



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

FEBRUARY 23, 2025
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Invocation from "*Melodic Suite*"

Charles Callahan

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Virgil Thomson

My Shepherd will supply my need, Jehova is his name.
In pastures fresh he makes me feed beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back when I forsake his ways.
He leads me for his mercy's sake in paths of truth and grace.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Come near to one another and to our God.
Be still before the one who fulfills our hearts' desires.

This is a time for meeting and greeting.

This is the hour for quieting life's stresses and worries.

Wait patiently, for God will be revealed to us.

God is our refuge in whom we trust.

We believe God is here and will be known by us.

Our faith nourishes us as we rest in God's care.

We are here to receive life in all its abundance.

God is providing for us and has a purpose for us.

God raises us up and sends us forth.

Surely God will help us wherever we go.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

Loving God, you bring light to our days and hope to our hearts.

We draw near to you as survivors of another week, grateful for your care.

**You have provided for us, preserved our lives,
and invited us once more to this time of prayer.**

**Now we would be still before you,
leaving behind our distress and anger,
entrusting our weaknesses to your empowering spirit.**

Raise us up to embrace your way of love.

Amen.

* HYMN #346

For the Healing of the Nations

ST. THOMAS

1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, Lord, we pray with
2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your
3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
earth be banned: pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness,

of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of
all may come and go in peace. Show us how through
dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon
bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.
care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.
quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.
sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

The first line of this text quotes the declared purpose of the leaves of the tree of life growing beside the river of life in the heavenly Jerusalem (Revelation 22:2). The hymn continues by identifying some of the many ways we are called to share with God in this healing work.

TEXT: Fred Kaan, 1965
MUSIC: John Francis Wade, c. 1750; harm. *Hymns Ancient & Modern*, 1861
Text © 1968 Hope Publishing Company

ST. THOMAS (Wade)
8.7.8.7

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Pam Daly

Are we envious because the wicked seem to prosper
while righteous people struggle?
Are we impatient with those whose ways disappoint us?
Do we judge others by standards we ourselves cannot keep?
Jesus invites us to examine ourselves,
that we may be freed from the oppression of our own attitudes.
Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
followed by time for silent personal confession.
Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Kind God, we have sinned against you.
We have judged and condemned those whose actions offend us.
We hesitate to forgive our enemies or make allowances
for the behavior of those less fortunate than ourselves.
We confess that we do not pray regularly for our friends,
much less for our enemies.
Our giving is motivated by self-interest
as much as by thankfulness and compassion.
We admit our failures and ask once more for pardon and renewal,
in Jesus' name.**

(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 is merciful and calls on us to offer mercy
to those who have wronged us. God forgives and bids us to forgive others.
God's love is always available to us, and we are to pass it on.
God provides for us; and out of that bounty,
we minister to our sisters and brothers.
Let us live as people who recognize and appreciate God's gifts.

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.

Our prosperity in comparison with most of the world's people gives us the joyous opportunity to be generous.

We can go beyond the expected tithes and offerings required of our spiritual ancestors.

We are privileged to offer mercy and help that can transform the lives of others.

Let us give with delight that our brothers and sisters may live.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, almighty God,

Who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell there-in, rejoice on earth,

Ye saints below, for Christ is coming, is coming soon.

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;

They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all!

* 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

Pam Daly

Let us join our voices in prayer:

Receive our joy, O God, along with our gifts.

We reach out with this offering to do good in and through our church.

May any who have harmed others be helped.

Heal us of unjust anger, jealousy, and strife.

**Through our shared life in this community of faith,
create in us the image of one who dwells in heaven.**

Let us share with the whole world

the blessings we receive from your hand.

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

**Gracious God, by your Word
you provide all we need—for salvation,
for wholeness, for abundant life.
Now draw us close in your Spirit
so that we may discover your will
and live according to your purposes;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Hebrew Scripture

Genesis 45:3-11, 15 (Inclusive Bible)

Joseph said to his brothers, "It is I—Joseph! Is my father really still alive?" The brothers could not answer, so dumbfounded were they. Then Joseph said to the brothers, "Come closer to me." When they had come closer he said to them, "I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt! Please don't rebuke yourselves for having sold me here. God sent me here ahead of you so that I could save your lives. There has been famine in the land for two years, and for the next five years there will be no tilling and no harvesting. But God sent me ahead of you to guarantee that you will have descendants on earth and to keep you alive as a great body of survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God! God has made me Pharaoh's chief counselor, the head of his household and governor of all Egypt. Hurry back to our father and give him this message from Joseph: 'God has made me governor of all Egypt. Come to me here at once! Do not delay. You will live here near me in the territory of Goshen, you, your children, your grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all your possessions. I will provide for you here—for the next five years will be years of famine—so that you and your children and all that you own will be spared from destitution.'" Then he kissed his other brothers, weeping over them as well, and then he and his brothers talked.

