Anyone who wants to work for me must follow in my foot-steps, and wherever I am, my worker will be there too. Anyone who works for me will be honored by Abba God.

Now my soul is troubled. What will I say: 'Abba God, save me from this hour'? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Abba! glorify your name." A voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd that stood nearby heard this and said that it was a clap of thunder; others said, "It was an angel speaking." Jesus answered, "It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. Sentence is now being passed on this world; now the ruler of this world will be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from this earth, I will draw all people to myself." By these words Jesus indicated the kind of death he would die.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

"A New 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 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 pride 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.

Written by a nineteen-year-old in Connecticut, this challenging text has been widely printed on both sides of the Atlantic. It is strengthened by its resolute repetition of the same four words at the beginning of each stanza and by the appropriately stark shape note tune.

TEXT: Charles William Everest, 1833, alt.
 MUSIC: Attr. Freeman Lewis, 1814; harm. John Leon Hooker, 1984
 Music Harm. © 1984 John Leon Hooker

BOURBON
 LM

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

God has written the law of love within us.

We are empowered to live according to that law.

We have experienced God's presence together.

That presence will sustain us as we scatter.

God's wisdom has been planted in our hearts.

It is different from the wisdom of this world.

We dare to live as forgiven and forgiving sinners.

We risk showing love to those who seem unlovable.

We are people of God, accepted and loved.

We are followers of Christ, commissioned for service.

Where Christ leads, we will follow.

Where our service is needed, we will go.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Three-fold Amen

Orlando Gibbons

POSTLUDE

Postlude from "Celtic Suite"

Charles Callahan

*"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,
Sharon Steranko, North Presbyterian Church, Aaron Beard, Sue Blazek, Diane Priscilla,
Connor, Sally Drummond and family, Tony Kordalski and family

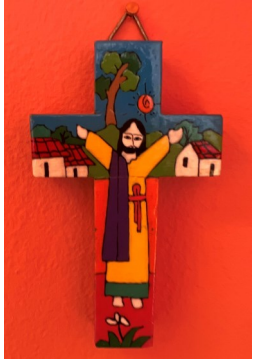
We pray for those struggling with illness, convalescing, homebound or in need.

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



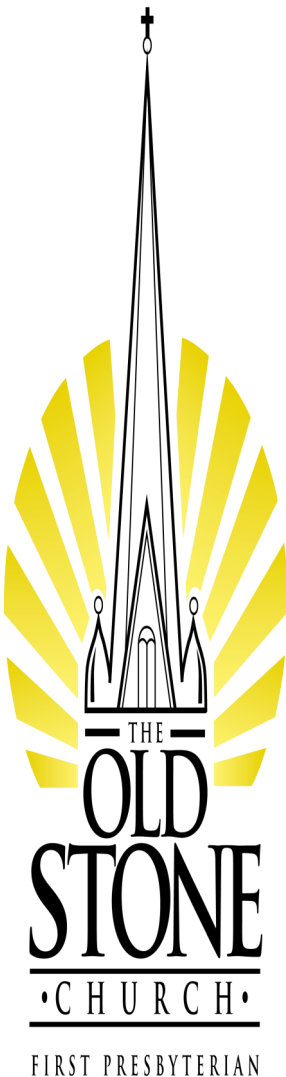
Please join us for Communion following the service this morning in the Chapel.

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



Lent @ The Old Stone Church

Please return your Easter Crosses next Sunday, Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024 so they may be displayed on Easter Sunday.



@ Old Stone Church

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/ Presidential Primary Election Day

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

Sunday March 24/ Palm Sunday

9:00AM Lenten Study/Gallery

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:15AM Communion/Chapel

Wednesday March 27

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday March 28 Maundy Thursday

6:00PM Maundy Thursday Service/Chapel

Friday March 29 Good Friday

12:15PM Good Friday Service/Sanctuary

Sunday March 31/ Easter Sunday

10:00AM Worship with Communion/Sanctuary

Monday April 1/Building and Offices Closed

7:00PM FPS Annual Meeting

Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:68 Online:176

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

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*

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.