



# THE OLD STONE CHURCH

MARCH 30, 2025  
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT  
**10AM Sanctuary Worship**

## WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

*Vater unser im Himmelreich*

Johann Sebastian Bach

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Graham Ball

\* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

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.

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

A new day has dawned, God's gift to us;  
 the fruits of the land are ours to enjoy.

**We are a new creation in Jesus Christ;  
 the old has passed away, the new has come.**

This is a day for forgiveness and reconciliation;  
 celebrate God's love for the lost who are found.

**The glad cries of deliverance surround us;  
 shouts of joy arise from our hearts.**

Let all who are faithful offer up prayers;  
 may all who are in Christ give thanks.

**We will be glad and join the dance of life;  
 with the upright of heart, we rejoice and sing.**

## \* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**Welcoming God,  
 we have gathered together so that you may teach us  
 the way we should go.  
 In our times of distress and need, you have provided.  
 When we have stubbornly followed our own plans,  
 you have curbed our impulses.  
 From our days of confusion and aimless wandering,  
 you have rescued us and restored us to our true identity.  
 Meet us now as we worship together to shape us  
 into a righteous, reconciling people.  
 Amen.**

## \* HYMN #771

*What Is the World Like*

## NEW WORLD

Capo 1: (G) A<sup>b</sup> (Em7) Fm7 (C) D<sup>b</sup> (D) E<sup>b</sup>


1 What is the world like when God's will is done?  
 2 What is the world like when God's will is done?  
 3 What is the world like when God's will is done?  
 4 What is the world like when God's will is done?  
 5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,

(Em) (C) (Am) (B7)  
Fm D<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>m C7



Mus - tard seeds grow more than we can con - ceive:  
Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;  
No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;  
Read - y for feast - ing, we watch through the night,  
filled with the Spir - it who joins us as one.

(Em) (Am) (D) (G)  
Fm B<sup>b</sup>m E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>



roots thread the soil; branch - es reach for the sun.  
watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.  
peace thrives in plac - es where once there was none.  
tend - ing our lamps till the new day's be - gun.  
Born through our voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,

(C) (Em7) (Am7) (D) (G)  
D<sup>b</sup> Fm7 B<sup>b</sup>m7 E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>



This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.  
This is how God longs for us when we roam.  
This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.  
This is how God read - ies us for the light.  
this is a new world where God's will is done.

This text and tune were written to conclude a hymn festival at the 2009 Annual Conference of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. Four parables framed both the festival and the hymn: the Mustard Seed, the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan, and the Ten Bridesmaids.

TEXT: Adam M. L. Tice, 2009  
MUSIC: Sally Ann Morris, 2009  
Text and Music © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc.

NEW WORLD  
10.10.10.10

## \* CALL TO CONFESSION

Melissa Maffia

We pause to consider how far we may have wandered  
from our home with God.  
Are we sometimes like a horse or mule whose temper must be curbed?  
Have we turned away from responsibility  
in order to seek shallow pleasures and selfish gratification?  
Or do we consider ourselves above reproach,  
looking down on those mired in the pigpens of life?  
Wherever we are, whoever we are, there is much to confess.  
Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,  
followed by time for silent personal confession.  
Thus, we pray:

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we will not try to hide from you  
the wrong we have done or the good we have neglected.  
You know our transgressions.  
You have observed our pretensions.  
We have claimed too lightly the label "Christian,"  
for often we cut ourselves off from you and from people we disdain.  
At times our rebellion leaves us hungry, alone, and friendless.  
O God, we are not worthy to be called your children.  
Grant us, we pray, your forgiveness and pardon  
and a renewed sense of who you intend us to be and to become.  
*(moment of silent confession)*

\* KYRIE ELEISON #575      *Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us*      KYRIE ELEISON



