



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

MARCH 23, 2025
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

What is the World Like

NEW WORLD

WELCOME

Pastor Denise Clark-Jones

INTROIT

Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled

Paul K. McKay

Do not let your hearts be troubled, trust in God and trust in me.
There are many rooms in my Father's house, if there were not, I would have told you.
I go to prepare a place for you, so that where I am, you may be there too.
I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father but through me.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, Trust in God, and trust in me.

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters.

You who have no money, come, buy, and eat!

Our souls thirst for God in a dry and weary land.

We seek God's power and glory in the sanctuary.

Listen carefully to God and eat what is good;

delight yourselves in the rich food God provides.

Here our souls are satisfied as with a rich feast.

Together our mouths praise God with joyful lips.

God offers us steadfast love and a covenant relationship.

We are called to be faithful witnesses and leaders.

We have come to meditate on the living God.

We seek inspiration and empowerment to do what God asks.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

We come before you, gracious God, seeking what money cannot buy.

Only you can provide nourishment for our souls.

There is no other source of meaning in our mixed-up world.

We can find no fountain of strength or sustenance apart from you.

Surely you can be found where two or three are gathered together.

As a community of faith, we call on you,

believing that you are nearer than our next breath,

more available to us than we can think,

more caring than we ever dare to imagine.

Uphold us now that we may worship on wings of joy.

Amen.

* HYMN #442

Just as I Am, without One Plea

WOODWORTH

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that thy
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come,
4 Just as I am, thy love un-known has bro - ken

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that thy
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a
 3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come,
 4 Just as I am, thy love un-known has bro - ken

blood was shed for me, and that thou biddest me
 con - flict, man - y a doubt, fight - ings and fears with -
 par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise
 ev - ery bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea,

come to thee,
 in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!
 I be - lieve, thine a - lone,

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Harriet Niles

God's gifts are available to all,
 yet some do not use them for the common good.
 God is faithful, extending love to everyone,
 yet many of us create idols to occupy our time and attention.
 We are blessed far beyond our deserving,
 yet we grumble and complain.
 How desperately we need to turn around and find new direction!
 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 have been tempted, loving God,
to go our own way without reference to eternal truths.
We seek our own gratification
rather than the well-being of all your children.
We compare ourselves to others
and find their failures but seldom discover our own shortcomings.
We seek to build our lives by our own limited design
rather than by your larger purposes.
We engage in immorality in the name of freedom
and become enslaved by our selfish ambitions.
The ground on which we stand is crumbling under our feet.
O God, forgive us and grant us a firmer foundation.**
(moment of silent confession)

* KYRIE ELEISON #575

Lord, Have Mercy upon Us

KYRIE ELEISON



* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God grants us strength to overcome temptation
and offers us a second chance to produce the fruits of repentance.
Receive these gifts from God
who is faithful in covenant with us and all people.
Open yourselves to the continued guidance of the Holy One,
for God's steadfast love is better than life.
God's mercy is abundant; God's provision for us is extravagant.
God's ways are higher than our own.
Praise God with joyful lips.
Thanks be to God.

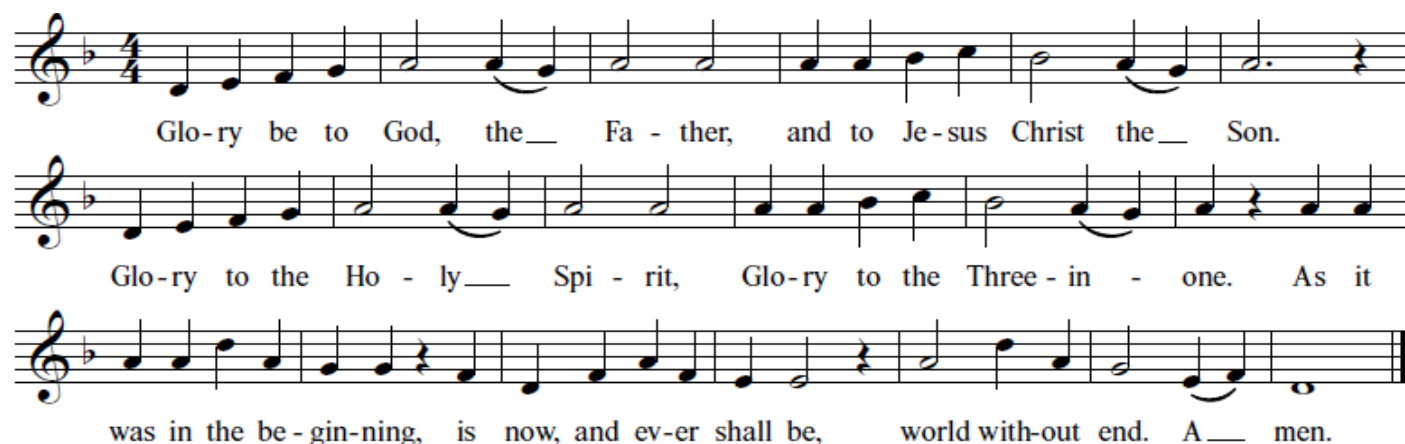
* PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

* GLORIA #581

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI



Glo-ry be to God, the Fa - ther, and to Je - sus Christ the Son.

Glo-ry to the Ho - ly Spi - rit, Glo-ry to the Three - in - one. As it

was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A men.

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.

Why do we use our money for things that do not satisfy,
or invest our time in activities without meaning or purpose?

God offers us a way of life that satisfies.

What we cannot buy, God freely gives us.

Our offerings are one way of expressing our thanks.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Adoramus te in C minor

Quirino Gasparini

Adoramus te, Christe,
et benedicimus tibi,
quia per sanctam crucem tuam
redemisti mundum.
Qui passus es pro nobis,
Domine, Domine, miserere nobis.

