



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

FEBRUARY 15, 2026
TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig

BWV 618 J.S. Bach

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT

Excerpt from "Salvation is Created"

P. Tschesnokoff

Salvation is created in the midst of the earth.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Come to the mountaintop, all God's people;
leave all else behind to reach out to the Eternal.

**How shall we climb the mountain when we cannot walk
or reach spiritual heights while weighed down with cares?**

In Christ, God brings the mountaintop to us and meets us,
even in the depths of despair.

**We see a lamp shining in a dark place,
and the morning star rises in our hearts.**

Pay attention to the signs through which God speaks;
for those with discernment, they are everywhere.

**The dazzling splendor of God's glory is real,
even to those who have no eyes.**

Like a devouring fire, the Spirit sweeps through our midst,
and we are transformed in its glow.

**Let us come without fear or thoughts of favor,
opening ourselves to all God has in store for us.**

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**We bring our deepest longings, our bewilderment,
and our complaints into your Majestic Presence.**

**As you encompass us in the brilliant light of your limitless power
and boundless love, our self-centered concerns are put in perspective.**

We recognize Christ in our midst, the Word made flesh.

In that recognition your intentions for our lives become clearer.

**But what is clear on the mountaintop
becomes distorted and indistinct
in the valleys of our everyday problems.**

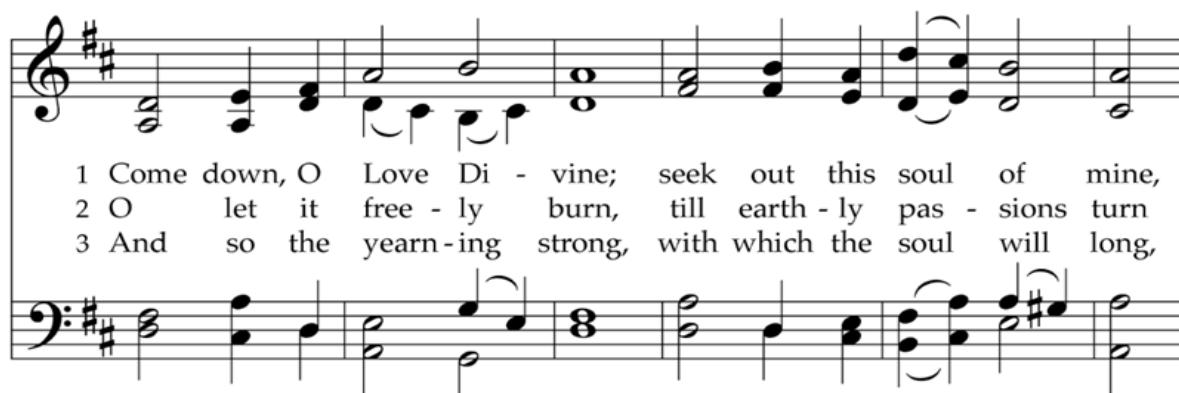
Stay with us, Sovereign One, to save us from ourselves.

Amen.

* HYMN #282

Come Down, O Love Divine

DOWN AMPNEY



1. Come down, O Love Di - vine; seek out this soul of mine,
2. O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn
3. And so the yearn-ing strong, with which the soul will long.

This *lauda spirituale*, a kind of vernacular Italian sacred song from the late Middle Ages and Renaissance, was translated into English in the 19th century but received little notice until this tune (named for the composer's birthplace) was created for *The English Hymnal*.

TEXT: Bianco da Siena, c. 1367; trans. Richard Frederick Littledale, 1867, alt.
 MUSIC: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

DOWN AMPNEY
 6.6.11.D

* CALL TO CONFESSON

Elizabeth Buchanan

Day after day we are surrounded by the majesty of God,
 yet our eyes do not see nor our thoughts comprehend
 the wonders of creation or the gift of transcendence.
 God calls us to be eyewitnesses of good news,
 to believe what we have eyes to see
 and to trust in the One beyond our knowing.
 Let us come to God, confessing our need.
 Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
 followed by time for personal silent confession.
 Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of dazzling splendor,
we confess that we have lived in a cloud,
hiding from your glory and pretending not to notice
the wonders of your majesty.
The mystery of life eludes us
because we take for granted what seems commonplace
and refuse to deal with matters beyond our understanding.
We have tried to put our religion in a compartment
separate from the rest of life.
We have not thought to serve you in everyday encounters.
Shake our complacency, we pray,
and awaken us to new life in all its fullness.**

(moment of silent confession)

* KYRIE ELEISON #577

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Happy are those who take refuge in God.
We are accepted as God's own children.
To us, the Holy Spirit comes as a gift,
interpreting to us the truth of the Scriptures.
Do not be afraid of the vision God sets before us.
A new day is dawning among us as we become aware that God is with us.

