



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

MAY 4, 2025
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER WITH COMMUNION
10 AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Fantaisie, Op. 79

Gabriel Fauré
Mary Kay Robinson, *flute*

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT

Psalm 118: *Surrexit Christus / The Lord Is Risen* Jacques Berthier

The Lord is risen, alleluia!

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for God's love has no end.
The Lord is my strength, the Lord is my song, God has been my Savior.
I shall not die, I shall live. I shall live and recount God's deeds.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing praises to God, O you saints of God.
Give thanks to God's holy name.

Praise God for the joyous gift of a new day.

Thank God for healing and ever-present help.

Extol the one who lifts us up from defeat.

Praise the one who upholds us when we are discouraged.

God sees and hears our weeping.

God lifts our souls from the pit of despair.

Give thanks to God who turns mourning into dancing.

Praise God who hears our cries and answers our prayers.

We have cried to you in our need, O God.

We believe you are working to make us whole.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Come to us as a light from heaven, Sovereign God.

Pierce the shadows of doubt and despair,

anger and scorn, that we allow to rule in our lives.

Turn us from ways that deny your rule among us.

**Awaken us from dull routines to worship that is alive
with awe and wonder, spontaneity, and joy.**

Surprise us with a presence we cannot avoid,

a summons we dare not evade, a mission we may not escape.

We are gathered by the love of Christ,

that we may feed others as we have been fed.

Amen.

* HYMN #236

The Strife Is O'er

VICTORY

Refrain (before stanza 1 and after stanza 4)

The image shows the musical notation for the refrain of the hymn 'The Strife Is O'er'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!' are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes. The music ends with a double bar line.

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; the vic - to -
 2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their
 3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped; Christ ris - es
 4 Lord, by the stripes which wound - ed thee, from death's dread

ry of life is won; the song of tri - umph
 le - gions hath dis - persed: let shouts of ho - ly
 glo - rious from the dead: all glo - ry to our
 sting thy ser - vants free, that we may live, and

has be - gun.
 joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 ris - en Head!
 sing to thee:

The Latin text from which this hymn has been translated may well be older than its earliest printing in a 17th-century collection published in Cologne. It is set to an adaptation of a portion of the Gloria Patri section from a 16th-century choral version of the Magnificat.

TEXT: Latin hymn, c. 1695; trans. Francis Pott, 1861

MUSIC: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1591; adapt. William Henry Monk, 1861

VICTORY

8.8.8 with alleluias

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Bram Chisholm

What questions is God asking us as we examine our faith and faithfulness?

Have our attitudes been rigid or flexible?

Have we been motivated by self-sacrificing love or self-serving lies?

Do we live by a self-limited agenda or by a God-given mission?

Surely, we have 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

**Loving God, we admit to attitudes that exclude rather than embrace.
We prefer to associate with others who think and act as we do.
We turn away from those who are different from us.
We identify some as enemies to be avoided or even destroyed.
Forgive us, God, for seeking to limit your family.
Awaken us to the limits of our understanding
and the narrowness of our dealings.
Show us the better ways you intend and make us bold to respond,
we pray in Jesus' name.**

(moment of silent confession)

* KYRIE ELEISON

John Merbecke

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Let the scales fall from your eyes.
God has offered you new sight.
Unplug your ears.
God is claiming you as a beloved servant.
Warm to the community that surrounds you.
God has given you sisters and brothers to love.
Reach out to feed
and care and follow where Christ leads.
You are forgiven and claimed and sent.

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

GREATOREX

**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:

Who will carry the name of Christ into the marketplace?

Who will try new ways of faithfulness?

Our offerings involve all who give.

They empower those who serve.

They express our praise and thanksgiving

while witnessing to the reign of love in our midst.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

To the Lamb on the Throne

Dan Forrest

Ye Servants of God, your master proclaim, and publish abroad his wonderful name;
the name all victorious of Jesus extol; His kingdom is glorious and rules over all.

“Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!” let all cry aloud, and honor the Son;

The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.

