



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2, 2025
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY WITH COMMUNION
10 AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Land of Rest

Russell Schulz-Widmar

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

INTROIT

Create in Me

John Purifoy

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

Come, people of God, to the one in whom we trust.
Praise God who delivers and rescues us.

God is our rock of refuge, our strong fortress.

God saves us amid wickedness and cruelty.

Hope in God, who has created you.

Open yourself to the one who knows you well.

God accept, us, even when people do not.

God affirm, us, even when we fail.

Our God gives us tasks to do and strength to do them.

God's Word of love is ours to proclaim.

We have come to embrace the mysteries of our faith.

We are here to worship the God who empowers us.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

God of love,

**in whose name we have been consecrated for discipleship and service,
encounter us in this hour,**

that we may grow in knowledge and actions.

Disturb our certainties so we will be open to new insights.

Upset our priorities to make room for faith, hope, and love.

Expand our horizons to encompass ideas

we have not entertained before.

Open our hearts to people we have failed to welcome into our midst.

Perfect among us that childlike trust

that allows change to transform us in the presence of your love.

We pray in Jesus' name

Amen.



1. They raged at Je - sus' ser - mon in Je - sus' own home -
 2. God saved a for - eign wid - ow and res - cued her from
 3. In this world's noise and clat - ter, too of - ten val - ues
 4. O God, your love is wid - er than we can com - pre -



town, For in the things he taught them, he turned life up - side
 drought, For when she helped E - li - jah, God al - so helped her
 shift; We say Christ's words don't mat - ter and throw them off a
 hend; You reach to the out - sid - er and call the strang - er



down; It was - n't just their neigh - bors who knew God's love and
 out. In Naa - man, God's own fa - vor to oth - ers was re -
 cliff. We push a - side the strang - er, we walk right by the
 "friend." In Christ you gave a mes - sage tran - scend - ing time and



grace; For Je - sus said God fa - vors the ones we don't em - brace.
 vealed; Though man - y lo - cals suf - fered, that Sy - ri - an was healed.
 poor, We dis - re - gard the pris - on - er and say we mat - ter more.
 place, May we your church have cour - age to share your love and grace.

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* CALL TO CONFESSION

Stephen Willett

How often we have been ruled by our fears rather than our faith!
 How often we have trusted in things rather than in God!
 How seldom do we utter praise
 to the one who touches our lives with great possibilities!
 Let us seek God's forgiveness,
 that we may know God's mercy.
 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

**Merciful God, you know us better than we know ourselves,
but we have not believed this.**

**You care about us even when we do not love ourselves,
but it has been hard for us to understand that this is true.**

**We see so dimly and hear your Word so faintly
that we doubt your truth.**

We dare not trust the prophets or risk the cost of discipleship.

**We are afraid to believe, hope, and endure
when there is suffering all around us.**

**O God, grant us courage to change,
to follow Jesus in spite of ridicule and rejection.**

Yet keep us from insisting on our own way, which may not be your way.

(moment of silent confession)

* KYRIE ELEISON #551

Lord, Have Mercy

LAND OF REST

Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have
mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy;
Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God does not condemn us for our imperfection nor abandon us to our fears.

The one who designed our being

promises to be with us when we are challenged,

to deliver us when it seems the whole world is against us,

to love us at all times and in all circumstances.

We are forgiven, healed, and empowered for our ministry.

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

GLORIA PATRI

**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:

God has called the church to be an agent of change.

With prophetic voice and courageous work, we are to influence the world.

Such a task requires our best: our continued growth in faith,
our commitment to love, our giving of self and substance.

The resources we dedicate here are a symbol of our whole life response.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Ave Verum

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Ave, verum corpus
natum de Maria Virgine,
Vere passum immolatum
In cruce pro homine,
Cujus latus perforatum
Vero fluxit sanguine,
Esto nobis praegustatum
in mortis examine.