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 #582

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me.

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.
As we encounter the mystery of God's revelation,
we approach the season of Lent with its opportunities for reflection
and waiting on God for forty days and forty nights.
Our church seeks to strengthen its ministry,
not only among those already committed to the journey with Christ,
but to our neighbors and friends.
Our giving is a symbol of our willingness to invest our time and best efforts to
bring God's vision for humanity to life.
The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Behold O God, Our Defender* Hebert Howells

Behold, O God our defender: and look upon the face of thine anointed.
For one day in thy courts is better than a thousand.

* DOXOLOGY #606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Elizabeth Buchanan

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**When your glory expands our horizons
and we learn to identify with all whom you love,
this time of sharing becomes the most important occasion in our lives.
Move us beyond our own limited interpretation
of your action in our midst, O God.
In awe and anticipation we offer ourselves
and our substance toward the fulfillment
of your divine law among humankind.
Amen.**

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Great Are You, Lord

Michael & Deborah Smith

Great are you, Lord, and worthy of glory! Great are you, Lord, and worthy of praise.
Great are you, Lord. We lift up our voice; we lift up our voice:
Great are you, Lord! Great are you, Lord!

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**God, our light,
make us attentive to your Word
as to a lamp shining in a dark place,
that seeing your truth we may live faithful lives
until that great day dawns
and the morning star rises in our hearts.**

Amen.

THE READINGS

Epistle

2 Peter 1:16-21 (Inclusive Bible)

We did not cleverly devise fables when we taught you of the power and coming of our Savior Jesus Christ; we ourselves saw the majesty of our Savior. For Jesus was honored and glorified by our Creator God when the voice of the Majestic Glory spoke out, "This is my Own, whom I love, and with whom I am well pleased." We heard this ourselves—when we were with Jesus on the holy mountain. Moreover, we have the prophetic word, which is even more certain. Depend on it for your own good as a light shining in the dark, until first light breaks and the morning star rises in your hearts.

At the same time, you need to know that no prophecy of scripture ever occurred by one's own interpretation. Prophecy never comes through an act of human will, but comes as people have spoken for God under the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

With God's help we are listening.

Six days later, Jesus took Peter, James and John up on a high mountain to be alone with them.

And before their eyes, Jesus was transfigured—his face becoming dazzling as the sun and his clothes as radiant as light.

Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with Jesus.

Then Peter said, “Rabbi, how good that we are here! With your permission I will erect three shelters here—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah!”

Peter was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them.

Out of the cloud came a voice which said, “This is my Own, my Beloved, on whom my favor rests. Listen to Him!”

When they heard this, the disciples fell forward on the ground, overcome with fear. Jesus came toward them and touched them, saying, “Get up! Don’t be afraid.”

When they looked up, they did not see anyone but Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountainside, Jesus commanded them, “Don’t tell anyone about this until the Chosen One has risen from the dead.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams
“Living at the Threshold”



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.**

9

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

The vision of the mountaintop is ours to tell,
and in the valleys of everyday, people need it.

**How shall we tell others of our experience
without seeming arrogant or unbalanced?**

Christ, whom we meet on life's mountaintops,
was never pretentious amid the lowly.

**In genuine caring and humble service
we give and receive God's love in Christ.**

Listen to God's beloved Child:

"Rise and have no fear."

