



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

NOVEMBER 27, 2022
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10 AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Sleepers Wake! A Voice is Calling

J. S. Bach

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT

Sleepers Wake, A Voice is Calling from St. Paul Felix Mendelssohn

Sleepers, wake, a voice is calling; It is the watchman on the walls,
Thou city of Jerusalem. For lo, the Bridegroom comes!
Arise and take your lamps. Hallelujah! Awake! His kingdom is at hand.
Go forth, go forth and meet your Lord.

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Awaken to a season of anticipation.

God is offering peace within and among us.

How good it is to gather in God's house!

God draws us together for this time of worship.

God calls us to celebrate our diversity.

Differences shall no longer divide us.

We want to see one another through God's eyes.

We will look for the good in our neighbors.

Seek the highest and best for each other.

Come to the mountain of God's love.

We will follow in the paths where God leads.

Our ears are open to hear God's instructions.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

You have awakened us from our sleep and led us to this place,
wonderous God.

Now let us feel your presence with us as we encounter your Word.

Surely you have blessed us.

You have drawn us together and bound us firmly to one another.

We give you thanks for giving us an identity as relatives and friends
through Jesus Christ.

In this season we remember your unexpected appearance among us
in the birth of a child.

You make Yourself known to us again and again.

May we know you now! Amen.

* ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING

The Ronayne Family

“How I rejoiced when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of YHWH!’” (Ps.122:1)

We are glad. Whether we drove in or walked over,
whether we logged on or tuned in.

We are glad to be here in community, with this family.

It is a place of joyful hope, of radical welcome.

It is a place where, together, we can wait in wondrous anticipation of the
Kindom to come.

“Many people will come and say, ‘Come, let us climb YHWH’s mountain
to the temple of the God of Jacob, that we may be instructed in God’s ways
and walk in God’s paths.’” (Isaiah 2:3)

We light this candle as a sign of our hope,

our joyous hope that we can be restored—our faith restored,
our strength restored, our confidence restored,
our joy restored as we watch and wait with all God’s people
for the promise to be fulfilled.

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.

Is-rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf-fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Elizabeth Harris

In awe before God, who judges our motives and our actions,
we come to this time of confession.
Often we are reluctant to examine our intentions or our deeds.
We postpone changes that would make us ready to receive Christ into our lives.
Let us delay no longer.
Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
followed by time for personal silent confession.

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, you have brought us to this moment of confrontation.
We cannot escape your judgment of our hidden deceits.
You know when we are jealous of others.
You observe our quarrels with one another.
You see how we seek self-gratification
rather than the ways you intend for us.
Our physical desires are more important to us
than the spiritual hungers we suppress.
Come among us now to turn us toward the paths where you want to lead us.

(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

The word of God comes to us for our instruction.
The forgiveness of God prompts our thanksgiving.
The peace of God turns us from our weapons of destruction
to fashion instruments of sharing.
God's will for us is security and peace in a community of mutual caring.
We are offered this pathway to true prosperity, seeking one another's good.
Let us put on Jesus Christ that others may discern Christ's coming through 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 #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

We are stewards of God's household,
managers of the earth's treasures for a little while.
This time of offering gives us opportunities to invest in causes
consistent with God's will for us,
to offer the light of God's love to sisters and brothers living in despair.
Let us not rob God by withholding what is already God's own.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Let All Mortal Flesh

Gustav Holst

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in his hand, Christ our Lord to earth descendeth, Our full homage to demand.
King of Kings, yet born of Mary, As of old on earth he stood, Lord of Lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood, He will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food.
Rank on rank the host of heaven, Spreads his vanguard on the way, As the light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day, That the powers of hell may vanish, As the darkness clears away.
At his feet the six winged seraph; Cherubim with sleepless eye, Veil their faces to the presence
As with ceaseless voice they cry, Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, Lord most high. Amen.