We adore you, Christ
and we bless you
you whom by the Holy Cross
have redeemed the world.
He whom has suffered on our behalf
Lord, Lord, have mercy on us.

* DOXOLOGY #608

Praise God, from Whom All Blessing Flow

PRAISE GOD

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Harriet Niles

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**All that we present to you now, O God,
we have received from your hand.
We give so the hungry may eat and the thirsty may receive pure water.
We share to send the good news of your Word
to those who have not heard.
We invest in just causes,
that your mercy may be known among all people.
Most of all, we give because passing on your gifts
in generous response is necessary to life.
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.

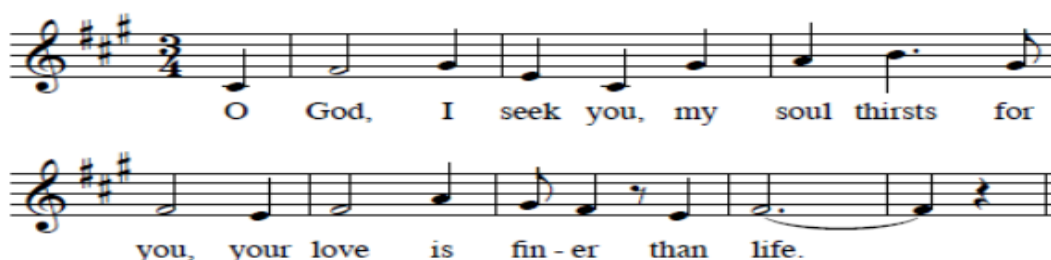
WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**We seek you in your word, O God,
as though we are searching for water in a dry and weary land.
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
may this word be to us a rich feast, satisfying the soul.
Then with our mouths, we will praise you;
and with our lives, we will bless you,
our Host and our Hope. Amen.**

THE READINGS

Psalms 63:1-8 *Your Love Is Finer Than Life* Marty Haugen
(Verses are sung by the choir, Congregation joins in the refrain)



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As a dry and weary desert land, so my soul is thirsting for my God,
And my flesh is faint for the God I seek, for Your love is more to me than life. **R/.**

I think of You when at night I rest, I reflect upon Your steadfast love.
I will cling to You, oh Lord my God, in the shadow of Your wings I sing. **R/.**

I will bless Your name all the days I live, I will raise my hands and call on You.
My joyful lips shall sing Your praise, You alone have filled my hungry soul. **R/.**

Epistle

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 (Inclusive Bible)

I want you to remember this: our ancestors were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; by the cloud and the sea all of them were baptized into Moses. All ate the same spiritual food. All drank the same spiritual drink—they drank from the spiritual rock that was following them, and the rock was Christ, yet we know that God was not pleased with most of them, for “they were struck down in the desert.” These things happened as example to keep us from evil desire such as theirs.

Do not become idolaters, as some of them were, for scripture says, “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.” We must not take part in sexual immorality, as some of them did; twenty-three thousand of them died in one day. We must not test our God, as some of them did; they were killed by snakes. Nor are you to grumble as some of them did, for which they were killed by the destroying angel. The things that happened to them serve as an example and have been written as a warning to us, upon whom the end of the ages has come. For all these reasons, let those who think they are standing upright watch out lest they fall! No test has overtaken you but what is common to all people. You are to be confident that God is faithful and will not let you be tested beyond your means. And with any trial God will provide you with a way out of it, as well as the strength to bear the trial.

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

With God’s help we are listening.

Gospel

Luke 13:1-9 (Inclusive Bible)

On the same occasion, there were people present who told Jesus about some Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their own sacrifices.

Jesus replied, “Do you think these Galileans were the greatest sinners in Galilee just because they suffered this? Not at all! I tell you, you’ll all come to the same end unless you change your ways. Or take those eighteen who were killed by a falling tower of Siloam. Do you think that they were more guilty than anyone else who has lived in Jerusalem? Certainly not! I tell you, you’ll all come to the same end unless you change your ways.”

Jesus told this parable: “There was a fig tree growing in a vineyard. The owner came out looking for fruit on it, but didn’t find any. The owner said to the vine dresser, ‘Look here! For three years now I’ve come out in search of fruit on this fig tree and have found none. Cut it down. Why should it clutter up the ground?’ In reply, the vine dresser said, ‘Please leave it one more year while I hoe around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine; if not, then let it be cut down.’”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Denise Clark-Jones

“The Lenten Journey: from Confession to Compassion”



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 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

This stirring hymn used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930 was penned by its widely-known and influential pastor, and it has gained a firm place in English-language hymnals around the world. The Welsh tune name honors the Rhondda Valley in Glamorganshire.

TEXT: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930, alt.
 MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA
 8.7.8.7.8.7.7

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

God sends us out as witnesses to good news.

May our lips praise God as long as we live.

God's steadfast love is better than life;

God's mercy and pardon break through life's clouds.

Call on God in the midst of each day's tasks;

meditate on God's presence through the night.

God is our help in all times and places;

we will call on God's name wherever we are.

God will grant us strength to resist temptation

and vision to labor for what truly satisfies.

Praise God, whose waters quench our thirst.

Thank God for the bread of life that feeds our souls.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,

The love of God,

And the communion of the Holy Spirit

Be with you all.

Amen.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Nine-fold Amen

Allie Laurie

POSTLUDE

Toccata in G Minor, P. 468

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:

Annie Carlos, Katheryn Maynard, Darlene, Tony Carlos, Shirley Caldwell,
JoAnn Hood, Timothy Truitt, Donna Sue Buchanan, Shelley Wheeler,
Deborah, Shannice

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.

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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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

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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