



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

MARCH 31, 2024
EASTER SUNDAY WITH COMMUNION

10 AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE	Mvt. 1: <i>Allegro Vivace</i> from "Gloria"	John Rutter
WELCOME		Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams
INTROIT	<i>Surrexit Christus / The Lord Is Risen</i>	Jacques Berthier

The Lord is risen, alleluia!
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for God's love has no end.
The Lord is my strength, the Lord is my song, God has been my Savior.
I shall not die, I shall live. I shall live and recount God's deeds.

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

This is a great and joyous festival day.
Come to celebrate amazing good news.

**We gather for worship in awe and wonder.
The tomb is empty; death is not the last word.**

Sing songs of praise, for God is good.
God's steadfast love endures forever.

**God has answered our prayers with salvation.
Jesus Christ is alive and we, too, shall live.**

Open your hearts and minds to the risen Christ.
You are greeted by name and welcomed here.

**This is the day that our God has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

*** INVOCATION PRAYER**

Let us pray together:

**We greet the dawning brightness of this special day
with hopes renewed.**

**We have known grief and sorrow, loss and tears, fear and failure.
Meet us here, living Christ, for we need this time of resurrection.**

We need your healing presence.

**We need your word of greeting
that welcomes us into the community of faith
in spite of our doubts and faithlessness.**

You are the Great Teacher.

We have come to learn from you.

We want to be your disciples.

Amen.

*** HYMN**

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN
Arr. Lloyd Larson

Christ is risen, alleluia! Sing God's praises, alleluia! Christ is risen,
lift up your voice and sing:
Christ is risen today!

**Christ the Lord is risen today, alleluia! All creation, join to say Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!**

**Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!**

**Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia! Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!**

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!**

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Alyssa Niepokny

The apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth:
"I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received:
that Christ died for our sins..."
In the mystery of that atoning sacrifice, we come to this time of prayer,
bringing our sins to the door of the empty tomb.
Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
followed by time for silent personal confession.
Thus, we pray together:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We cannot truly worship you, loving God,
until we recognize how unloving we have been.
We cannot truly live
until we admit the many ways we have been dwelling in death.
We cannot know forgiveness
until we honestly face the wrong we have done
and the good we have neglected.
We admit before you now the anger and spite
we have carried in our hearts,
the doubts and fears we have allowed to paralyze us,
The misplaced priorities that have led us away from your will and way.
Help us break down the barriers we have erected
so we can experience new life today. In Jesus' Name.**

(moment of silent confession)

* KYRIE ELEISON

John Merbecke

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God shows no partiality,
but in every nation anyone who fears God
and does what is right finds forgiveness and acceptance.
The One who came to embody love among people
is ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.
In Jesus' name, our sins are forgiven, and we are being saved.
The grace of God is extended to each of us on this day of resurrection.
Praise God!

Alleluia and Amen!

* 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 #581

Glory be to the Father

GREATOREX

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, Amen.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated:

When we have seen the Christ,

that makes all the difference in our view of life.

When we have encountered life, we can no longer pursue the ways of death.

When we realize how much we have received from a loving God,

our gratitude pours forth in eagerness to share good news with the world.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ATHEM

Rejoice, Ye Heavenly Powers

Stephen Main

What is this mystery, so great and new?

Trembling for joy, all creation cries; the Lord has risen from the dead,
and Death beneath Him lies.

Rejoice, ye heavenly powers; O sing, ye choirs of angels!

Exult all creation around God's throne, for Christ our King is risen.

Sound the trumpet of salvation.

O mystery great and glorious that mortal flesh should conquer death and sin,
and all our human pains and wounds the Lord should heal by bearing them.

Rejoice, O ye earth in splendor, radiant in the brightness of your King!

Rejoice, holy church, exult in glory, the light of Christ shines upon you.

Let the earth resound, echo the song of God's own people.

Rejoice!

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

Alyssa Niepokny

Let us join our voices in prayer:

We consecrate all we have brought to share,
that the message of today may spread through the streets
and across the lands,
beginning within these walls and bursting out
for all the world to hear and observe.
May the glad songs motivate practical ministries.
As forgiven and forgiving people,
we take new life into the marketplace,
into our jobs and schools,
into our social life and leisure hours.
May all we offer express true thankfulness.
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

Let us pray together:

**Open our eyes and soften our hearts, O God,
through the work of your Holy Spirit,
that in the hearing of your Word
we may receive new life. Amen.**

THE READINGS

Epistle

I Corinthians 15:1-11 (Inclusive Bible)

Sisters and brothers, I want to remind you of the Gospel I preached to you, which you received and in which you stand firm. You are being saved by it at this very moment, if you hold fast to it as I preached it to you.

Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

I handed on to you, first of all, what I myself received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures; and that he was buried and, in accordance with the scriptures, rose on the third day; that he was seen by Peter, and then the Twelve. After that he was seen by more than five hundred sisters and brothers at once, most of whom are still alive, although some have died. Next he was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Last of all, he was seen by me, as one yanked from the womb. I am the least of the apostles; in fact, because I persecuted the church of God, I do not even deserve the name. But by God's favor, I am what I am. This favor that God has given to me has not proven fruitless. Indeed, I worked harder than all the others, not on my own but through the grace of God. In any case, whether it be I or they, this is what we preach and this is what you believed.

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

With God's help we are listening.

Gospel

Mark 16:1-8 (Inclusive Bible)

When the Sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James and Salome bought perfumed oils so that they could anoint Jesus. Very early, just after sunrise on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb. They were saying to one another, “Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked, they found that the huge stone had been rolled back. On entering the tomb, they saw a young person sitting at the right, dressed in a white robe. They were very frightened, but the youth assured them: “Do not be amazed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, the One who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. Now go, and tell the disciples and Peter, ‘Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee, where you will see him, just as he told you.’” They made their way out and fled from the tomb, bewildered and trembling; but they said nothing to anyone, because they were so afraid.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“God of Empty Tombs”



WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND FAITH

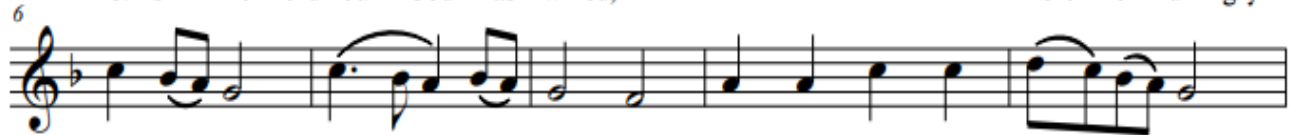
* HYMN# 511

Come, Behold! The Feast of Heaven

LLANFAIR



1. Come, be - hold! the feast of _ heaven has to mor - tal
2. All is read - y, come at - tend Al - le - lu - ia! as the Lord's in -
3. As the Lord our God has willed, here the hun - gry



flesh been given. Hear the Word of God _ de - clared:
vit - ed friend; Al - le - lu - ia! come from north, west, south, and east;
soul is _ filled; here the wea - ry are _ re - freshed.



Al - le - lu - ia! "Come! the ban - quet is pre - pared."
cel - e - brate the joy - ful feast. Al - le - lu - ia!
All who share God's feast are blessed.

TEXT: John F. Underwood, 1993
MUSIC: Robert Williams, 1817; harm. David Evans, 1927
Text © 1993 John F. Underwood
Music Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press

LLANFAIR
7.7.7.7 with alleluias

* INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

This is the joyful feast of the people of God!
People will come from north and south
and from east and west
to sit at table in the Kingdom of God.
According to Luke,
when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples,
he took the bread,
blessed and broke it,
and gave it to them.
Then their eyes were opened,
and they recognized him.
This is the Table of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Our Savior invites those who trust him
to share the feast that he has prepared.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Praise to you, O God, for all your works.
You created the world and called it good
and made us in your image to live together in love.
You made a covenant with us,
and even when we turned from you,
you remained ever faithful.

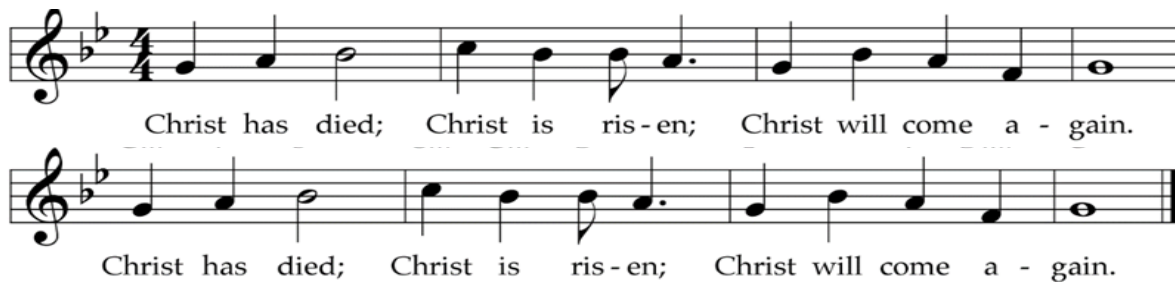
Therefore with all creation we sing your praise:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er, God of might, heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thank you, O God, for sending us your Son.
He lived among us and told your story.
He healed the sick and welcomed sinners.
He shared our pain and died our death,
then rose to new life that we might live,
and all creation be restored.

Remembering your boundless love
revealed to us in Jesus Christ,
we break bread and share the cup,
giving ourselves to you
to live for him in joy and praise.