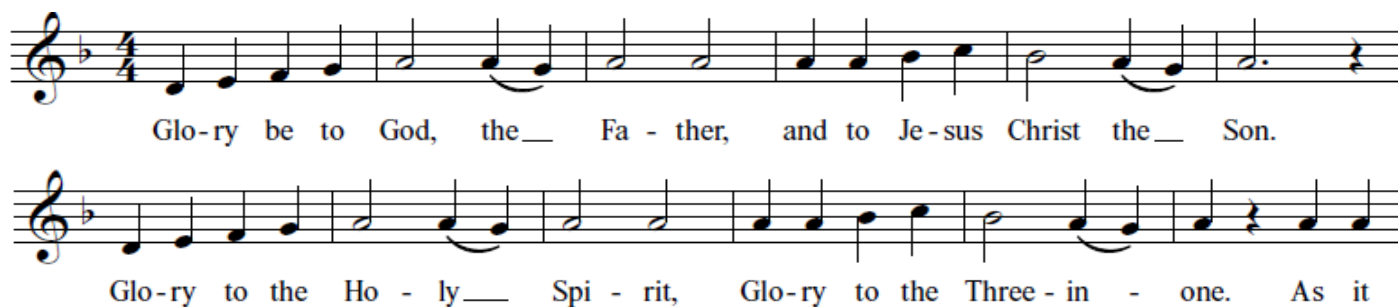
\* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

We are assured that God forgives the guilt of our sin.  
Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.  
Happy are those to whom God imputes no iniquity  
and, in whose spirit, there is no deceit.  
Rejoice, for God has brought us back to life!  
**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      *Glory Be to the Father*      PICARDY







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

## OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.

We have been granted more than our share of the world's wealth.

Often we have forgotten the source of our bounty.

We grasp and spend as if all were ours to indulge our desires.

This is the time to reexamine

our management of what is really God's property,

entrusted to us for a little while.

The offering will now be received.

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*God So Loved the World*

John Stainer

God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,  
that whoso believeth, should not perish but have everlasting life.

For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world.  
But that the world through Him might be saved.

God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoso believeth,  
should not perish but have everlasting life. God so loved the world.

### \* 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

Melissa Maffia

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**Thank you, God,**

**for proclaiming our worth when we do not value ourselves.**

**Thank you for welcoming us to a celebration of life  
with so many precious gifts.**

**Thank you now for the privilege of sharing  
so others may be led to your joyous embrace.**

**Help us to be generous in gratitude  
for your lavish provision for all our needs.**

**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

**Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit  
open our minds and bodies to the re-creating power of your Word,  
that we may see the world through the mind of Christ  
and live in the world as a foretaste of your new creation.  
In Jesus' name we pray.  
Amen.**

## THE READINGS

Psalms 32

*How Blest, Those Whose Transgressions*

MEIRIONYDD



1. How\_\_ blest, those whose trans - gres - sions have free - ly been for -  
2. While I kept guilt - ty si - lence, my strength was spent with  
3. So\_\_ let the\_\_ god - ly seek you, when trou - bling times are  
given; whose guilt is\_\_ whol - ly cov - ered be - fore the sight of  
grief. Your hand was heav - y on me; my life found no re -  
near; no\_\_ storm or\_\_ flood shall reach them, nor cause their hearts to  
heaven. Blest, those to whom our Lord God will not im - pute their sin: whose  
lief. But when I made con - fes - sion and hid no sin from you, when  
fear. In you, O Lord, I hide me; you save me from all ill. And\_\_  
guilt has been for - giv - en; whose hearts, made true a - gain.  
I re - vealed my fail - ings, you gave me life a - new.  
songs of\_\_ your sal - va - tion my heart with rap - ture fill.

And so from now on, we don't look on anyone in terms of mere human judgement. Even if we once regarded Christ in these terms, that is not how we know Christ now. And for anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old order has passed away; now everything is new!

All of this is from God, who ransomed us through Christ—and made us ministers of that reconciliation. This means that through Christ, the world was fully reconciled to God, who didn't hold our transgressions against us, but instead entrusted us with this message of reconciliation.

This makes us Christ's ambassadors, as though God was making the appeal directly through us. Therefore we implore you in Christ's name: be reconciled to God. For our sake, God made the One who was without sin to be sin, so that by this means we might become the very holiness of God.

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

**With God's help we are listening.**

Meanwhile, the tax collectors and the "sinners" were all gathering around Jesus to listen to his teaching, at which the Pharisees and the religious scholars murmured, "This person welcomes sinners and eats with them!"

Jesus then addressed this parable to them: "A man who had two sons. The younger of them said to their father, 'Give me the share of the estate that is coming to me.' So the father divided up the property between them. Some days later, the younger son gathered up his belongings and went off to a distant land. Here he squandered his money on loose living.