Hail, true body
born of the Virgin Mary,
Who truly suffered, sacrificed
on the Cross for man,
Whose pierced side overflowed
with water and blood,
Be for us a foretaste
In the test of death.

* DOXOLOGY #607 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessing Flow* 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

Stephen Willett

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**With awe and wonder before you, O God,
we dare to enlist all our efforts toward the realization of your realm.
Where there is injustice,
we would champion those oppressed and misunderstood.
When some feel rejected, we reach out to accept them in Christ's
name.
May these offerings preach and teach and heal.
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:

**Spirit of life, God of Love,
open our hearts and enter in,
that hearing your word of love,
we may become your love for others.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Epistle

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (Inclusive Bible)

Even if I speak in the tongues of earth—and those of the angels too—but do not have love, I am just a noisy gong, a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy such that I can comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge, or if I have faith great enough to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own to feed those poorer than I, then hand over my body to be burned, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind. Love is not jealous, it does not put on airs and is not snobbish; it is never rude or self-seeking; it is not prone to anger, nor does it brood over injuries. Love doesn't rejoice in what is wrong, but rejoices in the truth. There is no limit to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hopes, its power to endure.

Love never fails. Prophecies will cease; tongues will be silent; knowledge will pass away. Our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect. When the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away.

When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child. But when I became an adult, I put childish ways aside. Now we see indistinctly, as in a mirror; then we will see face to face. My knowledge is imperfect now; then I will know even as I am known.

There are, in the end, three things that last: faith, hope, and love.

But the greatest of these is love.

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

With God's help we are listening.

Then he said to them, “Today, in your hearing, this scripture passage is fulfilled.” All who were present spoke favorably of him; they marveled at the eloquence of the words on Jesus’ lips. They said, “Surely this isn’t Mary and Joseph’s son!” Jesus said to them, “Undoubtedly, you’ll quote me the proverb, ‘Physician, heal yourself,’ and say, ‘Do here in your own country the things we heard you did in Capernaum.’ But the truth is, prophets never gain acceptance in their hometown. The truth is, there were many women who were widowed in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens remained closed for three and a half years and a great famine spread over all the land. It was to none of these that Elijah was sent, but to a woman who had been widowed in Zarephath near Sidon. Recall, too, that many had leprosy in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet none was cured except Naaman the Syrian.”

At these words, the whole audience in the synagogue was filled with indignation. They rose up and dragged Jesus out of town, leading him to the brow of the hill on which the city was built, with the intention of hurling him over the edge. But he moved straight through the crowd and walked away.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“Living Love is Hard Work”



WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND FAITH

* HYMN #510

We Gather Here in Jesus' Name COME, SHARE THE LORD

Capo 3: (G) (D) (Em7)
B \flat F Gm7

1 We gath - er here in Je - sus' name;
2 He joins us here; he breaks the bread;
3 We'll gath - er soon where an - gels sing;

(D) (Asus)
F Csus

his love is burn - ing in our hearts like liv - ing flame;
the Lord who pours the cup is ris - en from the dead;
we'll see the glo - ry of our Lord and com - ing King;

(A7) (D) (A) (D)
C7 F C F

for through the lov - ing Son the Fa - ther makes us one:
the one we love the most is now our gra - cious host:
now we an - tic - i - pate the feast for which we wait:

(G) (D) (Em) (A) (D)
B \flat F Gm C F *Fine*

come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.

(A7) (D) (G) (A7) (D)
C7 F B \flat C7 F

(1) No one is a strang - er here; ♪ ev - ery - one be - longs.
(2) We are now a fam - i - ly, of which the Lord is head.

(G) (A7) (D) (Bm) (Em7) (Asus) (A)
B \flat C7 F Dm Gm7 Csus C

Find - ing our for - give - ness here, we in turn for - give all wrongs.
Though un - seen, he meets us here in the break - ing of the bread.

