



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

DECEMBER 11, 2022
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10 AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Lord Christ, the only Son of God

J. S. Bach

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT

Salvation is Created Pavel Grigorievich Chesnokov

Salvation is made in the midst of the earth, O God. Alleluia.

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come away from the haste and frantic busyness.

This is a season for quiet waiting.

It is hard to still our souls when we are so busy.

It is hard to be patient with ourselves and others.

Receive God's mercy and strengthen your hearts.

A Savior is coming; God's love is near.

We want to hear and believe God's promises.

We want to become patient loving seekers.

God presents us with a high and holy way.

Come before God now with praise and singing.

We sense the joy God offers to us.

Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

*** INVOCATION PRAYER**

**Mighty One, we rejoice that you strengthen our weak hands
and make firm our feeble knees.**

You open our eyes and unstop our ears.

You meet our hungers with good things.

You disturb our false pride while helping us discover our true strength.

**You topple us from our pretenses while lifting up the lowly
to claim the inner power you alone can provide.**

We have assembled to worship you.

Awaken the gladness that comes when we recognize your presence.

We long to know you in this hour. Amen.

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING *(Please be seated)*

The Hayden Family

"Let the desert and the wilderness exult! Let the Arabah rejoice and bloom like the crocus! Let it blossom profusely, let us rejoice and sing for joy! ... And through it will run a highway, a road called the Sacred Path.

The unclean may not travel by it, but it will be for God's people alone; and no traveler—not even fools—will go astray. ...for those whom YHWH has ransomed will return. They will enter Zion shouting with joy, with everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them, and sorrow and lament will flee away." (Isaiah 35:1-2, 8,10 The Inclusive Bible).

The prophet Isaiah tells us about the joy of ascending to God's house.

The prophet tells us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to live, to fully live in the grace and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us like no one else.

And then he tells us that the journey to get there is just as much a joy.

The Psalmist says "Happy are those whose help is the God of Israel, whose hope is in Yhwh, their God, who made heaven and earth ... who keeps faith ... who secures justice ... gives food ... sets the captives free ... opens eyes ... raises up ... watches over... upholds ... Yhwh will reign forever—your God, O Zion!—through all generations. Alleluia! (Psalm 146 The Inclusive Bible).

We light these candles,
the candle of joyful hope, of proclaimed peace, and of deep and everlasting joy,
as a sign that we are those who walk with a skip in our step because we can see
the destination, and it is pure joy.
We are ascending to God's promise.

* HYMN #104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a - right?
2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;
3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,

Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro-cured my lib - er - ty.
to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.

O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,
O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.
when your re-newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Helen Wetzler

To all whose lives seem like a desert wasteland,
God invites: Come to the living waters.
To all who feel they are wrestling with lions, God offers refuge.
The Judge who is standing before us waits our confession with compassion
and the promise of healing.
Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
followed by time for personal silent confession.

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Come into our emptiness, gracious God.
We feel empty because we have shut you out of our lives.
Break through our pretensions, Holy One.
We pretend to be powerful because we have not claimed the peace
that is available deep within when you dwell with us.
Quiet our grumbling and complaining.
We are impatient because we have focused on things, not on you.
Enter our lives with the forgiveness you have promised to all
who are truly sorry for their unfaithfulness.
Release us from our self-created prisons.

(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

God speaks to our fearful hearts:
Be strong.
Do not fear.
I will come to save you.
Sorrow and sighing will flee away.
Joy and gladness are yours.
“The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf
hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.”
Praise God!
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.

God continues to lift up the lowly and to topple the mighty from their thrones.
God judges us, not by worldly standards of greatness
but according to the genuineness of our compassion
and the extent of our faithfulness.
Our offerings are one measure of our priorities.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Ding Dong! Merrily On High* 16th century French tune

Ding dong, merrily on high! In heaven the bells are ringing; ding dong, verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel singing. Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!
E'en so here below, let steeple bells be swungen, And io,io,io by priest and people sungen.
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!
Pray ye dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers; may ye beautifully rhyme
Your evetime song, ye singers. Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

* 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 (*Please be seated*) Helen Wetzler

Let us pray:

Majestic God,
thank you for inviting us to share the blessings you pour out on us.
We want to extend the healing ministry of Jesus who gave sight to those who
were blind and new insight to some who only pretended to see.
Use our resources to heal attitudes as well as bodies,
to bring wholeness, not just cures.
Help us to address the inequities of the earth that leave so many
without food or shelter or hope.
Lead us into your realm in the midst of our daily living. 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

Psalm 146:5-10 (The Inclusive Bible)

Happy are those whose help is the God of Israel,
whose hope is in YHWH, their God,
who made heaven and earth,
the sea and all that is in it!
YHWH, you keep faith forever;
you secure justice for the oppressed;
you give food to the hungry.
You set the captives free;
you give sight to the blind.
You raise up those who were bowed down;
you love those who do justice;
you protect strangers;
you sustain orphans and the bereaved—
but thwart the way of the corrupt.
YHWH will reign forever—your God, O Zion!—
through all generations. Alleluia!

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

The Linden Tree Carol

arr. by Reginald Jacques

There stood in heav'n a linden tree; But, tho' 'twas honey laden, All Angels cried,
'No bloom shall be like that of one fair Maiden.'
Sped Gabriel on wingèd feet, and pass'd through bolted portals In Nazareth,
a Maid to greet, Blest o'er all other mortals.
'Hail Mary!' quod that Angel mild, 'Of woman-kind the fairest:
The Virgin ay shalt thou be styled, A babe although thou bearest.'
'So be it!' God's hand-maiden cried, 'According to thy telling.'
Whereon the Angel smartly hied up home-ward to his dwelling.
This tidings fill'd his mates with glee: 'Twas pass'd from one to other,
That 'twas Marie, and none but she, And God would call her Mother.

Gospel

Luke 1:47-55 (The Inclusive Bible)

Mary said,
“My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,
and my spirit rejoices in you, my Savior.
For you have looked with favor upon your lowly servant,
and from this day forward all generations will call me blessed.
For you, the Almighty, have done great things for me,
and holy is your Name.
Your mercy reaches from age to age who fear you.
You have shown strength with your arm;
you have scattered the proud in their conceit;
you have deposed the mighty from their thrones
and raised the lowly to high places.
You have filled the hungry with good things,
while you have sent the rich away empty.
You have come to the aid of Israel your servant,
mindful of your mercy—
the promise you made to our ancestors—
to Sarah and Abraham and their descendants forever.”

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“Mary Who? – Theotokos”





1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

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 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's
 2 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds; back to
 3 Now your man - ger, shin - ing bright, hal - lows
 4 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, vir - gin's

son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
 God his path - way leads; out to van - quish
 night with new - born light. Night can - not this
 son, in - car - nate Word! To the ho - ly

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
 death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.
 light sub - due; let our faith shine ev - er new.
 Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

Though some hymns attributed to Ambrose are doubtful, this one seems rather surely to be by him. Luther's German version (commemorated in the tune name) dropped one syllable from each line of the Latin text, giving the hymn its characteristically declarative Lutheran form.

* BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

God has been present with us here today.

God also sends us out into the world.

The world we are about to enter is God's world.

We can count on God to be with us every day.

God's judgement is sure, but so is God's love.

God lifts up the lowly and offers them strength.

Our eyes and ears have been opened to God's truth.

We have good news for all who need to hear it.

Be patient with others and do not grumble.

Be patient with yourselves as you seek the Holy Way.

Like the prophets, we seek to speak in God's name.

Like lowly servants, we are eager to help others.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Sevenfold Amen

Peter Lutkin

POSTLUDE

Praise Ye The Lord of Hosts from 'Christmas Oratorio'

Camille Saint-Saens

*"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:

Carol Anthony, Cheryl Cairns, Jean English, Ruth Finley,
JoAnn Hood, Marianne Jones and Len Lybarger,

Jackie Acho, Alma Bako, Melvina Bishop, Shirley Daly, Donnie Gilbert,
George Hood, Bertha Nunn, Twilyn Teasley, Linda White, James White

Marlon Naylor and family as they mourn the death of Marlon's sister Carol.
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: 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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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

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Jessica Atwood
Elizabeth Harris

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Pete Maffia
Mary Mikula
Michael Rolén
Penni Rolén
Alyssa Niepokny

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Amy Wheeler
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