* DOXOLOGY #607

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Elizabeth Harris

Let us pray:

Thank you, God, for the privilege of sharing your bounty with those in need.
Thank you for prospering our work and witness.
We seek to walk in your light and follow the pathways where you lead.
We want to share the good news of salvation through these gifts
and by the way we live.
May all your people be made ready for Christ's coming. 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

**Come, Holy Spirit, giver of life;
breathe into us that we may hear a word of truth this day.
draw us into communion,
enable us to love,
conspire to make us one with You
for the world You so deeply love. Amen.**

THE READINGS

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 2:1-5 [The Inclusive Bible]

This is what Isaiah ben-Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
In the last days, the mountain of the YHWH's Temple
will be established as the most important mountain
and raised above all the hills—
all nations will stream toward it.

Many people will come and say:
“Come, let us climb YHWH's mountain
to the Temple of the God of Jacob,
that we may be instructed in God's ways
and walk in God's paths.”

Instruction will be given from Zion
and the word of YHWH from Jerusalem.
God will judge between the nations
and render decisions for many countries.
they will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
one nation will not raise the sword against another,
and never again will they train for war.
O house of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of YHWH!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Is Your Heart Prepared for a King?

Robert Lau

In the quiet of the night, or in morning's early light, is your heart prepared for a King?
Will you hear an angel sing? Will your own hosannas ring? Is your heart prepared for a King?
Wait! Watch! Pray for the One who brings hope to a wearied earth.
Wait! Watch! Pray for the One who brings peace by His birth.
Can you see the shining star? Does it call you from afar? Is your heart prepared for a King?
Will you watch? Will you pray? Is the babe of whom we sing born to be our God and King?
Is your heart prepared for a King?

Gospel

Matthew 24:36-44 [The Inclusive Bible]

“No one knows that day and that hour—not the angels of heaven, nor even the Only Begotten—only Abba God. The coming of the Promised One will be just like Noah's time. In the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, having relationships and getting married, right up to the day Noah entered the ark. They were totally unconcerned until the flood came and destroyed them. So it will be at the Promised One. Two people will be out in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two people will be grinding meal; one will be taken, and one will be left. Therefore be vigilant! For you do not know the day your Savior is coming. Be sure of this: if the owner of the house had known when the thief was coming, the owner would have kept a watchful eye and not allowed the house to be broken into. You must be prepared in the same way. The Promised One is coming at the time you least expect.

The Word of the Lord.


Thanks be to God.


"Awaken Within"


* HYMN #97


Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

ABERYSTWYTH

*

 1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom-ise are.
 2 Watch-man, tell us of the night; high-er yet that star as-cends.
 3 Watch-man, tell us of the night, for the morn-ing seems to dawn.


 Trav-eler, what a won-drous sight: see that glo-ry-beam-ing star.
 Trav-eler, bless-ed-ness and light, peace and truth its course por-tends.
 Trav-eler, shad-ows take their flight; doubt and ter-ror are with-drawn.


 Watch-man, does its beau-teous ray news of joy or hope fore-tell?
 Watch-man, will its beams a-lone gild the spot that gave them birth?
 Watch-man, you may go your way; has-ten to your qui-et home.


 Trav-eler, yes; it brings the day, prom-ised day of Is-ra-el.
 Trav-eler, a-ges are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.
 Trav-eler, we re-joice to-day, for Em-man-u-el has come!

**May be sung antiphonally.*

This unusual dialogue hymn alternates between the voice of a traveler and that of a watchman, setting up an exchange that creates parallels between the coming of dawn and the birth of Christ. The tune is named for a Welsh town whose name means "mouth of the bending river."

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

* HYMN #93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner

draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

* BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

Let us live honorably as in the day.

May we have nothing to hide from God or others.

We seek to live in the light of God's love.

We want to be ready when Christ comes.

We have been privileged to ascend God's mountains.

We are honored by God's call to us.

It has been good to meet together in God's house.

It is good to serve together in God's world.

May we carry the peace of God wherever we go.

Let us share the peace with all we meet.

For the sake of all, we say, "Peace be with you."

To all the world, we promise, "We will seek your good."