**We depart with renewed energy and purpose
to live God's truth among all we meet.**

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Threefold Amen

Palestrina

POSTLUDE

Herr Christ, der einge Gottessohn

BWV 601 J.S. Bach

*"My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."*

Psalm 73:26

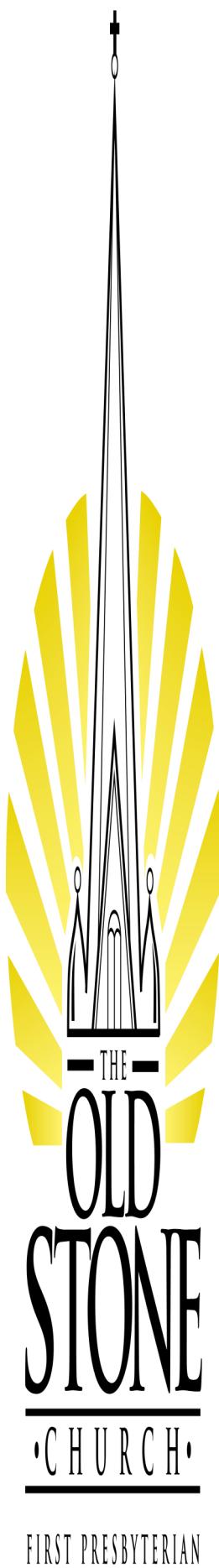


We continue to keep in our prayers:

Patricia Gerard, Dorland, Chris Sable, Barbara Maloney, Regina George, Katherine McIntosh, Thelma Omsby, Kendalle Cobb, Patricia Gerand, John Davis, Gail Harris, Fletcher Hattis, Addie Singleton, Carlos Fayne, Jack Moreland, Lynne Crawford, Sandy Colombo, Charles Rabb, Tony and Annie Carlos, Courtney Knapp, Bruce Baunach, JoAnn Hood, Judy and Frank Macuga

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.



@ Old Stone Church

Sunday February 15

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

11:30AM Mission and Urban Wellness Committee Meeting/
Cuyahoga Room/Second Floor

12:00PM Welcome and Fellowship Committee/Building Tour/Gallery

Tuesday February 17

12:15PM Old Stone Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

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

Wednesday February 18/Ash Wednesday

12:15PM Ash Wednesday Service/Sanctuary

Thursday February 19

7:00PM FPS Directors Meeting/Conference Room

Sunday February 22/Lent I

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

11:30AM Hand Bell Practice/Gallery

Tuesday February 24

12:15PM Old Stone Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

6:30PM Stated Session Meeting/ZOOM

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

Wednesday February 25

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Sunday March 1/Lent II

10:00AM Worship with Communion/Sanctuary

11:30AM Hand Bell Practice/Gallery

Tuesday March 3

12:15PM Old Stone Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

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

Wednesday March 4

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

6:00PM Welcome and Fellowship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Sunday March 8/Lent III/Daylight Savings Time Begins

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

4:00PM Celebrity Chef/April Thompson/Memorial Hall

Tuesday March 10

12:15PM Old Stone Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

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

Wednesday March 11

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday March 12

2:00PM Worship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Sunday March 15/Lent IV

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

12:00PM Elders & Deacons Retreat/Gallery/Chapel

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:59 Online:283

There are many ways to support The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

Online Giving:

oldstonechurch.org/giving/

Mobile Giving:

Text the keyword "oldstonecle" to 73256

Mail to:

The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland
Attn: Financial Office
1380 Ontario Street
Cleveland, OH 44113

Scan the QR Code with your phone.



Checks should be made payable to "The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland."

All contributions are tax-deductible and will be appropriately acknowledged at year-end.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

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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: Evan M. Collins

The Old Stone Singers

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*

Stephen Brown, *tenor*

Kaya Sparks, *soprano*

Christian Bush, *tenor*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Noah Whitaker, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Reese Henrick, *alto*

Christopher Clark, *bass*

Morgan Potts, *alto*

Albert Donze, *bass*

Church Elders:

Clerk of Session: Beth Buchanan

Class of 2026

Beth Buchanan
Judy Macuga
Melissa Maffia
Harriet Niles
Marty Vassel

Class of 2027

Michelle Baron
Bernard Medie
Bob Reid

Class of 2028

Dave Finley
Don Urban

Church Deacons:

Class of 2026

Mark Corey
Forrest Diehl
Pam Daly
Ruth Finley
Alyssa Niepokny
Charlene Thornton

Class of 2027

Anand Bandari
Eric Grattan
Sunny Kunche
Amy Wheeler
John Wheeler

Class of 2028

Valorie Hempstead
JoAnn Hood
Elie Medie
Brad Oglesby
Mark Pichler
Lori Montero

Church Trustees:

Class of 2027

Dave Eifert

Class of 2027

Bruce Kranicz

Class of 2027

Mike Musson

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