



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

APRIL 21, 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE	“He Shall Feed His Flock” from <i>Messiah</i> Rayna Brooks, <i>Mezzo-soprano</i>	G.F. Handel
WELCOME		Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams
INTROIT	<i>I Will Worship the Lord</i>	John Rutter

I will worship the Lord all the days of my life;
I will tell of his glory and will show forth his praise;
I will sing and rejoice, for the Lord is my stronghold. Alleluia.

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

The Good Shepherd invites us to green pastures.
We are refreshed beside still waters.

**We have been given everything we have.
God offers us everything we need.**

When we walk through shadowed valleys, God is with us.
We are comforted and reassured.

**God leads us in the right paths.
Our cups are filled to overflowing.**

God welcomes us to the table where love is expressed.
We are invited to partake of the truth God offers.

**We have received plenty that we might share.
We are called to be God's helpers.**

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**Good Shepherd, we meet in your name,
confident that we are known and loved by you.
Here we draw close to one another and to you,
expecting to be empowered by fresh insights to live as your people.
We want to care for one another in life-giving ways.
We seek to reach out to those who deny you or suspect us.
Help us grow in love that is genuine in its caring and self-sacrifice.
We embrace the wholeness you offer and dare to risk acceptance
of a healing role for ourselves and this faith community.
Equip us for service beyond this hour of meeting.
Amen.**

* HYMN #238

Thine Is the Glory

JUDAS MACCABEUS

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con- quering Son; end - less is
2 Lo! Je - sus meets us, ris - en from the tomb; lov - ing - ly
3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life! Life is naught

the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai - ment
he greets us, scat - ters fear and gloom. Let the church with glad - ness
with - out thee; aid us in our strife. Make us more than con - querors

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain

where thy bod - y lay.
 death hath lost its sting. Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con - quering
 to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won.

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Michael Rolen

All of us have taken vows of loyalty to Jesus Christ.
 We have made promises in words that have not been lived out in truth.
 We have too easily pushed aside God's commands
 in favor of our own desires.
 We are more interested in pleasing ourselves than in pleasing God.
 Let us return to the one who is our Origin
 to re-attune ourselves to God's intent for us.
 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

**Good Shepherd,
we have wandered down the strange pathways of our world.
We have ventured into dead-end streets
that looked more inviting than the narrow ways
marked out by the signposts of your love.
We have trusted other voices and turned away from your truth.
We have accepted your gifts without acknowledgment.
We have failed to use our overflowing cups
to fill the cups of sisters and brothers who need what we could offer.
Forgive us, we pray, and restore us to your fold.
(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

Hear the good news.
By the name of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven,
and we are restored to wholeness.
God's love will abide with us as long as we share it with others.
Our souls will be fed when we focus on feeding others.
We will be empowered by prayer and generosity.

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.
Bring your good deeds as an offering to God.
Present to the Good Shepherd your firm commitment
to care for others in the spirit of Christ.
We cannot simply dedicate our money,
hiring others to carry out the mission of the church on our behalf.
We, ourselves, are called to give leadership and comfort.
The giving that God expects
includes our time and talents as well as treasure.
The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY 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;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

* 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

Michael Rolen

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**How can we express our thanks, O God,
for the one who laid down life
itself in witness to your love for all people?
We are aware that many have not experienced that love.
We see their need, and we want to respond.
Use what we offer to you to bring healing
and peace to others not of this fold.
Draw us together as one flock in the care of one shepherd,
Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.
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

**Lord God, Good Shepherd,
by the leading of your Spirit,
help us to listen to your voice
and follow in your paths
all the days of our lives;
in Jesus' name.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Epistle

1 John 3:16-24 (The Inclusive Bible)

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ died for us. And we, too, ought to lay down our lives for our sisters and brothers. If you have more than enough material possessions and see your neighbors in need yet close your hearts to them, how can the love of God be living in you? My children, our love must not be simply word or mere talk—it must be true love, which shows itself in action and truth. This, then, is how we'll know we belong to the truth; this is how we'll be confident in God's presence, even if our consciences condemn us. We know that God is greater than our consciences and that God knows everything. And if our consciences do not condemn us, my friends, then we have confidence before God, and we will receive whatever we ask from God's hand—because we keep the commandments and do what is pleasing in God's sight.

The commandments are these: that we believe in the name of God's Own, Jesus Christ, and that we love one another as we were told to do. Those who keep these commandments live in God, and God lives in them. We know that God lives in us by the Spirit given to us.

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

With God's help we are listening.

Gospel

John 10:11-18(The Inclusive Bible)

“I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd would die for the sheep. The hired hand, who is neither shepherd nor owner of the sheep, catches sight of the wolf coming and runs away, leaving the sheep to be scattered or snatched by the wolf. That’s because the hired hand works only for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me, in the same way Abba God knows me and I know God—and for these sheep I will lay down my life. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold—I must lead them too, and they will hear my voice. And there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why Abba God loves me—because I lay down my life, only to take it up again. No one takes my life from me; I lay it down freely. I have the power to lay it down, and I have the power to take it up again. This command I received from my Abba.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“Adonai Ro’i”



THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
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 Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten-der care.
 2 We are yours: in love be - friend us; be the guard-ian of our way.
 3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be;
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor; ear - ly let us do your will.

In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us; for our use your fold pre-pare.
 Keep your flock: from sin de - fend us; seek us when we go a-stray.
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.
 Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.

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This unattributed hymn, like many that are now meaningful to adults, was written for children and develops shepherd imagery from Psalm 23 and John 10:1-18. The tune, composed for these words, was originally named for the text but has come to be known by the composer's name.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

We are invited to make God's house our home.
We are sent out into God's world to serve.

**God has been with us through life's most foreboding valleys.
We have been equipped to help others on their journeys.**

When we ask God for what we need, God provides.

When we are obedient, we know God abides in us.

God leads us by still waters and restores our souls.

God knows us better than we know ourselves.

God's love in Jesus Christ has blessed us.

We have received the gift of God's own Spirit.

**Surely goodness and mercy will pursue us through life.
We will dwell in the house of our Good Shepherd.**

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

John Rutter

POSTLUDE

Fiat Lux

Theodore Dubois

*“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, Laurie Thomson, Katherine Gilmore Maynard,
Diane Priscilla, Sharon Steranko, Aaron Beard, Conor, Ray Alford, JoAnn Hood

We pray for the repose of the soul of Norma Smith,
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 April 21/Fourth Sunday of Easter

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:15AM Communion/Chapel

1:10PM Guardians/Athletics

Tuesday April 23

6:30PM Stated Session Meeting/ZOOM

Wednesday April 24

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Sunday April 28/Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:15AM Communion/Chapel

Wednesday May 1

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Sunday May 5/Sixth Sunday of Easter

10:00AM Worship with Communion/Sanctuary

11:15AM Mission and Urban Wellness Committee Meeting/
Cuyahoga Room/Second Floor

1:10PM Guardians/Dodgers

Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:90 Online:129

There are many ways to support The Old Stone Church

<p>Online Giving: oldstonechurch.org/giving/</p>	<p>Mobile Giving: Text the keyword “oldstonecle” to 73256</p>
<p>Mail to: Old Stone Church Attn: Financial Office 91 Public Square Cleveland, OH 44113</p>	<p>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.</p>

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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