God rules in the height, almighty to save; though hid from our sight,
His presence we have, the great congregation His triumph shall sing,

Ascribing salvation to Jesus our King. “Worthy the Lamb.”

Then let us adore and give Him His right, all glory and power all wisdom and might;
All honor and blessing with angels above, and thanks never ceasing and infinite love.

* DOXOLOGY #609

Praise God, from Whom All Blessing Flow

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia!

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Bram Chisholm

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**We bring our offerings to feed your lambs and tend your sheep,
gracious God.**

May these gifts extend love

in the form of food, pure water, shelter, and acceptance.

Let them provide outreach to the world

and opportunities for growth within this congregation.

Help us focus on what is important,

that we may work together to make a difference in the world.

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:

**O God of light,
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
restore our sight,
that in these words of scripture and sermon
we may see Christ,
in whose name we pray.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Epistle

Acts 9:1-20 (Inclusive Bible)

Meanwhile Saul continued to breathe murderous threats against the disciples of Jesus. He had gone up to the high priest and asked for letters, addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, that would authorize him to arrest and take to Jerusalem any followers of the Way that he could find, both women and men.

As he traveled along and was approaching Damascus, a light from the sky suddenly flashed about him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" "Who are you?" Saul asked. The voice answered, "I am Jesus, and you are persecuting me. Get up now and go into the city, where you will be told what to do." Those traveling with him were speechless. They heard the voice but could see no one. Saul got up from the ground unable to see, even though his eyes were open. They had to take him by the hand and lead him into Damascus. For three days he continued to be blind, during which time he ate and drank nothing.

There was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. Christ appeared to him in a vision saying, "Ananias." Ananias said, "Here I am." Then Christ said to him, "Go at once to Straight Street, and at the house of Judas ask for a certain Saul of Tarsus. He is there praying. Saul had a vision that a man named Ananias will come and lay hands on him so that he would recover his sight." But Ananias protested, "I have heard from many sources about Saul and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. He is here now with authorization from the chief priests to arrest everybody who calls on your name." Christ said to Ananias, "Go anyway. Saul is the instrument I have chosen to bring my Name to the Gentiles, to rulers, and to the people of Israel. I myself will show him how much he will have to suffer for my name."

With that Ananias left. When he entered the house, he laid his hands on Saul, saying, “Saul, my brother, I have been sent by Jesus Christ, who appeared to you on the way here, to help you recover your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he regained his sight. He got up and was baptized, and his strength returned after he had eaten some food.

Saul stayed with the believers in Damascus for a few days, and soon began proclaiming in the synagogues that Jesus was the Only Begotten of God.

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

With God’s help we are listening.

Gospel

John 21:1-19 (Inclusive Bible)

Later Jesus again manifested to the disciples at Lake Tiberias. This is how the appearance took place. Assembled were Simon Peter, Thomas “the Twin,” Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, Zebedee’s children, and two other disciples. Simon Peter said to them, “I’m going out to fish.” “We’ll join you,” they replied, and went off to get into their boat. All through the night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus was standing on the shore, though none of the disciples knew it was Jesus. He said to them, “Have you caught anything, friends?” “Not a thing,” they answered. “Cast your net off to the starboard side,” Jesus suggested, “and you’ll find something.” So they made a cast and caught so many fish that they couldn’t haul the net in. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved cried out to Peter, “It is the Teacher!” Upon hearing this, Simon Peter threw on his cloak--he was naked--and jumped into the water. Meanwhile the other disciples brought the boat to shore, towing the net full of fish. They were not far from the land—no more than a hundred yards.

When they landed, they saw that a charcoal fire had been prepared, with fish and some bread already being grilled. “Bring some of the fish you just caught,” Jesus said to them. Simon Peter went aboard and hauled ashore the net, which was loaded with huge fish—one hundred fifty-three of them. In spite of the great number, the net was not torn. “Come and eat your meal,” Jesus told them. None of the disciples dared to ask, “Who are you?” --they knew it was the savior. Jesus came over, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This marked the third time that Jesus had appeared to the disciples after being raised from the dead.