After everything was spent, a great famine broke out in the land, and the son was in great need. So he went to a landowner, who sent him to a farm to take care of the pigs. The son was so hungry that he could have eaten the husks that were fodder for the pigs, but no one made a move to give him anything.

Coming to his senses at last, he said, 'How many hired hands at my father's house have more than enough to eat, while here I am starving! I'll quit and go back home and say, I've sinned against God and against you; I no longer deserve to be called one of your children. Treat me like one of your hired hands.'

With that, the younger son set off for home.

While still a long way off, the father caught sight of the returning child and was deeply moved. The father ran out to meet him, put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'I've sinned against God and against you; I no longer deserve to be called one of your children.' But his father said to one of the workers, 'Quick! Bring out the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. Take the calf we've been fattening and butcher it. Let's eat and celebrate! This son of mine was dead and has come back to life. He was lost and now he's found!' And the celebration began.

Meanwhile the elder son had been out in the field. As he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the workers and asked what was happening. The worker answered, 'Your brother is home, and the fatted calf has been killed because your father has him back safe and sound.' The son got angry at this and refused to go in to the party, but his father came out and pleaded with him. The older son replied, 'Look! For years now I've done every single thing you asked me to do. I never disobeyed even one of your orders, yet you never gave me so much as a kid goat to celebrate with my friends. But then this son of yours came home after going through your money with prostitutes, and you kill the fatted calf for him!' 'But my child!' the father said, 'You're with me always, and everything I have is yours. But we have to celebrate and rejoice! This brother of yours was dead and has come to life. He was lost and now he's found.'"

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams  
"Becoming Human"





## 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.**

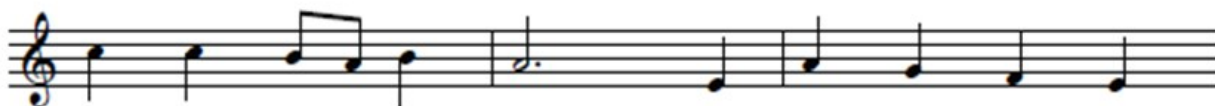
## LIGHTING OF CANDLES, PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered And  
 2. And now at length dis - cern - ing The  
 3. O Lord of all the liv - ing, Both



hid - den from your face; In fool - ish - ness have  
 e - vil that we do, Be - hold us, Lord, re -  
 ban - ished and re - stored, Com - pas - sion - ate, for -



squan - dered Your leg - a - cy of grace. But  
 turn - ing With hope and trust to you. In  
 giv - ing, And ev - er - car - ing Lord, Grant



now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, We  
 haste you come to meet us And  
 now that our trans - gress - ing, Our



rise with fear and shame, As, dis - tant but com -  
 home re - joic - ing bring, In glad - ness there to  
 faith - less - ness may cease. Stretch out your hand in



pell - ing, We hear you call our name.  
 greet us With calf and robe and ring.  
 bless - ing, In par - don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929-2006, © 1980, ICEL

Tune: PASSION CHORALE, 7 6 7 6 D; Hans Leo Hassler, 1564-1612; harm. by J. S. Bach, 1685-1750

\* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Stay near to God during the week that lies ahead;  
be faithful in your times of prayer.

**God is our hiding place and present help;  
we will speak to God and for God this week.**

Live as ambassadors of Jesus Christ every day;  
rejoice when a sister or brother returns home to God.

**We will seek to love as we have been loved;  
we will welcome, not judge, our brothers and sisters.**

We have been reconciled to God through Jesus Christ;  
God's love and compassion will be with us always.

**We will be glad and rejoice in God's goodness;  
we will share the joy of God's love.**

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

*Nine-fold Amen*

Allie Laurie

POSTLUDE

*Toccata in G Major*

Wilhelm Hieronymous 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,  
Patricia Kappe, Deborah, Shannice, Ken Topar, Evi, Paolo, Angel Eduardo,  
Valera and Pacheco Families

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: <a href="http://oldstonechurch.org/giving/">oldstonechurch.org/giving/</a>	Mobile Giving: Text the keyword <b>"oldstonecle"</b> 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](http://www.OldStoneChurch.org) **E-Mail:** [info@OldStoneChurch.org](mailto: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

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.