The center of this text recalls Christ's post-Resurrection meal at Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35), a reminder that the Risen Christ is in our midst when two or three gather in his name (Matthew 18:20) and share a foretaste of the Heavenly Feast (Matthew 26:29/Luke 22:18/Mark 14:25).

* INVITATION TO THE MEAL

This is the joyful feast of the People of God.
Men and women, youth and children,
come from the east and the west,
the north and the south and gather about Christ's table.
This table is for all who wish to know
the presence of Christ
and to share in the community of God's people.
It is not my table,
It is not Old Stone First Presbyterian Church's table,
it is the table of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
and all are welcome to receive.

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.

It is truly right and our greatest joy
to give you thanks and praise,
O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe.

We give thanks, O Lord,
that the days are surely coming when all the world will see
the fulfillment of your promise of salvation.
You alone are our righteousness,
our only hope for justice and peace.

Therefore, we praise you,
joining our voices with choirs of angels,
with prophets, apostles, and martyrs,
and with all the faithful of every time and place
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. In Christ, the tree of life, we have seen the first fruits of your holy realm. Though heaven and earth may pass away, Christ's word stands secure. Even now, we look for the day of his coming in power and great glory. Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and the fruit of the vine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service. Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night of his arrest, Jesus gathered around table with his companions. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said,

**Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melek ha'olam
hamotzi lekhem min ha'aretz.**

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

“This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

He did the same with the cup after the supper, saying,

**Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melek ha'olam
borei p'ri hagafen.**

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

“This is the new covenant sealed in my blood.
Whenever you drink of 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 the bread we break and the cup we bless
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
By your Spirit, unite us with Christ
and with your church in all the world.

Teach us to pray night and day
that we may see you face to face.
Strengthen us in holiness, faithfulness, joy,
and love so that we may be ready
at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.
We pray for all in need of healing,
whether it be in body, mind, or spirit...

JoAnn Hood, Ryan Hubert, Donna Sue Buchanan,
David Kropf, Shelley Wheeler,
Angela Augustus and family, Robert Leathers and family, Lori Montero and family
We pray for the repose of the soul of Jeanne Thorpe,
may her memory be a blessing.

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.**

Sanctify and shape us into the image of Christ's body,
so that our lives may be a holy offering of love and praise.
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

Take this bread, share the fruit of the vine.
In these Christ comes to us with love from God.
The gifts of God for the people of God.

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

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Nunc Dimittis

René Clausen

Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared for all.
A light to lighten the Gentiles, a light to thy servant Israel,
To the glory of thy people Israel. Amen.

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

**O God, through this bread and this cup,
you have made us one with You
and with each other.
May the unity we find at this table
be a gift we carry out into Your world.
May this unity empower us
to make room for all of God's people.
Amen.**

God of all u - ni - ty, we seek your face;
 God of all right - eous-ness, we long for peace;
 God of all gen - tle - ness, we need your grace,
 God of all em - pa - thy, we ask your care

we long for sol - ace and the warmth of your em - brace.
 Break through op - pres - sion's chains till all have sweet re - lease.
 Strength - en our pat - ience; give us faith to run the race.
 for those who are a - fraid and hear de - crees that scare.

Fear steals our joy; we feel be - reft, a - lone.
 Kin - dle in us new fire for what is just.
 Save us from pride, for you give us our worth.
 Shield with your mer - cy all thought last and least.

Make our lives an hon - est prayer, for we are your own.
 Let us speak the truth in love; teach our hearts to trust.
 May we hum - bly learn to walk light - ly on this earth.
 Bring cre - a - tion to sha - lom, crowned by your great feast.

WORDS: Nathan A. Russell, 2025
MUSIC: Ann MacKenzie, 1988

DEPTHS
10.12.10.12

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Go forth with faith to move mountains.

Reach out with love that transforms the world.

Love is patient and kind, not jealous or boastful.

Love rejoices in all that is right, not in wrong.