Great is the mystery of faith:



We pray for all in need of healing, whether it be in body, mind, or spirit...

Janie Chambers, Regis Bookshar, Kathleen, Frank Macuga, Lee Rutti, Joe Geraci, Ken Moser, Katelynn and Liam Fawcett, George Sedlak, Dean, Joyce Sabe, Marlene Henne, Laurie Thomson, Joanne Dawson, Katherine Gilmore Maynard, Karen Nestor, JoAnn Hood, Scott Shaffer, Tralaina Dowp, Diane Priscilla, Jackie and Ellis Lenaplis, Sharon Steranko, Aaron Beard, Sue Blazek, Connor, Sally Drummond and family, Tony Kordalski and family, David Eifert and family

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray as our Savior has taught us:

**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.**

(Please be seated)

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus,
on the night before he died, took bread,
and after giving thanks to you, he broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam

hamotzi lekhem min ha'aretz.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
who brings forth bread from the earth.

Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way Jesus took the cup, saying:

Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam

borei p'ri hagafen.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
who creates the fruit of the vine.

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,
shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these your gifts of bread and the fruit of the vine
that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ
and that we may be his body for the world.
By your Spirit unite us with Christ and one another
until we feast with him and with all your saints
in your eternal realm of justice and peace.
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
now and forever.



SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Please partake of the elements as you receive them,
and then place the cup back into the tray.
You may then light a candle in petition of prayer
or in remembrance.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Starting from the back of the sanctuary
you are invited to come forward at this time.

COMMUNION ANTHEM *The King of Love my Shepherd Is* Edward C. Bairstow

The King of love my Shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living waters flow my ransomed soul he leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow with food celestial feedeth.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread a table in my sight; Thy unction grace, bestoweth:
And O what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me,
And gently on his shoulder laid, and home rejoicing brought me.

And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never;
God Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION:

God of abundance,
with this bread of life and cup of salvation
you have united us with Christ,
making us one with all your people.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue forever in the risen life
of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

* HYMN

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

DUKE STREET
Arr. Lloyd Larson

I know that my Redeemer lives! What joy this blest assurance gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead; he lives, my ever-living Head!

He lives triumphant from the grave; he lives eternally to save;
He lives exalted, throned above; he lives to rule his church in love.

He lives to bless me with his love; he lives to plead for me above;
He lives my hungry soul to feed; he lives to help in time of need.

He lives, my kind, wise, heavenly friend; he lives and loves me to the end;
He lives, and while he lives, I'll sing; he lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King!

He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Savior, still the same;
What joy this blest assurance gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

In Christ, we have been rescued from death.
At the cross, we have learned the cost of true love.

**In Jesus, we have observed courage and faithfulness.
At the empty tomb, we have met the power of Love.**

Continue to sing the glad songs of victory.
Dare to live the welcoming message of God's grace.

**Christ has appeared to us in the joy of this day.
We have been empowered to reach out to others.**

The One who was rejected holds the key to life.
The key of unconditional love is passed on to us.

**We have seen the risen Christ, and we are changed.
We have been chosen as witnesses to resurrection.**

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

John Rutter

POSTLUDE

“Hallelujah Chorus” from *Messiah*

G.F. Handel

*“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:

Janie Chambers, Regis Bookshar, Kathleen, Frank Macuga, Lee Rutti, Joe Geraci,
Ken Moser, Katelynn and Liam Fawcett, George Sedlak, Dean, Joyce Sabe,
Marlene Henne, Laurie Thomson, Joanne Dawson, Katherine Gilmore Maynard,
Karen Nestor, JoAnn Hood, Scott Shaffer, Tralaina Dowp, Diane Priscilla,
Jackie and Ellis Lenaplis, Sharon Steranko, Aaron Beard, Sue Blazek, Connor,
Sally Drummond and family, Tony Kordalski and family, David Eifert 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.



The Candle Table
is dedicated in memory of
Harley Jay Harris and Gail Marie Reid
by
Elizabeth Harris and Robert Reid