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

With God's help we are listening.

Gospel

Luke 6:27-38 (Inclusive Bible)

“To you who hear me, I say: Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. When they slap you on one cheek, turn and give them the other; when they take your coat, let them have your shirt as well. Give to all who beg from you. When someone takes what is yours, don’t demand it back. Do to others what you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit does that do you? Even ‘sinners’ love those who love them. If you do good only to those who do good to you, what credit does that do you? Even ‘sinners’ do as much. If you lend to those you expect to repay you, what credit does that do you? Even ‘sinners’ lend to other ‘sinners,’ expecting to be paid in full. Love your enemies and do good to them. Lend without expecting repayment, and your reward will be great. You’ll rightly be called children of the Most High, since God is good even to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be compassionate, as your loving God is compassionate. Don’t judge, and you won’t be judged. Don’t condemn, and you won’t be condemned. Pardon, and you’ll be pardoned. Give, and it will be given to you: a full measure—packed down, shaken together and running over—will be poured into your lap. For the amount you measure out is the amount you’ll be given back.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“God is Good”



THE APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
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 O God of ev - ery na - tion, of ev - ery race and land,
 2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
 3 Lord, strength-en those who la - bor that all may find re - lease
 4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,

re - deem the whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand.
 from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night,
 from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;
 when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,

Where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,
 from pride of race and sta - tion and blind - ness to your way,
 when hope and cour - age fal - ter, your still small voice be heard;
 till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and jus - tice reign

in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.
 de - liv - er ev - ery na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.
 with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.
 and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

If we truly believe that God cares for all people, we cannot limit our prayers and songs for peace to the welfare of our own nation, no matter how much we may love it. This challenging text is set to a stirring Welsh tune, named for a hamlet with a prominent Baptist chapel.

TEXT: William W. Reid Jr., 1958, alt.

MUSIC: Welsh folk melody; *Llwybrau Moliant*, 1872; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906
 Text © 1958, ren. 1986 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

LLANGLOFFAN

7.6.7.6.D

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Love your enemies and do good.
Lend to others, expecting nothing in return.

**As we want people to treat us,
we commit ourselves to treat them.**

Judge not, and you will not be judged.
Condemn not, and you will not be condemned.

**We want to forgive as God forgives us.
We would be merciful as God is merciful.**

God will raise you up to new life.
Be still before God and wait patiently each day.

**God is our refuge and our salvation.
We recommit our ways to God.**

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

John Rutter

POSTLUDE

Toccata in E Minor

Johann Pachelbel

*“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:

Tony Carlos, Shirley Caldwell, JoAnn Hood, Timothy Truitt, Donna Sue Buchanan,
David Kropf, Shelley Wheeler, Jordan's family and friends,
Angela Augustus and family

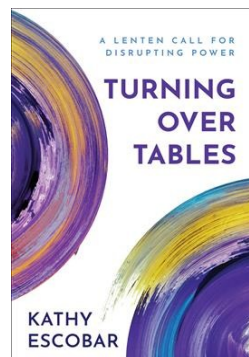
We pray for those struggling with illness, convalescing, homebound or in need.

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.



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 23

9:00AM Bible Study-Pastor Denise/Gallery

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

Tuesday February 25

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

Wednesday February 26

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

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

Sunday March 2

9:00AM Bible Study-Pastor Denise/Gallery

10:00AM Worship with Communion/Sanctuary

Tuesday March 4

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

Wednesday March 5/Ash Wednesday

12:00PM Ash Wednesday Service/Sanctuary

Sunday March 9/Lent I

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

Tuesday March 11

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

Wednesday March 12

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

7:00PM Turning Over Tables Book Study/ZOOM

Thursday March 13

2:00PM Worship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Sunday March 16/Lent II

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel



Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:47 Online:259

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

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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.