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Sevenfold Amen

Peter Lutkin

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Glory to God in The Highest Giovanni Battista Pergolesi

*"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:

Marianne Jones and Len Lybarger, Jean English,
Cheryl Cairns and her grandson Asher Cairns, Jackie Acho, Alma Bako,
Melvina Bishop, George Hood, JoAnn Hood, Bertha Nunn, Twilyn Teasley,
Linda White, James White,

and we pray for our country, our city, and our leaders.

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.

Messiah

Celebrate the season of Advent at Old Stone Church with the Old Stone Singers and chamber orchestra performance of the Christmas portion of George Frederick Handel's famed oratorio *Messiah*.

This free and open-to-the-public performance of *Messiah*, directed by Old Stone Church's Music Director David Daugherty, will take place on Sunday, December 4th from 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

and feature members of the Old Stone Singers as the soloists.

Come join us for this unique performance.

The program will conclude with a Christmas Carol sing-a-long!



The FRONT STEPS Giving Tree

Please take a moment to sign up for an Essential Christmas Gift for the residents of Front Steps Housing and Services. A table is set up outside the Chapel with a list of essential needs and gift tags of each resident for your gift bag.

Ever thought of connecting with Habitat in your Missions and Outreach committees? Thinking about what to do in 2023?

You're invited to a short tour of our ReStore and a trip out to a construction site (~1.5hr).

JOIN US FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

Meet at our ReStore 2110 West 110th St., Cleveland
@ 10am RSVP to Michelle at 216-318-0274

News from Session:

OSC Associate Pastor Nominating Committee to be Formed

OSC Session met Monday October 25, 2022 and discussed the need for an Associate Pastor to join OSC Clergy. The long search for a part time Parish Associate has not resulted in applications. Pastor Stephen explained the serious need for a full time Associate Pastor to assist him, the staff, and the congregation.

Session passed a motion to authorize the OSC Nominating Committee (chaired by elder Dorothy Baunach) to develop an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) under the guidance of the Presbytery of the Western Reserve's Committee on Ministry (PWR COM) per the Book of Order.

The proposed Associate Pastor Nominating Committee must then be voted on by the congregation at a congregational meeting before beginning their work.

Please pray for the elders who are taking steps to begin the process.

If you are interested in being considered for this committee, please notify the Church Office.

November 28—Dec 4, 2022

Mon Nov 28 6:30pm - 9:00pm Stated Meeting of the PWR/ZOOM

Tue Nov 29 10:00am - 11:30am Staff Meeting

6:30pm - 8:30pm Session/Hybrid

Thu Dec 1 7:00pm - 9:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Sat Dec 3 11:30am 1:30pm Messiah Rehearsal with Orchestra

Sun Dec 4 10:00am 11:00am Worship/Advent II

1:30pm - 4:30pm Messiah Concert

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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Website: www.OldStoneChurch.org E-Mail: info@OldStoneChurch.org

Music copied under ccli#1638695

Senior Pastor: Rev. Stephen C. Blonder Adams

Director of Music and Musical Arts: David C. Daugherty

The Old Stone Singers

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*

Cicely Schonberg, *soprano*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Ian Atwood, *tenor*

Frederick Peterbark, *tenor*

Andrew J. Schoenhofer, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

McKenna Jones, *alto*

Emma Nossem, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Joseph K. Breslau, *bass*

Seth Hobi, *bass*

Church Elders:

Clerk of Session: Beth Buchanan

Class of 2023

Dorothy Baunach

Kara Bane

Willie Brown

Class of 2024

Beth Buchanan

Robert Hubert Jr.

Judy Macuga

Harriet Niles

Lee Ann Rader

Marty Vassel

John Young

Class of 2025

Janie Chambers

Fred Heider

Len Lybarger

Bernard Medie

Bob Reid

Church Deacons:

Class of 2023

Ian Atwood

Jessica Atwood

Elizabeth Harris

Class of 2024

Melissa Maffia

Pete Maffia

Mary Mikula

Michael Rolan

Penni Rolan

Alyssa Scaggs

Class of 2025

Scott Bailey

Bernie Bischel

Carol Hoagland

Amy Wheeler

John Wheeler