Old Stone Church Ensemble

Trumpet

Jeremy Bryant, Elijah Leonard

French Horn

Nick Giralico

Trombone

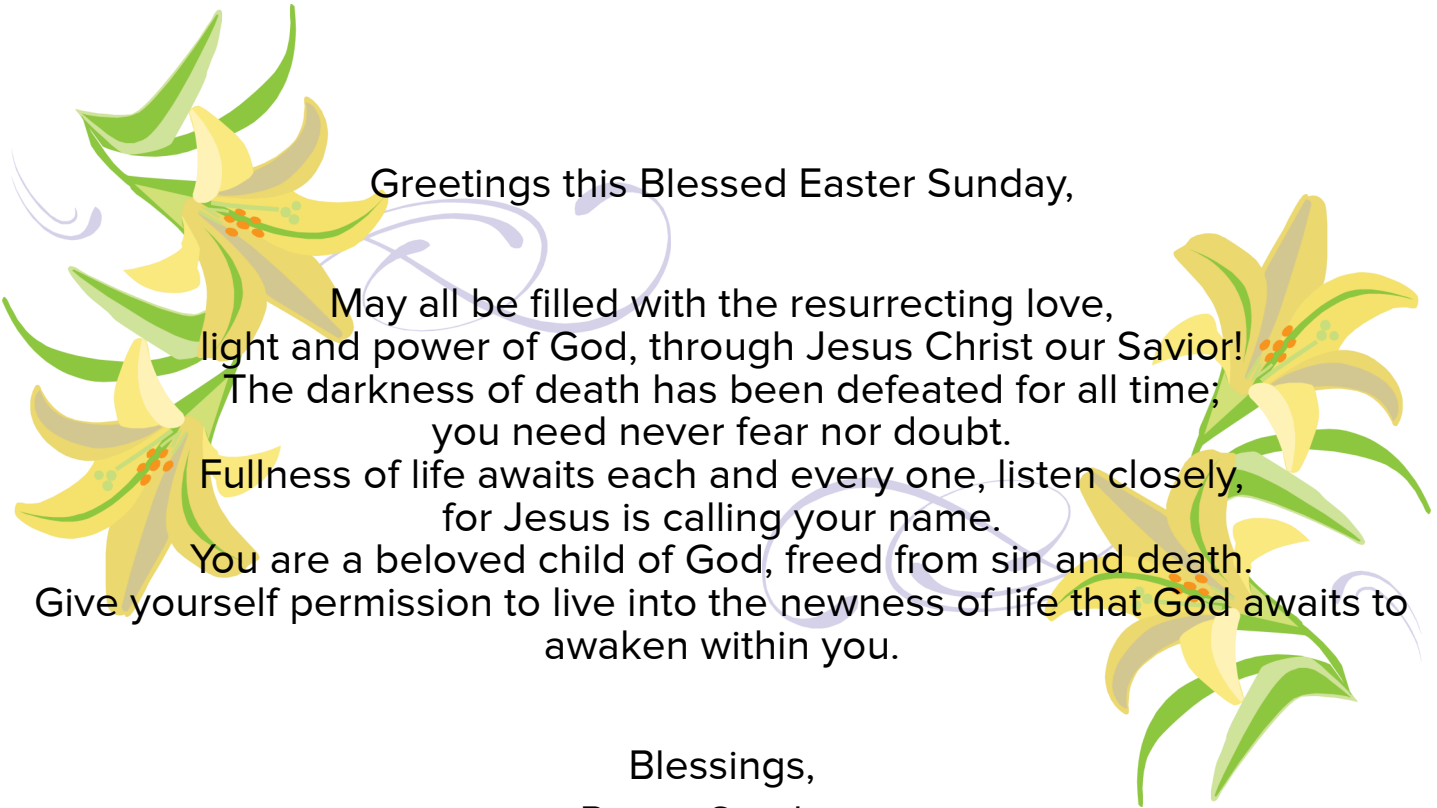
Xavier McKinley, Ryan Whitson

Timpani

Luke Rinderknecht

Organ

Jason Lorenzon



Greetings this Blessed Easter Sunday,

May all be filled with the resurrecting love,
light and power of God, through Jesus Christ our Savior!

The darkness of death has been defeated for all time;
you need never fear nor doubt.

Fullness of life awaits each and every one, listen closely,
for Jesus is calling your name.

You are a beloved child of God, freed from sin and death.
Give yourself permission to live into the newness of life that God awaits to
awaken within you.

Blessings,
Pastor Stephen

+++++

@ Old Stone Church

Sunday March 31/ Easter Sunday

10:00AM Worship with Communion/Sanctuary

Monday April 1/Building and Offices Closed

7:00PM FPS Annual Meeting/Gallery

Wednesday April 3

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Sunday April 7/Second Sunday of Easter

10:00AM Worship with Communion/Sanctuary

11:15AM Mission and Urban Wellness

Committee Meeting/Cuyahoga Room/Second Floor

11:30AM Deacons Meeting/Conference Room/First Floor

Monday April 8/ Total Solar Eclipse

5:10PM Guardians Home Opener

Wednesday April 10

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday April 11

2:00PM Worship Committee/ZOOM

Sunday April 14/Third Sunday of Easter

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:15AM Communion/Chapel

1:10PM Guardian/Yankees



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*

Cicely Schonberg, *soprano*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Ian Atwood, *tenor*

Stephen Brown, *tenor*

Frederick Peterbark, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

Margaret Raupp, *alto*

Elizabeth Rickel, *alto*

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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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.