Let the Scripture be fulfilled by your faithfulness.

Let the Word take flesh in all you do.

Love bears, believes, hopes, and endures.

We participate in the love of God that never ends.

God promises to be our rock and our refuge.

God is ever with us to deliver us.

God's Word will be in our mouths.

God's love will warm our spirits.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

John Rutter

POSTLUDE

“Overture” from *Cantata No. 147* Johann Sebastian Bach

*“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:

JoAnn Hood, Ryan Hubert, Donna Sue Buchanan,
David Kropf, Shelley Wheeler,
Angela Augustus and family, Robert Leathers and family, Lori Montero and family

We pray for the repose of the soul of Jeanne Thorpe,
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.



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



With keen insight and unwavering conviction, visionary pastor Kathy Escobar guides readers on a Lenten journey inspired by the ways of Jesus to dismantle the systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice.

Join Pastor Stephen Wednesdays in Lent for this insightful book discussion via ZOOM from 7PM– 8PM.

Please email Anthony@oldstonechurch.org to sign up and request a book for \$10.00.

@ Old Stone Church

Sunday February 2

9:00AM Bible Study-Pastor Denise/Gallery

10:00AM Worship with Communion/Sanctuary

Tuesday February 4

7:00PM Commentary on the Gospel of John/ZOOM

Wednesday February 5

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

7:00PM Romans: A Letter for Today/ZOOM

Sunday February 9

9:00AM Bible Study-Pastor Denise/Gallery

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

11:30AM Mission and Urban Wellness Committee Meeting/
Cuyahoga Room/Second Floor

Tuesday February 11

7:00PM Commentary on the Gospel of John/ZOOM

Wednesday February 12

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

7:00PM Romans: A Letter for Today/ZOOM

Thursday February 13

2:00PM Worship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Sunday February 16

9:00AM Bible Study-Pastor Denise/Gallery

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

Tuesday February 18

7:00PM Commentary on the Gospel of John/ZOOM

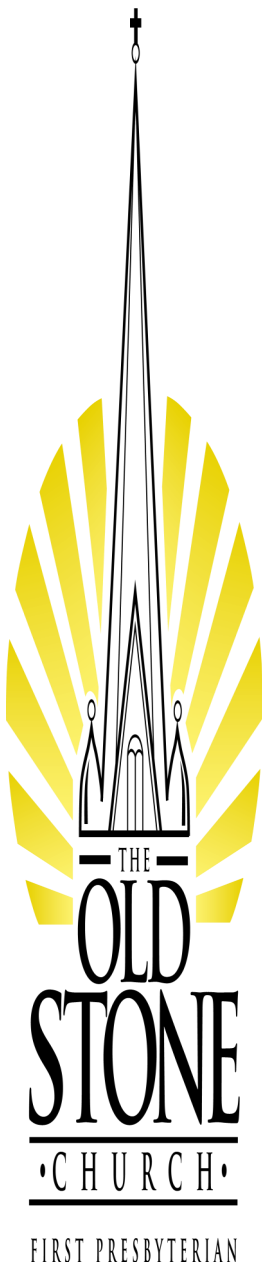
Wednesday February 19

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

7:00PM Romans: A Letter for Today/ZOOM

Tuesday February 20

7:00PM FPS Directors Meeting/Conference Room



Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:85 Online:223

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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Phone: 216-241-6145 **Fax:** 216-241-6149

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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*

Samuel Jungman, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

Reese Henrick, *alto*

Elizabeth Rickel, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Christopher Clark, *bass*

Albert Donze, *bass*

Church Elders:

Clerk of Session: Beth Buchanan

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 2027

Michelle Baron

Janie Chambers

Fred Heider

Bernard Medie

Bob Reid

Church Deacons:

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

Class of 2027

Anand Bandari

Eric Grattan

Sunny Kunche

Lori Lippert

Amy Wheeler

John Wheeler

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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.