When they had eaten their meal, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon ben-John, do you love me?” Peter said, “Yes, Rabbi, you know that I’m your friend.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” A second time Jesus put the question, “Simon ben--John, do you love me?” Peter said, “Yes, Rabbi, you know that I’m your friend.” Jesus replied, “Tend my sheep.” A third time Jesus asked him, “Simon ben--John, do you love me as a friend would?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked, “Do you love me?” a third time, so he said, “You know everything, Rabbi. You know that I am your friend.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. The truth of the matter is, when you were young, you put on your own belt and walked where you liked; but when you get old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will put a belt around you and take you where you don’t want to go.” With these words, Jesus indicated the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then the savior said, “Follow me.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“To See Christ”



WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND FAITH

*HYMN #501

Feed Us, Lord

FEED US



1 Feed us, Lord. Feed us, Lord. In the bro - ken bread,
2 Quench us, Lord. Quench us, Lord. On this thirst - y ground,
3 Fill us, Lord. Fill us, Lord, with the bread and wine
4 Lead us, Lord. Lead us, Lord, nour-ished here by Christ,



be re - vealed a - gain. Come and feed our hearts, O Lord.
may your love flow down. Come and quench our hearts, O Lord.
of the ris - en Christ. Come and fill our hearts, O Lord.
giv - en strength for life. Come and lead our hearts, O Lord.

Not many Lord's Supper hymns call attention to the post-Resurrection meals Christ shared with his disciples, but the first stanza here alludes to the meal at Emmaus, when he was made known in the breaking of the bread (Luke 24:13-35), and stanza three refers to "the risen Christ."

TEXT and MUSIC: Greg Scheer, 2007
Text and Music © 2007 Greg Scheer

FEED US
3.3.5.5.7

* INVITATION TO THE MEAL

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love,
you are beyond complete knowledge,
above perfect description.
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love,
you are creative and self-giving, generously moving
in all the near and distant corners of the universe.
Nothing exists that does not find its source in you.

Through fear-filled days and aching nights
when the powers of death have done their worst,
your love has never deserted us.
Even when we turn away from you, you are with us;
your presence never fails us,
your gifts of hope and new life transform us.

We praise you for Jesus Christ, risen to life,
 eternal as your love.
 With the women at the tomb,
 we raise the strain of gladness.
 Hallelujah! Life is stronger than death!
 The day of resurrection has come,
 scattering fear and gloom.
 And so we rejoice with all your people of every time and place,
 and with angels and archangels,
 to proclaim the glory of your name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow - er, God of might, heav - en and earth are
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

It is Jesus, God incarnate, the Risen Christ,
 who joins us together as a community of broken but hopeful believers:
 loving what he loved
 living what he taught, and
 striving to be his faithful servants
 in our time and place.

In this meal we remember Jesus, his promises,
 and the price he paid for who he was, what he said, and what he did.

(Please be seated)

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night before Jesus died, he took a loaf of bread,
gave thanks, broke it, 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.

“Take and eat, whenever you do this, remember me.”

After supper, Jesus took the cup, and poured, 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, remember me.”

We do remember.

We remember his life of love, his friendship, his teaching,
his dying, and his rising to life again.

In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of our faith:



Two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time, G major. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Mystery, God the Spirit,
we call on you to transform these familiar things,
as you continually transform the world around us.

