

The Old Stone Church

APRIL 13, 2025 PALM SUNDAY **10AM Sanctuary Worship**

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Fanfare on "Thine Is the Glory" Charles Callahan

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

Hosanna to the Son of David

Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Morning after morning, God grants us a new day; wake up to the joys and challenges life presents.

This is the day that God has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

God equips us to face whatever the day may hold; watch and listen as God offers to teach us.

We gather, seeking a blessing in the name of God.

We come, thanking God for the gift of salvation.

See the gates of righteousness thrown open for us; enter to praise God's marvelous works.

God's steadfast love endures forever! Blessed is the one who comes in God's name.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

We stand together, mighty God,

for you have sustained us through weary days and anguished nights.

We join the shouts of welcome,

"Blessed is the one who comes in God's name.

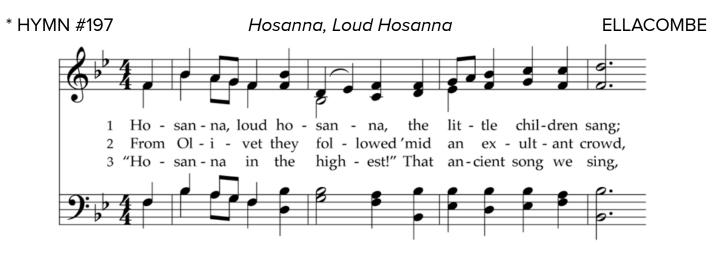
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest."

This is a day of celebration.

We have witnessed the transforming power of Jesus' compassion. But there are ominous overtones.

There are voices that say peace is a mirage and love will not endure. We cling to our faith that your steadfast love embraces life and death, that we are surrounded and upheld by your goodness.

Meet us here, we pray. Amen.



² Hearing loop installed. Switch hearing aid to T-coil



The opening two stanzas narrate the first Palm Sunday in the past tense, but the third stanza shifts to the present tense to emphasize what current singers do and believe. The repeated elements in this anonymous German tune suggest the repetitive patterns in a crowd's chant.

TEXT: Jennette Threlfall, 1873, alt. MUSIC: Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Wirtembergischen Katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784; alt.

ELLACOMBE 7.6.7.6.D

* CALL TO CONFESSION

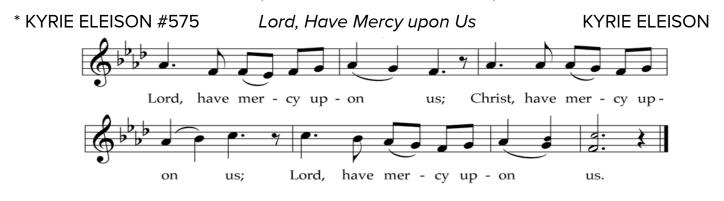
Come, all who are waving branches to welcome the Savior. When the light shines on us, we see the shadows we create. We sense our need for a faith more deeply grounded and a love more fully committed. Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession, followed by time for silent personal confession. Thus, we pray:

Kristi Sawicki

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess, O God, that we identify with times of optimism and applause. We like a religion that makes us feel good. We prefer safety and security and certainty. Then Jesus comes, riding on a donkey, reaching out to outsiders, proclaiming humble obedience as a virtue, challenging powerful people to change their ways. We sense danger. When Christ upsets our craving for stability, we turn away from the risks. We do not want to be rejected or face a cross. We are not sure we really want to be Christians. O God, help us!

(moment of silent confession)



* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God contends with us in our fears, identifies our rebellion, and transforms our contrition into courage. Our Creator does not give up on us when we are discouraged or reject us when our pretensions get out of hand. God, who exalted Jesus, is ready to forgive and lift us up. Christ walks with us on the way of faithfulness,

empowering us to become the disciples we are called to be.

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.





OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated. If Jesus Christ is to reign among us, much more will be needed than our praise and rejoicing when we are together. How do we witness and serve when we are apart? How much of ourselves and our substance will we invest? The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM	Adoramus te in C minor	Quirino Gasparini
Adoramus te, Christe,	We adore you, Christ	

et benedicimus tibi, quia per sanctam crucem tuam redemisti mundum. We adore you, Christ and we bless you you whom by the Holy Cross have redeemed 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

Kristi Sawicki

Let us join our voices in prayer:

Grateful for your grace that is new every morning and thankful that the gates of righteousness are open to us, we bring our gifts to your altar, O God. We dedicate our offerings and ourselves, that the reign of Jesus Christ may be realized and celebrated wherever Christians gather to worship and everywhere we scatter to serve. May every knee bow at the name of Jesus and every tongue confess that Christ is the world's salvation. May the needs of all your children be addressed by those who confess Jesus Christ. 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

Eternal God, quiet within us all mortal voices, that through the story of Palm Sunday and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we may have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

THE READINGS

Psalter

Psalm 118:1-2,19-29 (Said responsively by whole verse.)

l thank you Үнwн, for your goodness!
Your love is everlasting!
² Let Israel say,
"God's steadfast love endures forever."
¹⁹ Open the gates of justice for me,
let me come in and thank you, Үнwн!
²⁰ This is the gate of YHWH;
and only the upright can enter!
²¹ Thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.
²² It was the stone which the builders rejected
that became the keystone;
²³ this is YHWH's doing,
and it is wonderful to see.
²⁴ This is the day that YHWH has made—
let us celebrate with joy!
²⁵ Please, YHWH, please save us!
Please, YHWH, give us prosperity now!
²⁶ Blessings on the one who comes in the Name of YHWH!
We bless you from Үнwн's Temple! ²⁷ Үнwн is God,
and God has enlightened us. Join the festal procession!
With palm fronds in hand,
go up to the horns of the altar!
go up to the norms of the ditar:

²⁸ You are my God, and I thank you; you are my God; I will exalt you. Thank you for hearing me, for saving me.

²⁹ Thank you, YHWH, for your goodness! Your love is everlasting!

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

With God's help we are listening.

Gospel

Luke 19:28-40 (Inclusive Bible)

Having said this, Jesus went ahead with the ascent to Jerusalem.

Approaching Bethphage and Bethany, near what is called the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of the disciples with these instructions, "Go into the village ahead of you. Upon entering it, you'll find a tethered colt that no one has yet ridden. Untie it and lead it back. If anyone should ask you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Rabbi needs it.'"

They departed on their errand and found things just as Jesus said.

As they untied the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you doing that?"

They explained that the Rabbi needed it. Then the disciples led the animal to Jesus and, laying their cloaks on it, helped him mount.

People spread their cloaks on the roadway as Jesus rode along.

As they reached the descent from the Mount of Olives, the entire crowd of disciples joined them and began to rejoice and praise God loudly for the display of power they had seen, saying,

"Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God!

Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" Jesus replied, "I tell you, if they were to keep silent, the very stones would cry out!"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams "Witness to the Power of Love"

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

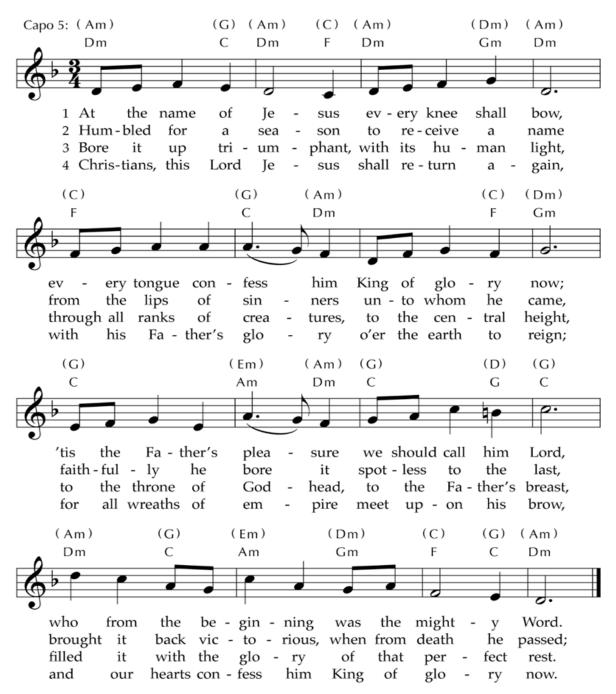
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the 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.