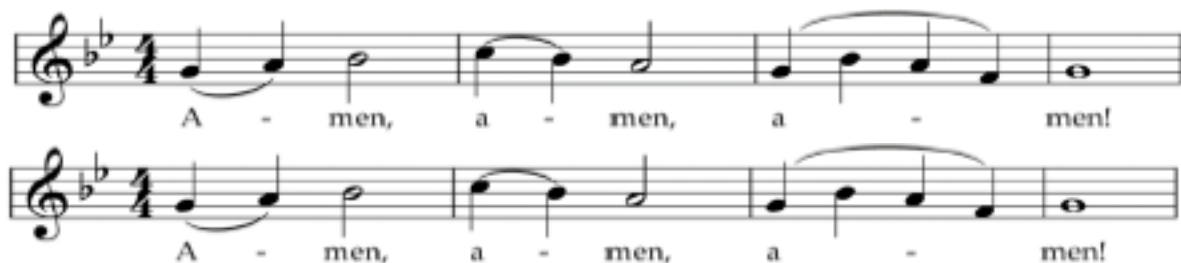
Bless this bread and this cup,
the wheat and the grape,
the farmer and the harvest,
the seed and the sower.
So that in the sharing of these simple elements in community,
we may taste and see your goodness.

Through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, God most holy,
now and forever.

We pray for all in need of healing,
whether it be in body, mind, or spirit...
Bob Baus and family, Renita and the Jackson family, Ken Topar,
Gerald Wright, JoAnn Hood, Elizabeth Reid, Mary Jane Sykora, Fred Heider,
Harry Hatters, Judy and Frank Macuga, Annie and Tony Carlos,
Nichole and Paul Bellantoni, Timothy Truitt, Paolo, Donna Sue Buchanan,
Shelley Wheeler, Priscilla Fayne, Ronald Richard

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.**



SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

The body of Christ,
the bread of life.
The lifeblood of Christ,
the cup of blessing.
The gifts of God for the people of God,
Thanks be to God!

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

COMMUNION ANTHEM

And I Saw a New Heaven

Edgar L. Bainton

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth:
For the first heaven and the first earth were passed away and there was no more sea.
And I, John, saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven,
Prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven
saying, Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them and they
shall be his People, and God himself shall be with them and be their God. God shall
wipe away all tears all tears from their eyes; And there shall be no more death, neither
shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away.

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life.
We are fed by your love;
we are strengthened by your life.
We are sent forth into this world to live your way and share your joy.
We are now commissioned to:
feed as we have been fed,
forgive as we have been forgiven,
love as we have been loved.
Thanks be to God.
Amen.

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con- quering Son; end - less is
 2 Lo! Je - sus meets us, ris - en from the tomb; lov - ing - ly
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life! Life is naught

the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai - ment
 he greets us, scat - ters fear and gloom. Let the church with glad - ness
 with - out thee; aid us in our strife. Make us more than con - querors

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain

where thy bod - y lay.
 death hath lost its sting. Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con - quering
 to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Rise and go where God directs.

Your caring, may be the answer to someone's prayer.

We will extol our God in word and deed.

We will reach out to our neighbors with love.

Be alert to the needs of people you meet.

You may be God's chosen instrument of healing.

We will praise God's faithfulness day by day.

We will listen with compassion to those who suffer.

Blessed are those who believe without seeing.

Blessed are those who trust without proof.

We will follow where Christ leads us.

Blessing, honor, glory, and power be to our God.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

John Rutter

POSTLUDE

Tarantella for Flute and Organ

Hans-André Stamm

*“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:

Bob Baus and family, Renita and the Jackson family, Ken Topar, Gerald Wright, JoAnn Hood, Elizabeth Reid, Mary Jane Sykora, Fred Heider, Judy and Frank Macuga, Harry Hatters, Annie and Tony Carlos, Nichole and Paul Bellantoni, Timothy Truitt, Paolo, Donna Sue Buchanan, Shelley Wheeler, Priscella Fayne, Ronald Richard

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-The First Presbyterian Church of Cleveland

<p>Online Giving: oldstonechurch.org/giving/</p>	<p>Mobile Giving: Text the keyword “oldstonecle” to 73256</p>	
<p>Mail to: Old Stone Church Attn: Financial Office 91 Public Square Cleveland, OH 44113 Checks should be made payable to “Old Stone Church.”</p>	<p>Scan the QR Code with your phone.</p>	

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*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

Reese Henrick, *alto*

Elizabeth Rickel, *alto*

Ian 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

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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