At the Name of Jesus

KING'S WESTON



This may well be a hymn based on a hymn, for scholars say that the passage behind it (Philippians 2:5–11), though not in the style of Greek poetry, shows traits of a communal creedal statement capable of being sung. It is set here to one of the composer's most sonorous tunes.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

We have testified to God's mighty works in Christ; we go into the world to carry on what Jesus began.

We have learned what Christ has taught:

God's Word is in our hearts and on our tongues. Have the mind of Christ who did not grasp for power; reach for your full humanity, in humility and praise.

> The one who was rejected is head of the church; we will follow in faith and trust where Christ leads.

Be assured of God's continuing help and blessing; the steadfast love of God endures forever.

> We celebrate the name of Jesus above all other names. Blessed is the one who comes in God's name.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Nine-fold Amen

Allie Laurie

POSTLUDE

Christ lag in Todesbanden 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:

Judy and Frank Macuga, Annie and Tony Carlos, Katheryn Maynard, Darlene, Shirley Caldwell, JoAnn Hood, Timothy Truitt, Donna Sue Buchanan, Shelley Wheeler, Patricia Kappe, Deborah, Shannice, Ken Topar, Evi, Paolo, the Medie and the Ramos 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.

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 13/Palm Sunday **10:00AM** Worship/Sanctuary **11:30AM** Communion/Chapel **11:30AM** Mission and Urban Wellness Committee Meeting/ Cuyahoga Room/Second Floor Tuesdav April 15 7:00PM Commentary on the Gospel of John/ZOOM Wednesday April 16 **12:15PM** Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary 7:00PM Turning Over Tables Book Study/ZOOM Thursday April 17 Maundy Thursday 6:00PM Worship with Communion/Chapel Friday April 18 Good Friday **12:15PM** Worship/Sanctuary Sunday April 20/Easter Sunday **10:00AM** Worship with Communion/Sanctuary Monday April 21/Easter Monday **Building and Offices Closed Tuesday April 22** 7:00PM Commentary on the Gospel of John/ZOOM Wednesday April 23 12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary 7:00PM Turning Over Tables Book Study/ZOOM

Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:82 Online:281

•CHURCH•

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

There are many ways to support The Old Stone Church

Online Giving:	Mobile Giving:
oldstonechurch.org/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 Music copied under ccli#1638695 onelicense#A-742406

> 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

> Rayna Brooks, *alto* Reese Henrick, *alto* Elizabeth Rickel, *alto*

lan Atwood, *tenor* Stephen Brown, *tenor* Noah Whitaker, *tenor*

R. Dominic Aragon, bass Christopher Clark, bass Albert Donze, bass

Church Elders:

Clerk of Session: Beth Buchanan

<u>Class of 2025</u> Dorothy Baunach Willie Brown David Eifert Dave Finley Robert Hubert Jr. <u>Class of 2026</u> Beth Buchanan Judy Macuga Melissa Maffia Harriet Niles Marty Vassel <u>Class of 2027</u> Michelle Baron

Fred Heider Bernard Medie Bob Reid

<u>Class of 2025</u> Valorie Hempstead Eileen Kelly Elie Medie Mark Pichler <u>Class of 2026</u> Mark Corey Forrest Diehl Pam Daly Ruth Finley Alyssa Niepokny Charlene Thornton

Church Deacons:

<u>Class of 2027</u> Anand Bandari Eric Grattan Sunny Kunche Lori Lippert Amy Wheeler John Wheeler

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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.